

# European clothes

## A song from the Trail of Death pilgrimage

Andrew Hudson

*Packing light to go on the trail:  
Shirts and socks and pants.  
Unthought choices, outfits to go—  
We're dressed in nothing flat.*

*European clothes,  
Hiding us right under our nose.  
'Tis better to give than to receive.  
We'll still own our stuff when it's time to leave.  
We'll wear our lifestyles home  
Like European clothes.*

*Forebears came to convert the land  
With shirts and pants and guns.  
Imposing crops, imposing cloth,  
Outfitted to win.*

*European clothes—  
They couldn't see beyond their nose.  
'Tis better to give than to receive,  
But pawns submitted to the kings.  
They simply played the role  
In European clothes.*

*Settlers tore a landscape apart  
Thread from thread from thread.  
Pi'neer species on rags of land—  
Formerly whole cloth.*

*European clothes:  
Wealth, but just above our toes.*

*'Tis better to give than to receive.  
A single garment of destiny  
Would be denied by those  
In European clothes.*

*Decades later, pilgrimage walked,  
Sunscreen, shoes, and socks.  
A thousand miles to walk and ride—  
End at the museum.*

*European clothes—  
The reservation's full of those.  
'Tis better to give than to receive.  
Casino money, shared, relieves  
A few of history's woes;  
In European clothes.*

*The well-dressed guide  
trips down the past.  
Dresses, shirts, and ties  
Hid their ways from white man's view.  
Thriving out of sight.*

*European clothes, hiding them right under our nose.  
'Tis better to give than to receive.  
Their coverage serves the whole tribe's needs.  
They've found a gracious flow  
In European clothes.*

*Jesus walked a trail of death,  
Sandals, tunic, coat.  
We dress him for success in our time  
Like they'd walk to church.*

*European clothes, hiding him right under our nose.  
'Tis better to give than to receive.  
The stones cry out for us to leave  
A lifestyle that arose  
In European clothes.*

*Soldiers rent the fabric of life:  
Moccasins and robes (were)  
Taken by the empire. We wait  
For the veil to tear.*

*In European clothes,  
Adapting, they continued to know:  
'Tis better to give than to receive.  
Obedient Sons, modeling peace  
And sharing hope with those  
In European clothes.<sup>1</sup>*

### **About the author**

Andrew Hudson is a pastoral ministry student at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. He most recently lived in Sarasota, Florida, although he has deep roots in the Pacific Northwest, where his son and extended family live. Andrew's vocational background is in organic agriculture.

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<sup>1</sup> The song was written on the June 2019 Trail of Death pilgrimage as part of a course for Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary.