

Four and Twenty Blackbirds

By Francis Brabazon

An Avatar Meher Baba Trust eBook

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by Francis Brabazon



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designed by Sheila Krynski

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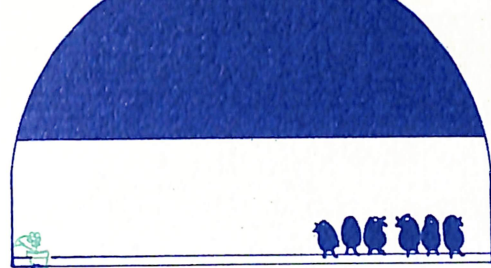
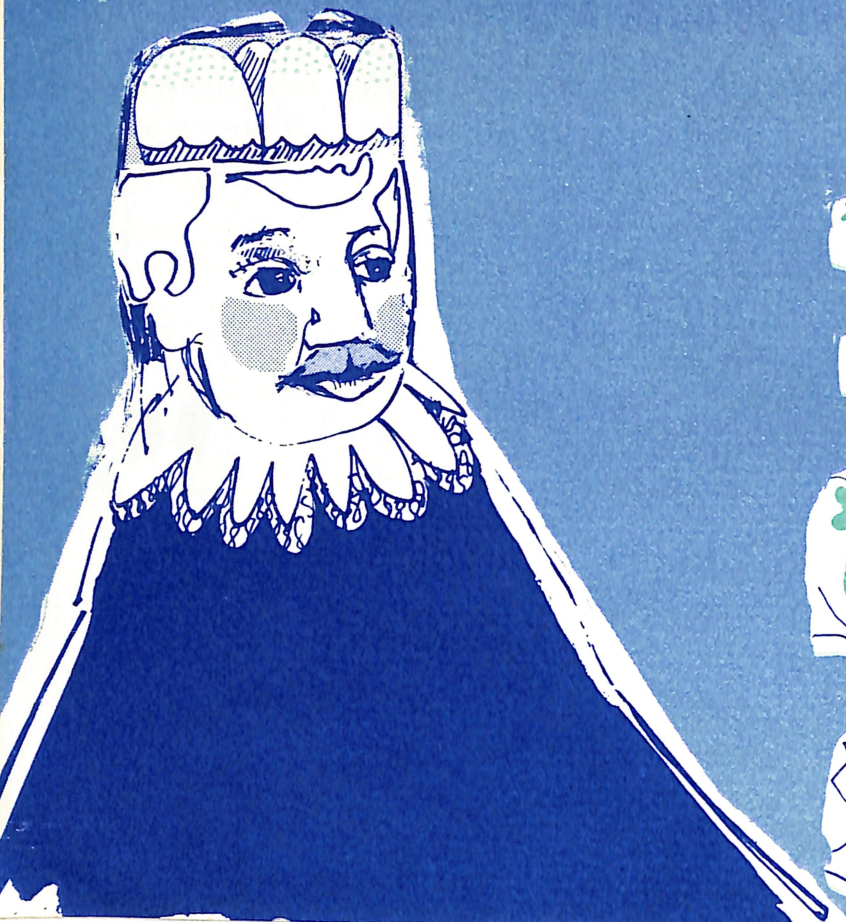
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*Four
and
Twenty
Blackbirds*

1.

Four and twenty blackbirds were baked in a pie
Because their song was always, "How, When and Why."
The pie was taken in and set before the King
Who opened it and all the birds began to sing,

**Ha-ho — now we know
What makes time tick and the old world go.**

The King was very pleased at this
and blew the Queen a loving kiss.
The men-at-arms all cried, Hooray!
The King's in a good mood today.

Four and twenty blackbirds were baked in a pie
Because they went to school, but to learn would never try.
The pie was taken in and set before the King
Who opened it and all the birds began to sing,

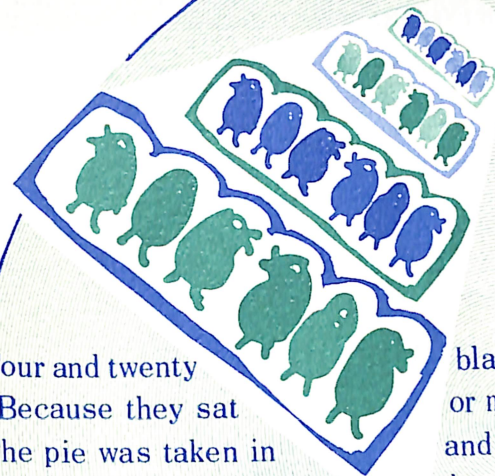
**Ha-hee now we see
In a Man eternity.**



The King was very pleased of course
And sprang upon his snow white horse.
The men-at-arms all cried, Hurrah!
The King will ride out very far.



Four and twenty
Because they sat
The pie was taken in
Who opened it and all



blackbirds were baked in a pie
or mooned about and all the time would sigh.
and set before the King
the birds began to sing,

**Ha-hay — what a day!
There's nothing more that we can say.**

The King was very pleased at that,
And bought the Queen a fine, new hat.
The men-at-arms all cried, Harroo!
The King has made the world look new.

