

Virgin Unspotted

1. A vir - - gin un - - spo - - tted the pro - - phet fore - -
 told, Shall bring forth a - - Sav - iour which now we be - - hold, To
 be our Re - - dee - - mer from - - death Hell and sin, Which
 A - - dam's trans - - gres - - sions in - - vol - - ved us in. So
 Let us be me - - rry, drive - - so - - rrows a - - way, Christ Je - - sus our Sav - iour was born on this day.

2. At Bethlehem city in Jewry it was
 That Joseph and Mary together did pass,
 All for to be tax-ed with many one more
 Great Caesar commanded the same should be so.
3. But when they had entered the city so fair,
 A number of people so mighty was there,
 That Joseph and Mary, whose substance was small,
 Could find in the inn there no lodging at all.
4. Then were they constrained in a stable to lie,
 Where horses and asses they used for to tie;
 Their lodging so simple they took it no scorn,
 But against the next morning our Saviour was born.
5. The King of all kings to this world being brought,
 Small store of fine linen to wrap Him was sought,
 But when she had swaddled her young Son so sweet,
 Within an ox manger she laid Him to sleep.
6. Then God sent an angel from heaven so high,
 To certain poor shepherds in fields where they lie,
 And bade them no longer in sorrow to stay,
 Because that our Saviour was born on this day.
7. Then presently after the shepherds did spy
 Vast numbers of angels to stand in the sky;
 They joyfully talk-ed and sweetly did sing,
 To God be all glory, our heavenly King.

8. To teach us humility all this was done,
And learn we from thence haughty pride for to shun:
A manger His cradle Who came from above,
The great God of mercy, of peace and of love.

Source: Richard Toms (85) of Fairford, at Cirencester Union. Collected by Cecil Sharp 2 November 1911.

Notes: Sharp only collected the tune for the verse from Mr Toms. The rest is supplied from other local versions.

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