

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## Tam o' Crumstan

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"A loupin' on stane is a very good thing,  
For a man that is stiff, for a man that is auld,  
For a man that is lame o' the leg or the spauld,  
Or short o' the houghs, to loup on his naggie;"--

So said Tam o' Crumstane, unbosome and baggie;  
And mountin' the stane at Gibbie's house-end,  
Like a man o' great pith, wi' a grane, and a stend--  
He flew owre his yaud, and fell i' the midden!

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Henderson Pop. Rhymes of Berwickshire (1856), 77, whence  
Cheviot Proverbs (1896), 242, and SC (1948), 118 (no. 191).

The stane was a natural stone or erection of masonry  
which stood at the churchyard gates, to enable  
parishioners to mount horses or carts easily,  
particularly useful for women riding pillion. They  
began to fall into disuse about 1790. Unbosome =  
stubborn; baggie = corpulent.

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