

# It was a time when silly bees

Words ascribed to Robert, Earl of Essex

John Dowland

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It was a time when sil- - ly bees could speak; And in that  
Then thus I buzz'd when thyme - no sap would give: "Why should this  
"My liege, gods grant thy time - may nev- er end! And yet vouch-

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time, I was a sil- ly bee Who fed on thyme un-  
bless- ed thyme to me be dry, Sith by this thyme the  
safe to hear my plaint of thyme, Which fruit- less flies have

til my heart 'gan break, Yet nev- - er found the  
la- zy drone doth live, The wasp, - the worm, the  
found to have a friend, And I, - cast down when

time would fa- vour me. Of all the swarm I on- ly did  
gnat the but- ter- fly?" Mat- ed with grief, I kneel- ed on  
a- tom- ies do climb?" The king re- plied but thus: "Peace, peev-

- not thrive, Yet brought I wax - and ho- ney - to the hive.  
- my knees And thus com- plain'd - un- to the - king of bees:  
- vish bee! Thou'rt bound to serve - the time, the - thyme not thee."