

Aald Faider Winter

Whin da tirrick flees awa
An da simmer dim is dön;
An lower ower da knowes
Peeps da muckle red mön;
Whin da seas begins ta stur
An da Nort Wind oobs an plöts;
Dan Aald Faider Winter
Is draain on his böts!

tirrick - tern
*simmer dim**

oobs - wails
plöts - laments

Whin da gales taers da stibble,
An ee belt doon da stooks;
An da lochs is aa cled
Wi flocks o unkan deuks;
Whin he drives da baas afore him,
An der steuch staands i da sky -
Dan Aald Faider Winter
Is waedin on dis wye!

stibble - stubble
*stooks***
cled - clad
unkan - strange
*baas****
steuch - spray

waedin - wading

Whin da frost nips da fingers
An ee hock oot da fann,
Yea, Aald Faider Winter
Is here wi is dan!
Bit sae is blest Christmas time,
So lat is aye mind
At tho his face be coorse an stairn
His hert is waarm an kind!

hock - dig
fann - drift

George P.S. Peterson

**simmer dim* is the time of late light nights in summer.

*** a stook* is a group of 6, or 12, corn sheaves, set up on end in the field to dry.

**** a baa* is a rock just under the surface of the sea. In stormy weather, you can see where it is, as waves break white over it. (There's a fiddle tune called *Da brakkin baa.*) Baas are marked on navigation charts, and sometimes on ordinary maps too.

Grammar points:

(1) *ee - you*

is - us Careful - it also means 'is' in other places in this poem!

These two pronouns are used in the dialect of Papa Stour, and other places on the Wastside of Shetland.

(2) Whin da seas **begins** ta stur
da gales **taers** da stibble
da lochs **is** aa cled

These **verbs** would be wrong *in English*, but this is a traditional pattern in Shetland dialect and in Scots - plural noun followed by singular verb.

This pattern is not used by everyone nowadays but it *is* still in use, and is not wrong - unless you are speaking or writing English, when it certainly is!