2.

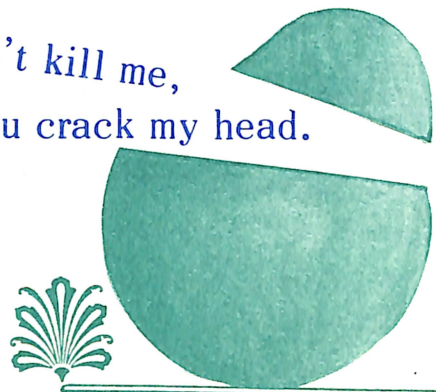
Humpty Dumpty was sitting on the wall,

But Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.

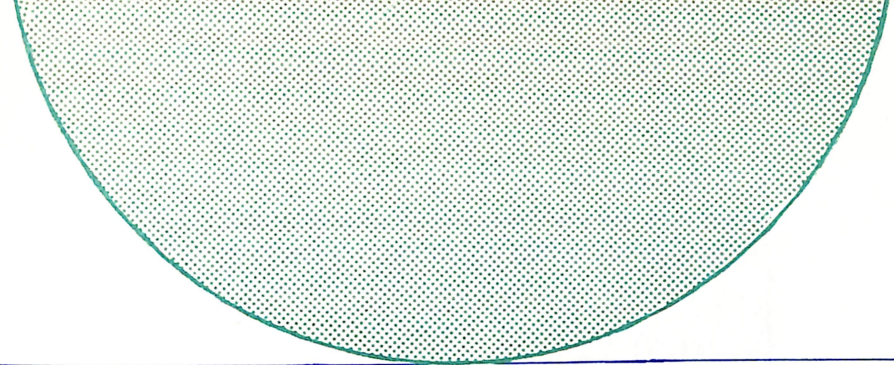
All the king's armies thought he was dead

But Humpty, lying there, quietly said,

"You can't kill me,
though you crack my head."

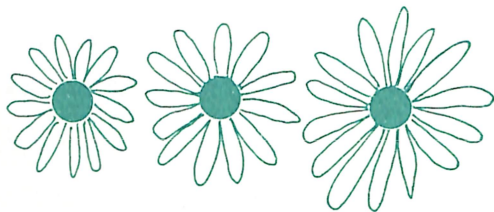


Humpty Dumpty climbs back on the wall,
And smiles as though he'd never had a fall.
All the king's armies their standards unfurl,
And Humpty says, "Though my head's in a whirl,
In my golden heart is a milk-white pearl."

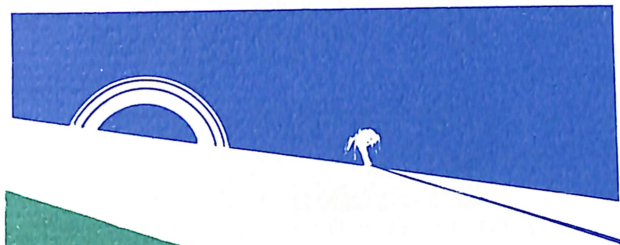


3.

Mary, Mary, with lips like a cherry,
What does your garden grow?
Apricots and lovers' knots
And sunflowers standing in a row.



Mary, Mary,
with cheeks like a lily,
What does your garden grow?
Forget-me-nots in broken pots
And a willow-tree bending low.

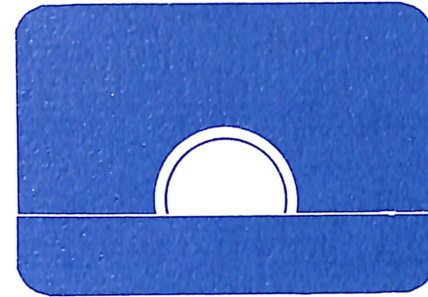


4.

I saw three ships come sailing in, sailing in, sailing in,
I saw three ships come sailing in to the Perfect Master's harbor.
And what do you think was in them, in them then, in them then?

Three lovely gifts to God from men –

*Peace, Joy,
and Love for one's neighbor*



I saw three ships go sailing out, sailing out, sailing out,
I saw three ships go sailing out from the Perfect Master's harbor.
And what do you think was in them, in them then, in them then?

Three lovely gifts from God to men –

All-bliss, All-knowledge and All-power.


5.


Hot cross buns, hot cross buns,
Sing a little song about the Perfect Ones.
If you love God truly – then you are His sons,
And there'll come a day when you'll be Perfect Ones.


6.

Ba-ba, this black sheep has too much wool –
Mental-bag, subtle-bag, gross-bag chock full.
Time for the shearing, time for the dipping –
Shear me close, dip me clean – and I will go
skipping.

7.


 Lavender's red, diddle, diddle, lavender's blue!
Come to your King, diddle, diddle, and pledge Him true.

 Honestly work, diddle, diddle, honestly sow —
A rich harvest, diddle, diddle, you'll surely mow.

