



**Eight Nursery Rhymes Op. 19A  
No. 8**



# **The White Paternoster**

**H. Walford Davies  
(1869-1941)**

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John  
Bless the bed that I lie on!  
Four corners to my bed,  
Five angels there lie spread:  
Two at my head,  
Two at my feet,  
One at my heart, my soul to keep.

This nursery rhyme/prayer, often titled the "Black Paternoster", may have origins in ancient Babylonian prayers and is related to other prayers, including a "Green" and "White Paternoster". These prayers can be traced to late Medieval England and people often confuse them.

# The White Paternoster

H. Walford Davies

**Andante tranquillo**

S  
A  
T  
B

Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that I lie on!

Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that I lie on!

Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that I lie on!

Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that I lie on!

**Andante tranquillo**

Piano

*ppp*

*pp sempre leggiero*

## The White Paternoster

6

S *pp* Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that I lie on!

A *pp* Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that I lie on!

T *pp* Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that I lie on!

B *pp* Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that I lie on!

Pno. *pp*

10

S *p* Four cor - ners to my bed, Five an - gels

A *p* Four cor - ners to my bed, Five an - gels

T *p* Four cor - ners to my bed, Five an - gels

B *p* Four cor - ners to my bed, Five an - gels

Pno. *pp*

*con pedale*

# The White Paternoster

13

S there lie spread: Two at my head, Two at my feet,

A there lie spread: Two at my head, Two at my feet,

T there lie spread: Two at my head, Two at my feet,

B there lie spread: Two at my head, Two at my feet,

Pno.

16

S One at my heart, my soul to keep. *rit.*

A One at my heart, my soul to keep. *rit.* *pp*

T One at my heart, my soul to keep. *rit.* *pp*

B One at my heart, my soul to keep. *rit.* *pp*

Pno.

## The White Paternoster

*a tempo*

19 *p*

S Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that I lie on!

A Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that I lie on!

T Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that I lie on!

B Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that I lie on!

Pno. *a tempo*

23 *pp*

S Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that

A Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that

T Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that

B Mat - thew, Mark, Luke, and John Bless the bed that

Pno. *pp*

# The White Paternoster

26 *dim. e rit.*  
S I lie on! Bless the bed that I lie on!  
A I lie on! Bless the bed that I lie on!  
T I lie on! Bless the bed that I lie on!  
B I lie on! Bless the bed that I lie on!  
Pno. *dim. e rit.* *ppp*

Sidney Riorden  
(1906)

**Sir Henry Walford Davies** (1869-1941) was born in Oswestry on the England-Wales border. As a child, he learned to play many instruments in an informal band with his brothers, cousins and friends. He became a chorister at St. George's Chapel, Windsor; then entered the Royal College of Music, studying under Parry and Stanford. He taught at the Royal College of Music, Aberystwyth University, and Gresham College, with Leopold Stokowski among his notable students. He served as organist at numerous churches including St Anne's Church, Soho; Christ Church, Hampstead; and Temple Church. He became the first director of music to the Royal Air Force and organist at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. He was a well-known and popular radio personality through his broadcasts on classical music and held the title Master of the King's Musick from 1934 until his death.

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