JOHN BARLEYCORN

TRAD. ENGLISH



2

They've let him lie for a very long time, 'Til the rains from heaven did fall, And little Sir John sprung up his head, And so amazed them all. They've let him stand 'til midsummers day, 'Til he looked both pale and wan, And little Sir John's grown a long, long beard And so become a man.

3

They've hired men with the scythes so sharp
To cut him off at the knee;
They've rolled him and tied him by the waist
Serving him most barbarously.
They've hired men with their sharp pitchforks
Who've pricked him to the heart
And the loader he has served him worse than that
For he's bound him to the cart.

4:

They've wheeled him around and around a field, 'Til they came unto a barn, And there they made a solemn oath On poor John Barleycorn.
They've hired men with their crab-tree sticks To cut him skin from bone, And the miller he has served him worse than that, For he's ground him between two stones.

5.

And little Sir John and the nut brown bowl And he's brandy in the glass And little Sir John and the nut brown bowl Proved the strongest man at last. The musician (hunter), he can't play for the dance, Nor so loudly to blow his horn, And the tinker he can't mend kettle nor pots Without a little barleycorn.