

Ah, la vie

(Ah, this life)

Parole et musique de Gilles Patrat, ©2008

(Freely translated English lyrics by
Stephen A. Langford, aided by the composer.)

Ah, la vie

*Ah la vie, foutu chemin,
comme une farandole...
On suit, on est suivi (bis)*

*Ah ravis, main dans la main,
sans compas ni boussole.
On suit, on est suivi (bis)*

*Puis un jour, sans savoir pourquoi,
dans le fossé on dégringole.
On a quitté le train (bis)*

*On entend des rires narquois,
sont-ce des frères ceux qui rigolent ?
Mieux vaut ronger son frein...*

*Comme le loup qui se méfie des chiens,
c'est pour la vie qu'on est banni.
On fuit, mais on est libre (bis)*

*Aujourd'hui, je vais je viens, sans liens,
enfin heureux, quelle ironie !
Oh monde, tu m'enivres (bis)*

Ah, this life

Ah, this life, a bloody trek,
as in a farandole*...
One follows, one is follow'd (repeat)

Ah, bewitch'd, as hand in hand,
no compass and no guide.
We all trudge in line (repeat)

Then, one day -- who knows just why?
-- one has tripp'd off the path.
One has stepp'd out of line. (repeat)

Then one hears some drunken whoops,
are these my brothers who deride me?
I'd better leave them alone...

Like the wolf become afraid of dogs,
we are exil'd for all our lives.
We flee, but we are free (repeat)

Nowadays, I come and go unbound,
happy at last, such irony!
Oh world, you make me high (repeat)

*In the French farandole (a very ancient provençal dance, possibly originally celebrating & mimicking Theseus's escape from the labyrinth [cf. Harvard Dictionary of Music, 2nd Ed., p. 308]), the dance line snakes about as dancers hold hands; one escapes the dance only by being dropped.