

Cherry Tree Carol

When Joseph was an old old man
An old old man was he
He married Mary, the Virgin Mary
The Queen of Galilee

Oh, Joseph and Mary went walking
All through an orchard wood
And there were berries and there were cherries
As red as any blood

Oh, then bespoke sweet Mary
In a voice so fair and so mild
Oh, dearest Joseph, pick me one cherry
For I am now with child

Oh, then bespoke old Joseph
With an answer most unkind
Let him pick berries and let him pick cherries
That brought thee now with child

Oh, then bespoke sweet Jesus
Within his mother's womb
Bow down, bow down, though tallest tree
That my mother might have some

Then bowed down the tallest tree
Into sweet Mary's hands
And Mary cried, "Oh, see now, Joseph,
I've cherries at command">

Oh, then bespoke old Joseph,
"I have done Mary wrong!"
"Cheer up, cheer up, my dearest dear
And do not be cast down."

So, Mary picked one cherry
As red as any blood
And Mary and Joseph, they walked on homeward
All with their heavy load

Traditional
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