

This Endris Night  
15th Century.

This endris night I saw a sight  
A star as bright as day;  
And ever among a maiden sung,  
"Lullay, by by, lullay."

This lovely lady sat and sung,  
And to her Child did say:  
"My Son, my Brother, Father, dear,  
Why liest Thou thus in hay?"

"My sweetest bird, thus 'tis required,  
Though Thou be King veray;  
But nevertheless I will not cease  
To sing, By by, lullay."

The Child then spake in His talking,  
And to his mother said:  
Yea, I am known as Heaven-King,  
In crib though I be laid.

"For angels bright down to Me light:  
Thou knowest 'tis no nay:  
And for that sight thou may'st delight  
To sing, By by, lullay."

Now, sweet Son, since Thou art a king,  
Why art Thou laid in stall?  
Why dost not order thy bedding  
In some great kinge s hall?

"Methinks 'tis right that king or knight  
Should lie in good array:  
And then among, it were no wrong  
To sing, By by, lullay."

Mary mother, I am thy Child,  
Though I be laid in stall;  
For lords and dukes shall worship Me,  
And so shall kinge s all.

"Ye shall well see that kinge s three  
Shall come on this twelfth day.  
For this behest give Me thy breast  
And sing, By by, lullay."

Now tell, sweet Son, I Thee do pray,  
Thou art my Love and Dear  
How should I keep Thee to Thy pay,  
And make Thee glad of cheer?

"For all Thy will I would fulfill  
Thou knowest well, in fay;  
And for all this I will Thee kiss,  
And sing, By by, lullay."

My dear mother, when time it be,  
Take thou Me up on loft,  
And set Me then upon thy knee,  
And handle me full soft.

"And in thy arm thou hold Me warm,  
And keep Me night and day,  
And if I weep, and may not sleep,  
Thou sing, By by, lullay."

Now sweet Son, since it is come so,  
That all is at Thy will,  
I pray Thee grant to me a boon,  
If it be right and skill,

"That child or man, who will or can  
Be merry on my day,  
To bliss Thou bringand I shall sing,  
Lullay, by by, lullay."