

FATBACK'S SETBACK

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Scarfin' Fatback challenges me to write an 0-less parody of Frost's *Stopping by Woods*, anguish languishing each line as much as possible. I respond with this denial of his authorship of Mary's Lipograms and other great literature.

What fits this "bard"? A mink chapeau?
His hubris swims in vintage eau.
He, William Shakespeare? Stepping near,
He snatches credit due Rimbaud.

A little harsh? This fink, it's clear,
With sauerkraut did charm¹ Ed Lear,
And in the weeds he sews Will Blake²
(Bizarre jest he did engineer).

She grieves afar (Tess³ smells a fake).
Her task: she'll bare this dumb mistake.
In Beaune she mutters in her sleep
"Gainst me he sinned--end (augh!) my ache!"

Scarfin' Fatback, snarky creep,
I cry: false premises are cheap.
End vile tableaux! Be fair--my sheep!
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- (1) Compare *The Hunting of the Snark*, in which the protagonist was charmed with the aid of smiles and soap.
- (2) Why did Scarfin' Fatback add insult to injury by stitching Blake in widow's vestments after claiming his oeuvre? We'll never know.
- (3) Tess of the D'Urbervilles, of course, who had moved far away, to Beaune in France, at the time of Scarfin' Fatback's usurpation of Thomas Hardy.