

How Far is it to Bethlehem?

Children's Song of the Nativity

Boldface words are the downbeat of the line.

Women: How **far** is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.
Shall **we** find the stable room lit by a star?
Can **we** see the little child, is he within?
If **we** lift the wooden latch, may we go in?

Men: May **we** stroke the creatures there, ox, ass or sheep?
May **we** peep like them and see Jesus asleep?
If **we** touch his tiny hand, will he awake?
Will **he** know we've come so far just for his sake?

All: **Great** kings have precious gifts, and we have naught.
Little smiles and little tears are all we brought.
For **all** weary children, Mary must weep.
Here, on his bed of straw, sleep, children, sleep.

All: **God** in his mother's arms, babes in the byre—
Sleep, as they sleep who find their heart's desire.