

The Cherry Tree Carol

Collected by Cecil Sharp
13-Jan-1909 (tune and first verse)
6-Apr-1909 (remaining words)

Sung by Mrs Mary Anne Clayton (64)
of Chipping Campden, Glos
Extra words Mary Anne Roberts (81) of Winchcombe

Jo - seph was an old man And an old man was he; And

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Jo - seph mar-ried Ma - ry the_ Queen of_ Ga - li - lee_ And

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Jo - seph mar-ried Ma - ry The_ Queen of_ Ga - li - lee.

Joseph was an old man and an old man was he;
And Joseph married Mary, the Queen of Galilee
And Joseph married Mary, the Queen of Galilee.

Mary and Joseph together did go,
And there they saw a cherry tree, both red, white and green.
And there they saw a cherry tree, both red, white and green.

Then up speaks Mary, so meek and so mild:
'O gather me cherries, Joseph, for I am with child.
O gather me cherries, Joseph, for I am with child.'

Then up speaks Joseph with his words so unkind:
'Let them gather the cherries that brought thee with child.
Let them gather thee cherries that brought thee with child.'

Then up speaks the little child in his own mother's womb:
'Bow down, you sweet cherry tree, and give my mother some.
Bow down, you sweet cherry tree, and give my mother some.'

Then the top spray of the cherry tree bowed down to her knee:
'And now you see, Joseph, there are cherries for me.
And now you see, Joseph, there are cherries for me.'

Song for Singing prepared by GlosSongs (tune same as collected, but with fuller words)

Source: Sharp manuscript (ref FT2069) for tune and first verse. Remaining words from Sharp (FW2018) collected from Mrs. Anne Roberts at Winchcombe. Mrs Roberts words were used by Sharp in his Folk Carols book 1911

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