The Virgin and Child

Traditional

1. On yes-ter night I saw a sight, A star as bright as day; And all a-long, I

heard a song, lul-lay, by by, lul-lay

A love-ly la-dy sat and sang. And to her Child she spake: My Son, my Bro-ther,

it makes my heart to ache,

Fa-ther dear, it makes my heart to ache, To see Thee there so

it makes my heart to ache,
3. The Child then spake, whilst she did sing,  
And to the maiden said,  
“Right sure I am a mighty King,  
Though in a crib my bed:  
For angels bright,  
Down to Me light;  
Thou canst not say me nay:  
Then why so sad?  
Thou mayest be glad  
To sing by by, lullay.”

4. “Now, sweetest Lord, since Thou art King,  
Why liest Thou in a stall?  
Why didst Thou not Thy cradle bring  
To some great royal hall?  
Methinks ’tis right,  
That king or knight  
Should lie in good array;  
And them among,  
It were no wrong  
To sing by by, lullay.”

5. “My Mother Mary, Thine I be,  
Though I be laid in stall,  
Both lords and dukes shall worship Me,  
And so shall monarchs all;  
Ye shall well see  
That princes three  
Shall come on the twelfth day:  
Then let Me rest  
Upon thy breast,  
And sing by by, lullay.

6. “Now tell me, sweetest Lord, I pray,  
Thou art my love and dear,  
How shall I nurse Thee to Thy mind,  
And make Thee glad of cheer?  
For all Thy will  
I would fulfil,  
I need no more to say;  
And for all this  
I will Thee kiss,  
And sing by by, lullay.”

7. “My Mother dear, when time it be  
Then take Me up aloft,  
And set Me up upon thy knee,  
And handle me full soft;  
And in Thy arm,  
Thou wilt Me warm,  
And keep Me night and day:  
And if I weep,  
And may not sleep,  
Then sing by by, lullay.”

8. “Now, sweetest Lord, since it is so  
That Thou art most of might,  
I pray Thee grant a boon to me,  
If it be meet and right;  
That child or man  
That will or can,  
Be merry on this day;  
To bliss them bring,  
And I shall sing,  
Lullay, by by, lullay.”