

A King Might Miss the Guiding Star

Louis Benson, 1921.

Johann Kittel, 1790.

A king might miss the guiding star,  
A wise man's foot might stumble;  
For Bethlehem is very far  
From all except the humble.  
'Tis Christmas Day! 'Tis Christmas Day!  
And Christian hearts are humble.

Some pilgrims seek a hallowed shrine;  
Some soldiers march to danger;  
Some travelers seek an inn's sign  
"The Baby in a manger."  
When Christ was born on Christmas morn,  
They laid Him in a manger.

There is no palace in that place,  
Nor any seat of learning,  
No hilltop vision of God's face,  
No altar candles burning:  
O come and see our Christmas tree  
And Christmas candles burning.

But he who gets to Bethlehem  
Shall hear the oxen lowing;  
And, if he humbly kneel with them,  
May catch far trumpets blowing;  
From far away, on Christmas Day,  
May hear God's trumpets blowing.