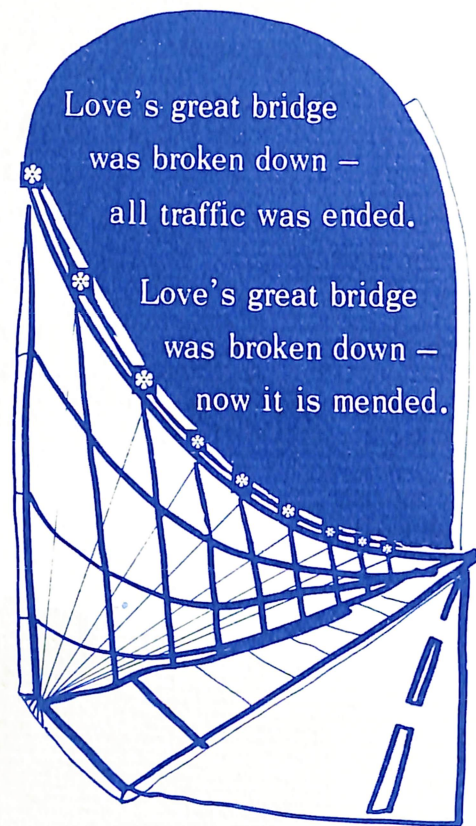
 Honestly speak, diddle, diddle, honestly think —
He'll give wine, diddle, diddle, for you to drink.



Honestly love, diddle, diddle, with heart and head —
Besides sweet wine, diddle, diddle, He will give you bread.

 Lavender's red, diddle, diddle, lavender's blue.
If you love the King, diddle, diddle, He will see you through.

8.



Love's great bridge
was broken down —
all traffic was ended.

Love's great bridge
was broken down —
now it is mended.

Who was it that came to mend it?

how was it mended?

God came to earth as God-Man —

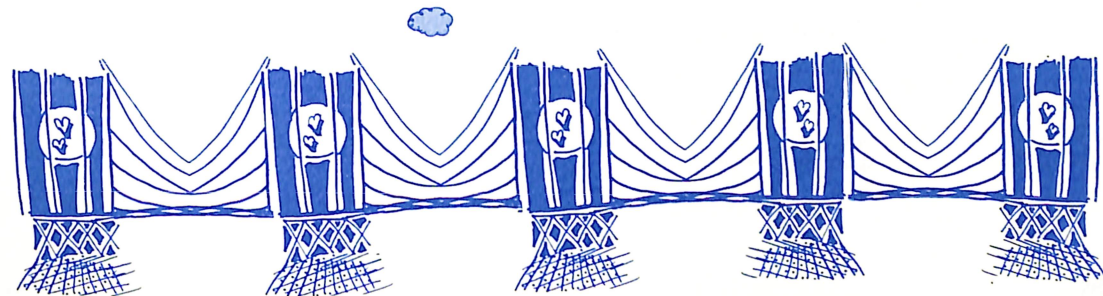
His Grace extended.

Now the bridge is whole again —

by God-Man mended,

Let us sing a sweet song to

Him with knees bended.





9.

Hi diddle, diddle, the Cat and the Fiddle,
The Cow jumped over the Moon;
The little Dog laughed to see such fun,
And the Dish ran away with the Spoon.

Hi diddle, diddle, I'll solve you the riddle,
And that I'll do all alone:
The Cat is Maya and her wily ways
And the Fiddle is Love's Great Tone.
Which means: Watch Maya's antics, and you are lost;
listen to God's voice and you are safe.

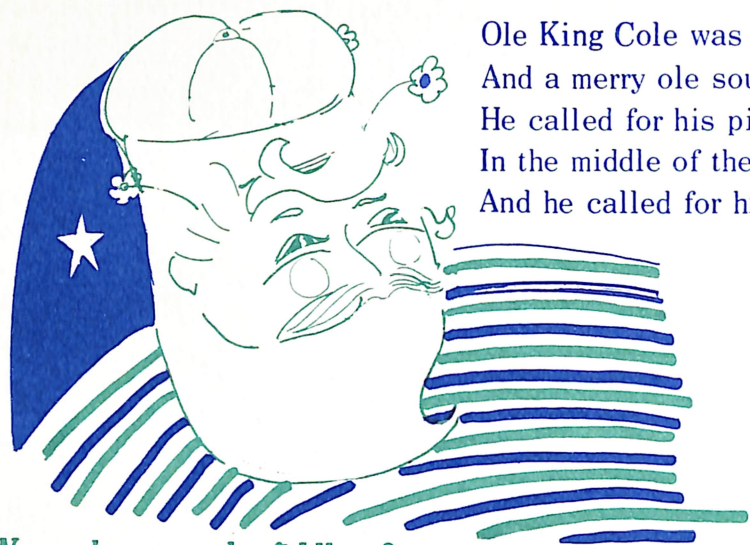
Hi diddle, diddle, I'll solve you the riddle,
And that I'll do pretty soon:
The Cow means fullness of life for men,
And the pure in heart is the Moon.
Which means: Life delights in those who have
pure hearts.

Hi diddle, diddle, I'll solve you the riddle,
And that I'll do right away:
The little Dog is yourself and me
Who enjoy whatever we may.
Which means: Healthy fun is a day well done.

