

## **The Life of Ruth – A Poem**

When a famine struck Elimelech's land  
He took his wife Naomi's hand  
And led her and their sons to live in a place that he'd spied  
It was to Moab they went  
Some time there they spent  
But sadly the man that she loved went and died

So they started new lives  
Her sons both took wives  
One son married Orpah, the other wed Ruth  
They lived there for ten years  
And she must have shed great tears  
As both of her sons died, I tell you the truth

So Naomi did yearn  
To her home to return  
As she learned that her people had food now to eat  
As she got ready to go  
Her son's wives in tow  
They wanted to follow her now isn't that sweet

She set out on her way  
Saying "You really should stay  
To find a new husband amongst men from your land  
Please please don't come  
You should stay with your mum"  
But they said they would follow her and both took her hand

Turn back please 'hons'  
I can't have more sons  
To grow up to marry you so please don't you follow  
Don't be so devout  
Why should you miss out  
If you come with me it will only bring sorrow

They did love her so  
They still wanted to go  
They all had a cuddle with much tears and sighs  
Ruth clung to her tight  
Whilst with an effort of might  
Orpah kissed sweetly and said her goodbyes

Now Orpah's gone back  
You should follow her track  
And make a new life with your people and god  
Don't ask me to leave  
In your God I believe  
I want to walk in the steps you have trod

I just want to go  
Wherever you go  
I want to live in the place where you live  
Your people also  
I just want to know  
And to the God that you serve my life I would give

I'll love you till death  
Till my very last breath  
I will go with you 'cause you've won my heart  
I honour you so  
I want you to know  
There can be nothing that will cause us to part

When Naomi saw  
Ruth's devotion so pure  
She went on in silence so aware of the love  
That Ruth had her shown  
To one not of her own  
She prayed as she walked to the Lord up above

Her mind was a whirl  
As she walked with this girl  
Her thoughts at times bitter toward her God and her Lord  
The one at her side  
Had hopes high and wide  
She wondered and pondered what might be their reward

So Naomi and her daughter-in-law  
They both together were ever so poor  
They'd each lost their husbands and neither had much  
In which to have hope  
But Ruth didn't just mope  
Though good in her future seemed way out of touch

She knew she must stay  
So Ruth decided one day  
She would follow the others as they worked in the field  
She picked up the grain  
That was left to remain  
Once other reapers had gathered their yield

Now Ruth didn't shirk  
This very hard work  
This was noticed by the men who managed the harvest  
When their boss came to view  
Saying "God be with you"  
His men's response was "May you also be blessed"

"Just who's this young woman  
And where has she come from"  
Asked Boaz the owner as he questioned his farmhand  
I think Ruth is her name  
With Naomi she came  
When she returned from that Moabite land

She just asked "Could she glean?  
She's been ever so keen  
She works from morning till dusk with barely a rest  
From the first day she came  
She's put the others to shame  
She's already shown she is one of the best

So Boaz he told her  
Now listen my daughter  
From now on don't go to another farm  
Stay right here in this one  
Stay close to my women  
I've told them to make sure you come to no harm

If you thirst don't go dry  
Drink from my supply  
Take from the buckets my servants have found  
She was so very pleased  
That she fell to her knees  
And bowed her face right down to the ground

Why should you choose me  
To treat so kindly  
I don't deserve to be treated so well  
I'm not from this place  
I'm foreign of race  
I'm so well blessed in your land to dwell

I've heard much about you  
I can see that it's true  
How you supported your mother-in-law  
You took Naomi's hand  
As you left your own land  
God will reward you I'm really so sure

For lunch they did dine  
On bread dipped in wine  
They ate with the others some roasted grain  
She ate her fill  
But there was still  
More to take home and to feast once again

As Ruth returned to her task  
Boaz decided to ask  
His workers to leave extra grain where she stood  
She gathered till night  
And despite being slight  
The size of her harvest was ever so good

When she threshed out her grain  
So the barley remained  
She had nearly a sackful to take home to share  
Said Naomi 'Hey'  
Where did you work today  
God bless the man who for you took such care

Boaz was that man  
He's said that I can  
Work in his field each and every day  
May God bless him so  
He's family you know  
Perhaps you should do just as he did say

Was it luck do you suppose  
That the field that she chose  
To glean of the grain that was missed by the reapers  
Belonged to a man  
Of her very own clan  
Who was pleased to allow this young girl to keep hers

Or did God have His hand  
On things she'd not planned  
As he brought her to work in the field of this chap  
Who with nought else in mind  
Was just ever so kind  
It's clear to see this was no kind of mishap

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