

'Twas The Night Before Christmas.

1: The town of David.

'twas the night before Christmas
and all round the house,
not a creature was stirring
not even a mouse.
But out in the streets
there was clamour and clatter,
if you'd have been there,
you'd have asked, "what's the matter?"
But Caesar had ordered
that all must go home,
"you've got to be counted
we like that in Rome."
And so weary travelers
wander the town,
to look for a room
to lay their head down.
But Bethlehem's full
there's no place to stay,
so we wander the streets
by night and by day.
Bethlehem's full
and unfriendly and cold,
no feasting, no dancing,
no streets paved with gold;
and to add to it's sadness
a young woman and man,
are stealing their way
through it's streets where they can.

2: And they laid him in a manger.

'twas the night before Christmas
and all round the house,
not a creature was stirring
not even a mouse.
But roused from my sleep
by a terrible clatter,
I opened the door
and said, "what's the matter?"
And there on the step
stood a man and his wife,
the saddest young people
I've seen in my life.
With drawn anxious faces
they asked, "is there room?
we're tired and we're hungry
and our child's coming soon."

What could I do?
I called my wife Mabel,
she said, "there's no room,
but you could use the stable."
So that's where they went
with tears in their eyes,
but early next morning
I had a surprise.
I could never imagine
anything stranger,
their baby had come
and was laid in the manger.

3: Glad tidings of great joy.

'twas the night before Christmas
and all round the house,
not a creature was stirring
not even a mouse.
Even some shepherds
watching their sheep,
were settling their heads
for a bit of a sleep.
When suddenly up
from their slumber did spring,
at the sight of a creature
with halo and wing.
He told them about
this special child's birth,
saying, "Glory to God
and peace on the earth."
Then suddenly, down from the sky
came a choir,
with songs full of joy
and glowing like fire.
So off ran the shepherds
to search Bethlehem,
grabbing a lamb
to carry with them.
And there in the stable
they saw quite a sight,
they laughed and they chuckled
and said, "what a night!"
Jesus and Mary
and Joseph as well,
just as the angel
had come down to tell.
And leaving their lamb
they tiptoed away,
leaving the baby
asleep on the hay.

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