Hi diddle, diddle, I'll solve you the riddle,
And that I'll do with good pace:
The Spoon is God-Man's silver hand
And the Dish His Ocean of Grace.
Which means: After God-Man bestows His Grace
He departs from the world.



10.



Now who were the fiddlers?

The first was Kindness and the second was Love
And the third had a rare quality –
He played in God's praise
In a thousand different ways,
And his playing had a strange jollity.

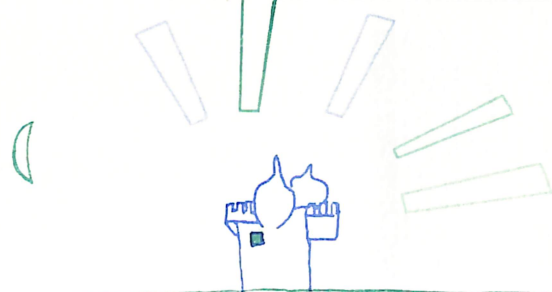
Ole King Cole was a merry ole soul,
And a merry ole soul was he –
He called for his pipe
In the middle of the night,
And he called for his fiddlers three.

Now what sort of pipe did he smoke?

The pipe was of gold and of silver and wood –
And a very huge thing it was indeed!
He filled it with one's cares and things
And blew out lovely curly rings –
And one's soul from its prison soon was freed.

So who was King Cole?

Ole King Cole is the Perfect Master
Who rules all the worlds one, two, three.
And all the time He smokes
He cracks little jokes:
He's a Man – and also pure Divinity.



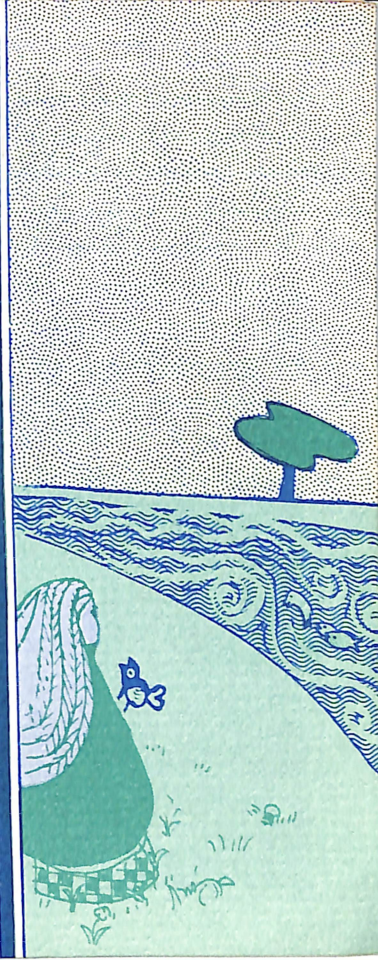
11.

Little Miss Muffet sits on a tuffet
like a lamb born in July
when the rain has fallen and the river is swollen –
and she doesn't even cry.

Little Miss Muffet sits on a tuffet
and the waters swirl about
and a horrible spider sits down beside her –
but she doesn't scream or shout.

Little Miss Muffet is a wise little girl
who knows her X.Y.Z.
though the water swirls or the spider offers pearls
she will never, never lose her head.

Little Miss Muffet sits on a tuffet
eating her curds and whey –
but it doesn't stop her thinking
of the true man who'll come for her one day.





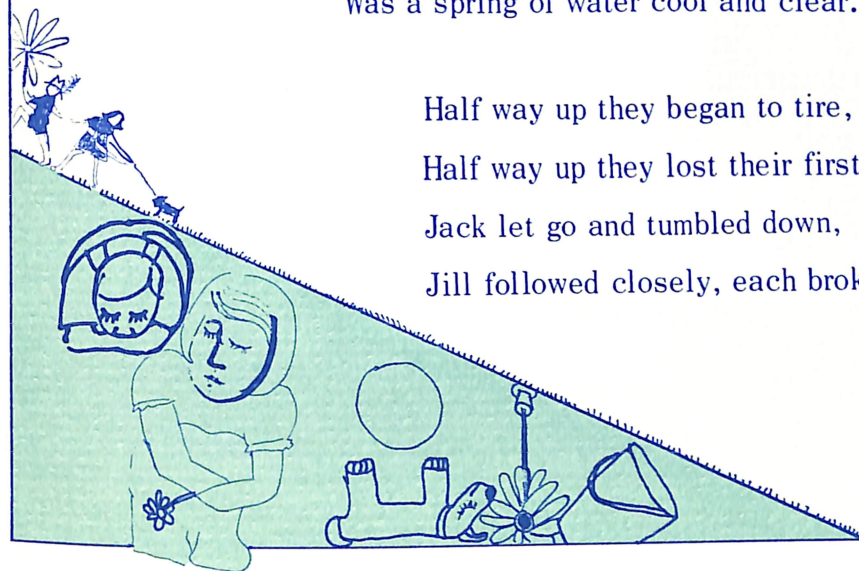
12.

If wishes were horses
 God, the Beggar, would ride
 On easeful journey –
 But he tramps by my side.

