

The Cherry Tree Carol (as collected)

Collected by Maud Karpeles &
Patrick Shuldham-Shaw 22-August-1952

Sung by John William Partridge (67)
of Cinderford, Glos



Now Jo-seph was an old man, and an old man was_ he._ And

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he_ mar ried_ Ma - ry, the_ Queen of_ Ga - li - lee, And

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he mar- ried_ Ma - ry the_ Queen of_ Ga - li - lee.

Now Joseph was an old man, an old man was he
And he married Mary, the queen of Galilee, (x2)

Now Joseph and Mary walking down the garden green,
Where cherries hang heavily on every limb. (x2)

'Pick me some cherries, Joseph, pick me some cherries, do,
Pick me some cherries, Joseph, that hang on the bough.' (x2)

Then up spake old Joseph with his words so unkind,
'Let the man gather the cherries that owneth the child.' (x2)

Then up spake our saviour all in his mother's arms [*womb*]:
'Bow down, thou blessed cherry tree, that Mary may have some.' (x2)

The very top branches bowed down to her feet:
'Now you can see, Joseph, there are cherries for me. (x2)

'My child shall not be christened in silver nor in gold,
But in some twigged cradle where the babes are rocked all.' [*That rocks on the mould.*] (x2)

Then Mary placed her own child upon her knee,
Saying, 'Son, come now and tell us what this world it shall be'. (x2)

'The moon it shall be darkened and be burst into blood,
And this world set on fire by the vengeance of God.' (x2)

Spoken: We wish you a merry Christmas.

Song as recorded by Maud Karpeles and Pat Shaw in 1952

Source: Tthe BBC Recording 18618. Tune transcribed by Richard Chidlaw.

Our source for this copy is the book 'Let Us Be Merry' by Davies & Palmer

Notes: 1. Age estimated from Singer birth year (1885)

2. The singer can be heard on the cassette, *The Bitter Withy: Early English Folk Carols*

Audit Transcription prepared by VL Nov 2012/HT Nov 2012/Checked GD Nov 2012