

# Ghost Of Benjamin Binns - song lyrics

American Old-time song lyrics from [www.traditionalmusic.co.uk](http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk)

GHOST OF BENJAMIN BINNS.

Keep your seats, if you please, and don't be afraid,  
I'm only a ghost, a poor, harmless shade;  
I would not hurt any one here if I could,  
And you couldn't do me much harm if you would.  
Knives will not stab me, nor shots through me fly,  
But, oh! the experiment please do not try:  
It's not for myself that I care, not at all,  
I'm only afraid you might "damage the wall.

Spoken-For-

Chorus.

I'm the ghost of John James Christopher Benjamin Binns,  
I was cut down right in the midst of my sins;  
For my home is down below,  
I'm let out for an hour or so;  
When the cock begins to crow,  
Farewell! Benjamin Binns.

When I lived on this earth my wife often said,  
If I should die first she'd never get wed,  
To-night I called on her, through keyholes I crept,  
If ghosts could have tears, I'm sure I'd have wept.  
A man held my wife in his tender embrace,  
She called him her hubby, he'd taken my place;  
To make matters worse, and to crown all my woes.  
The fellow was wearing my best Sunday clothes.

Spoken-The gas was full on-she could not see me-but I was  
determined she should hear me, so I said: Hold mortal piece of  
flesh! She shrieked, and held the mantelpiece; then in a sepulchral  
tone I said:-Chorus.

I'll try to forget my false-hearted wife.  
And give you a plan of my present life;  
I get good engagements, with cash in advance,  
Attending the spiritualist's midnight séance.  
I rap at the tables and kick up such scenes,  
I ring clanging bells and I bang tambourines;  
If Maskelyne says "ghosts are bosh," he is wrong,  
For if he comes near me, he'll smell spirits quite strong.

Spoken-And I'm willing to prove that Maskelyne and Feminine  
know nothing of the "Cooke "shop below; and as for their spirits,  
they only exist in two-pen-'orths-and I expect a drink presently.  
But I have done with frivolity now, no more will I frivol down-  
there; No, I have big engagements, I played "The Ghost "at the  
theatre to Booth's "Hamlet," but I did not stick to the text of  
Shakespeare; no, I modernized it; and you should have been there  
when Hamlet says: Hold, who art thou? speak! I will go no  
farther; and I say: Hamlet! Hamlet!-Chorus.