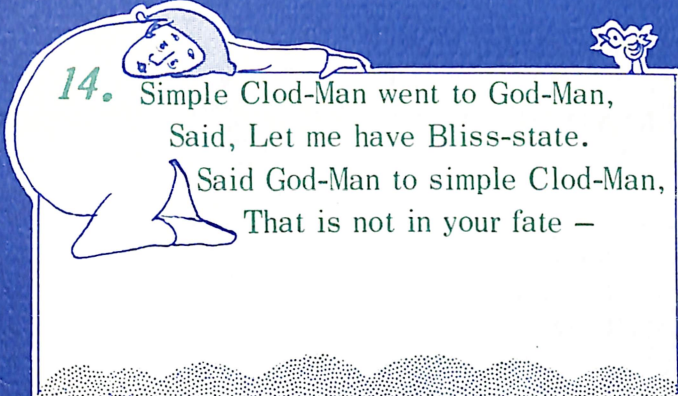
13.

Jack and Jill were man and wife
 Who started to climb the hill called Life
 On the top of which, so said some Seer,
 Was a spring of water cool and clear.

Half way up they began to tire,
 Half way up they lost their first desire;
 Jack let go and tumbled down,
 Jill followed closely, each broke his crown.



The moral of the story is,
It isn't so easy to get real bliss;
And to go mountaineering without a Master
Is the surest way to invite disaster.



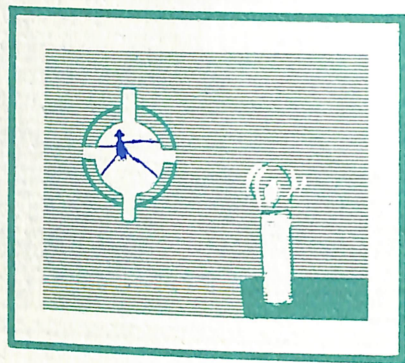
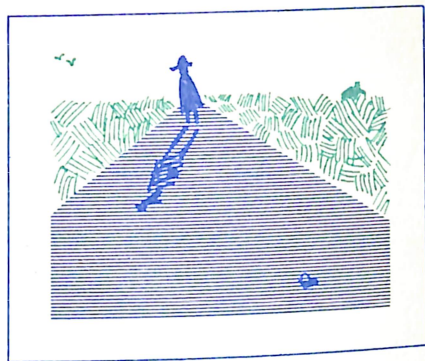
14. Simple Clod-Man went to God-Man,
Said, Let me have Bliss-state.
Said God-Man to simple Clod-Man,
That is not in your fate –

Until you first die from Love's thirst, And then My pleasure wait.

15.

Here comes an old man from Botany Bay,
Botany Bay, Botany Bay,
Here comes an old man from Botany Bay,
What will you give him today?

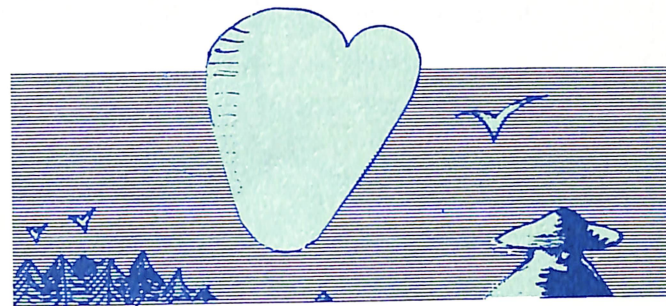
*I'll give him fruit, I'll give him bread,
I'll give him wine to warm his blood;
For Jesus said, To the least of these
Is better than praying on your knees.*



Here comes an old man from Paradise,
Paradise, Paradise,
Here comes an old man from Paradise,
What will you give him today?

*I'll give him sweat, I'll give him toil,
I'll give him dry bread and stale oil;
Mohammed said, Yet angels must
Plod to man-state along in the dust.*

Here comes an old man from Heart's Fair Land,
Heart's Fair Land, Heart's Fair Land,
Here comes an old man from Heart's Fair Land,
What will you give him today?

