

It was a beautiful day in the Shire. The sun was shining brightly, and puffy white clouds drifted in the brilliant blue sky. Birds were singing, and the sheep were grazing on the lush green grass.

Samwise Gamgee was working in Frodo Baggins' garden. He was currently weeding a patch of kingsfoil from the azaleas. As he ripped the plants from the ground, he breathed in the cool scent that reminded him of early summer mornings.

After Samwise finished that particular bit of gardening, he stood up and dusted off the knees of his pants. He then went over to the side of the house, where he had stashed a bundle wrapped in a square of cloth.

The bundle contained a hunk of bread, a chunk of cheese, a cold sausage, and a bottle of beer. Samwise brought out his knife and took a slice off of both the bread and cheese. He then put them together and took a bite. The bread was soft with a crispy crust, and the cheese was a crumbly sharp cheddar.

After swallowing, he took a bite of the sausage. As he chewed contentedly, he thought that he could do with a bit of mustard, but the pot wasn't suitable for bringing on picnics. Feeling a bit thirsty, he then opened the beer and took a swig. It was cooler than the air, and its slight bitterness made up for not having any mustard. It refreshed Samwise greatly.

As he sat against the side of the house, alternating bites of food and sips of beer, Samwise let his mind wander. A cloud passed over the sun, briefly bathing the garden in shadow. More shadows coasted serenely over the yards and pastures of the Shire.

Samwise swallowed his last morsel of food and finished off his beer. He brushed the crumbs from his shirt and wrapped his beer bottle in the cloth. Then he stood up and gazed at the hedges. He noticed the scraggly tops and decided that they could do with some trimming.