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## Mark Well My Heavy Doleful Tale

*Unknown writer*

Mark well my heavy doleful tale,  
For Twelfth-day now is come,  
And now I must no longer sing,  
And say no words but mum;  
For I perforce must take my leave  
Of all my dainty cheer,  
Plum-porridge, roast beef, and minced pies,  
My strong ale and my beer.

Kind-hearted Christmas, now adieu,  
For I with thee must part,  
And for to take my leave of thee  
Doth grieve me at the heart;  
Thou wert an ancient housekeeper,  
And mirth with meat didst keep,  
But thou art going out of town,  
Which makes me for to weep.

God knoweth whether I again  
Thy merry face shall see,  
Which to good-fellows and the poor  
Was so frank and free.  
Thou lovedst pastime with thy heart,  
And eke good company;  
Pray hold me up for fear I swoon,  
For I am like to die.

Come, butler, fill a brimmer up  
To cheer my fainting heart,  
That to old Christmas I may drink  
Before he doth depart;  
And let each one that's in this room  
With me likewise condole,  
And for to cheer their spirits sad  
Let each one drink a bowl.



And when the same it hath gone round  
Then fall unto your cheer,  
For you do know that Christmas time  
It comes but once a year.  
But this good draught which I have drunk  
Hath comforted my heart,  
For I was very fearful that  
My stomach would depart.

Thanks to my master and my dame  
That doth such cheer afford;  
God bless them, that each Christmas they  
May furnish thus their board.  
My stomach having come to me,  
I mean to have a bout,  
Intending to eat most heartily —  
Good friends, I do not flout.

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