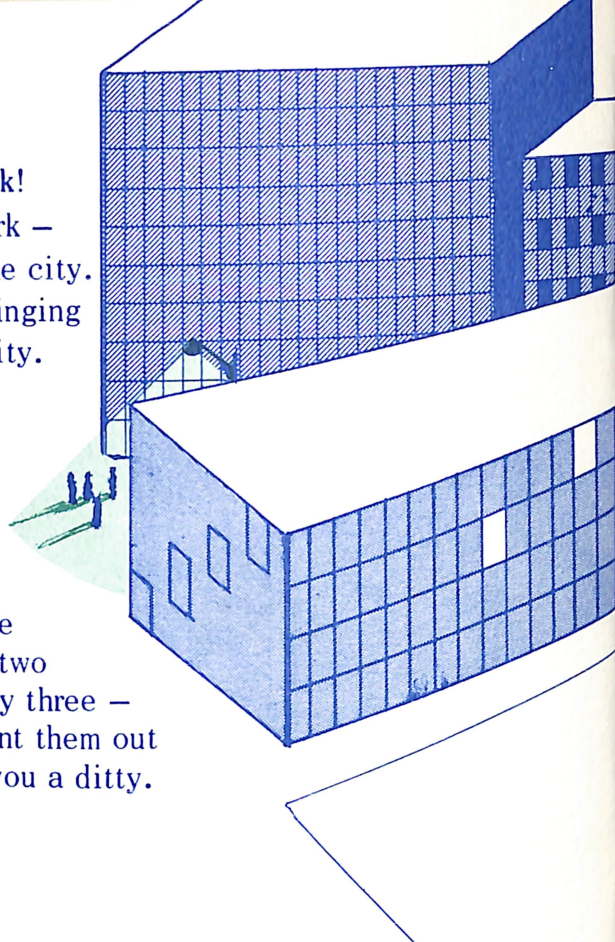


*I'll give him song both strong and sweet,
Sweep with eyebrows a path for his feet;
For Meher says, Serving such men
IS living in the highest Heaven.*

16.

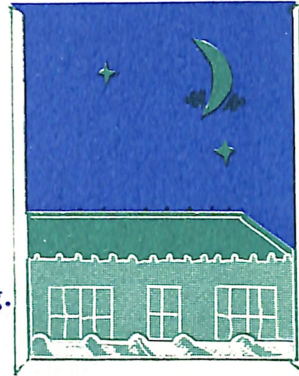
Hark! Hark!
How the dogs bark –
God's beggars have come to the city.
They've left the Wine Shop and the singing
Because of pity.

Pity one
Pity two
Pity three –
The Wine-seller sent them out
To sing you a ditty.

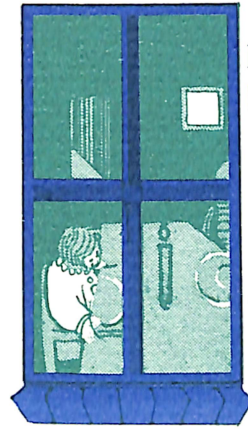


17.

Little Tommy Tupper
Must sing for his supper.
What shall he sing
That gladness will bring?
He shall sing a new story
Of the Ancient One's glory –
That One who melts hearts for a finger ring.

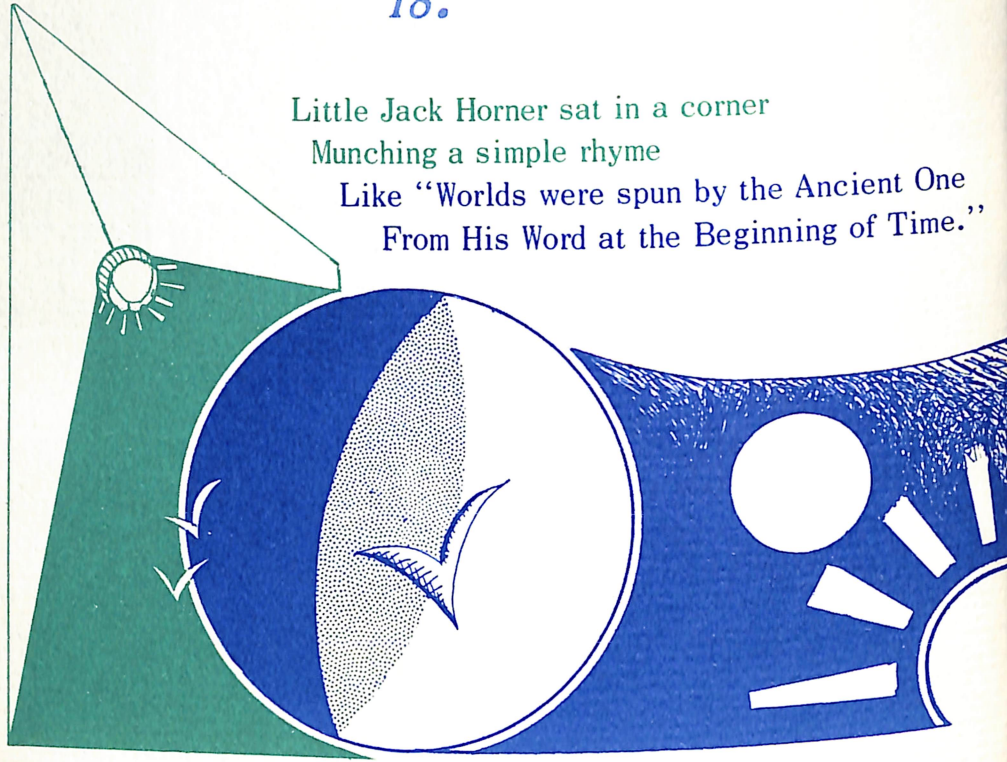


Little Tommy Tupper
Must sing for his supper.
What theme shall he chase
In song's even pace?
He shall sing the old story
Of the New One's glory –
That One who strings tear-pearls for a necklace.



18.

