

Duties of the Shepherd

The shepherd is of higher being than the sheep but with this higher status comes more duty. It is quite easy for the shepherd to lay back on the mountainside and laugh as his flock drifts aimlessly through the valley. “Look at how silly and simple these sheep are” says the shepherd as he lays with indolence in the grass. Any time the sheep are led astray, this is because of his own sloth and not the vacancy of the sheep.

The sheep are not meant to lead themselves, without the shepherd, the sheep are consumed by the wolves.

While the shepherd ponders his status above the sheep, the sheep are easily led astray. It is not the shepherd’s duty to gloat his position above the sheep, it is his duty to lead.

The shepherd must always be aware of his actions and his words. The shepherd does not have time to relax. He must only relax when he is absolutely certain that the herd is safe, but even then he should remain on guard.

The shepherd’s life is a life of hardship and toil. The shepherd’s actions allow the sheep to live their carefree lives. The shepherd should not wish to live a carefree life, for that is the life of his flock, not his own.

Each shepherd has known his role since birth. Any shepherd that chooses not to lead his flock is doomed to a life of regret and sadness, and this shepherd is responsible for all of the wickedness that his flock will endure.

A shepherd is not always alone. There are other shepherds. When the shepherd’s flock becomes too big, the correct action is to not decrease the size of the herd but add more shepherd’s to watch over the flock. All shepherds recognize those like themselves.

Just as the sheep are lost without their shepherd, a shepherd is lost without his sheep.