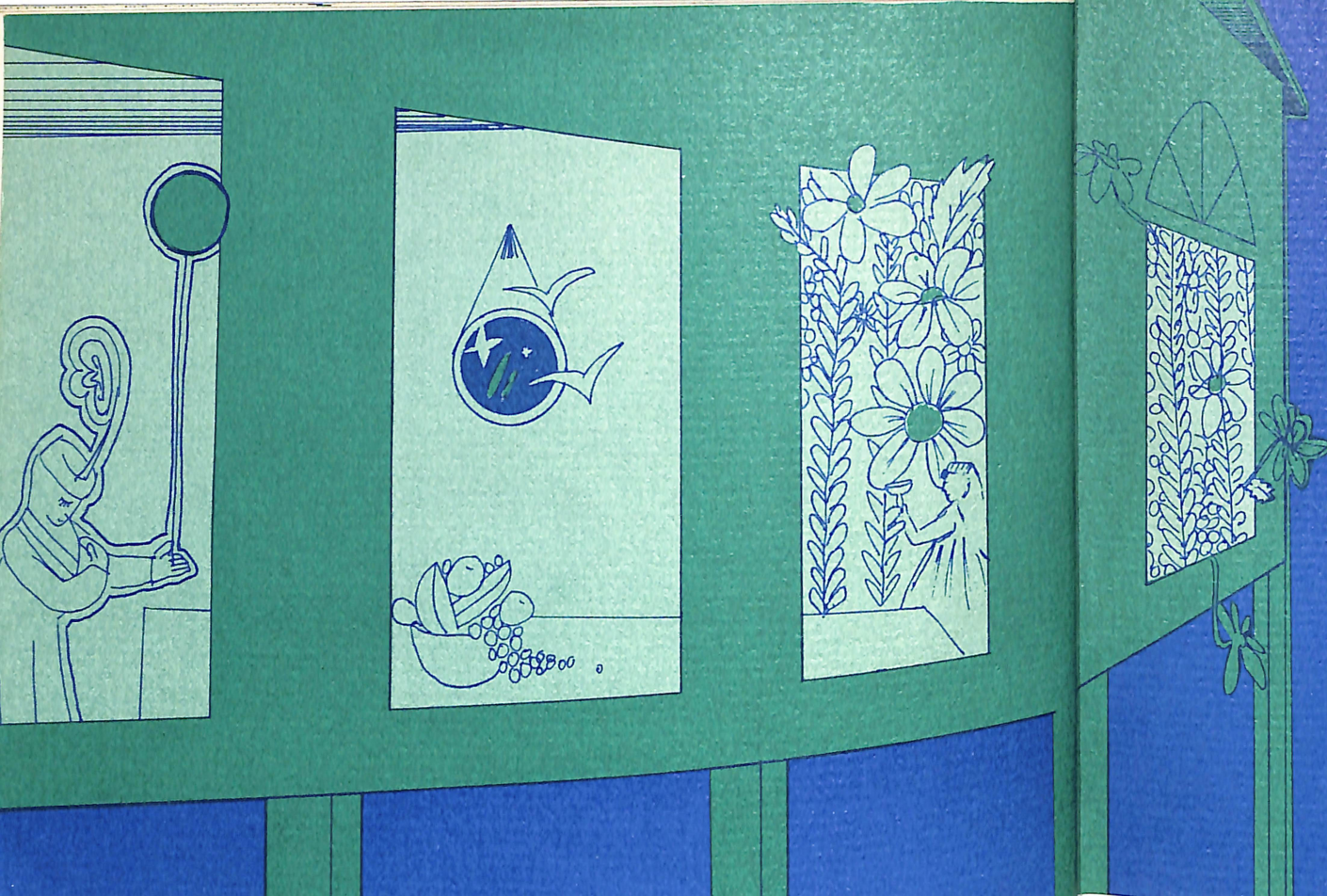
Little Jack Horner sat in a corner
Munching a simple rhyme
Like "Worlds were spun by the Ancient One
From His Word at the Beginning of Time."



Little Jack Horner sat in a corner
Wondering "Who am I?"
He looked at his toes and felt his nose
And heaved a great, great sigh.



Little Jack Horner sat in a corner
Making up a great plan,
I'll ride through Space till I see God's Face
When I'm a grown-up man.



19.

Oranges and lemons
Godlings and demons –
You'll pay the last farthing, so Jesus said.
You'll pay the last farthing, for you are my darling
And I'll make you debt free before I light you to bed.

Bananas and mangoes
And grapes from which wine flows –
I'll fill you your cup, so Meher said,
I'll brim-fill a cup for my darling to sup
And make you dead drunk before I chop off your head.



20.

Lullaby Baby your cradle is green,
Your father is God and your mother is his Queen.
They love you so dearly that they sent you down here –
For only on green Earth does God-Man appear.

Lullaby Baby your cover is blue,
The stars in the heaven are lamps lit for you.
Your father and mother love you so dear
They gave you Earth-birth – for God-Man is here.



Little girl, little girl, what was it you brought?
 Roses for the Queen which far and wide I sought.
 Little girl, little girl, what did she give you?
 Yellow gold and diamonds she had bought.



Little man, little man, what did you bring?
 My heart wrapped in wine leaves for the great King.
 Little man, little man, what did he give you?
 Some rags and a staff and a song to sing.

22.



Ding, dong, bell,
Pussy's in the well.
Who put her in?
Tom Thin the politician.
How will she get out?
Without doubt when the Musician
Rings the bell.

Ding, dong, bell,
Puss and you and I are in the same well -
Deep well,
Well, well.
When will we get out?
This year, next year, sometime.
There about.



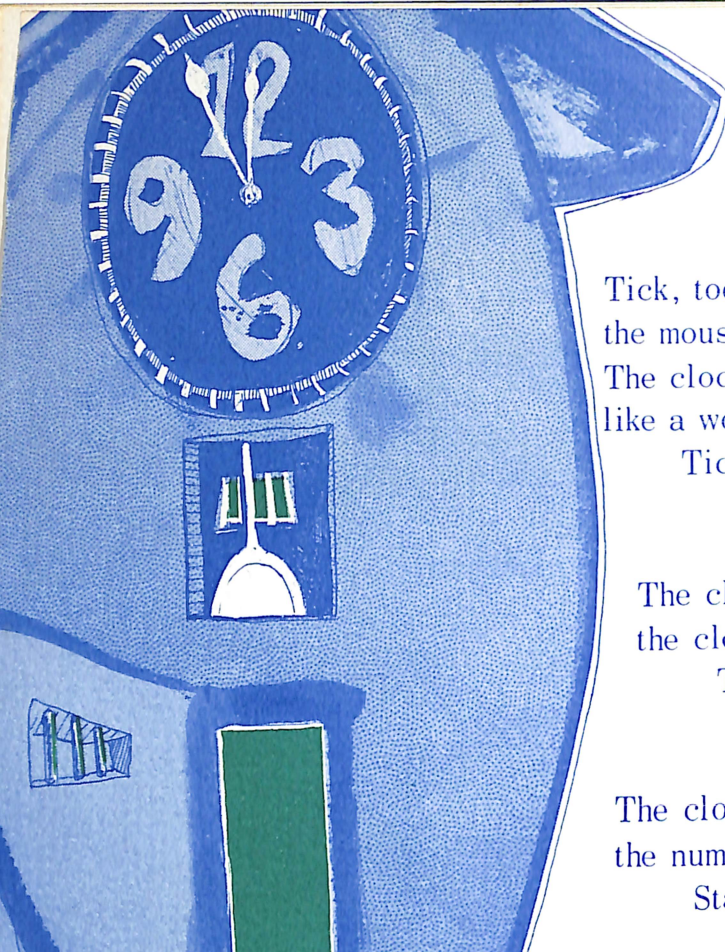
23.

Ride a cock-horse to the Hill of the Cross
In curiosity,
And idly sing, There we took the King
Who ruled with love and pity.



Ride a cock-horse from the Hill of the Cross
With lips trembling with grief –
And softly sing, There we left the King
And on each side of Him put a thief.





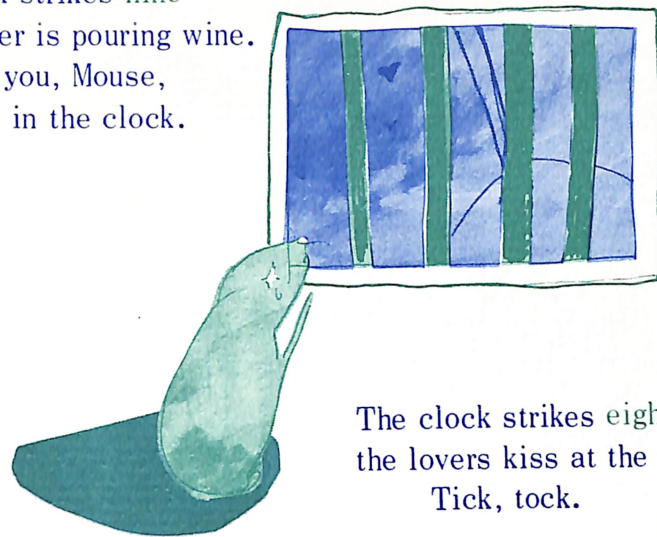
24.

Tick, tock, hickory dock
the mouse ran into the clock.
The clock strikes **twelve**
like a worn engine-valve –
Tick, tock – stay in the clock.

The clock strikes **eleven**
the clouds are wind-driven –
Tick, tock.

The clock strikes **ten**
the number for women and men
Stay in the clock – tick, tock.

The clock strikes **nine**
The Master is pouring wine.
But you, Mouse,
stay in the clock.



The clock strikes **eight**
the lovers kiss at the gate.
Tick, tock.

The clock strikes **seven**
only saints live in heaven.
Stay in the clock – tick, tock.

The clock strikes **six**
for blows and kicks.

Tick, tock, tick, tock – tock.

The clock strikes **five**
the pearl-seekers dive –

But a mouse must stay in a clock.

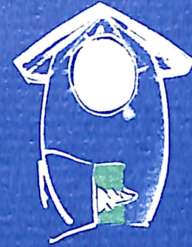
The clock strikes **four**
Open a bit the door

But stay in the clock – tick, tock.

The clock strikes **three**
Be alert and ready –

Tick, tock – tock.

The clock strikes **two**
the next will be for you
Tock, tock.



The clock strikes one
Run, Mouse, run, run, run –
The Master has spoken
and the striker is broken –

TOCK



