

Traditional (Child 278)

Am Em Am
 There was an old man who lived under the hill
 G D Em
 O Lady be gay

Am Em Am
 There was an old man who lived under the hill
 If he'd not gone away he'd be livin' there still
 Am Em Am
 Lady be gay if you can be.

One day the devil came down to his plow
 O Lady be gay
 One day the devil came down to his plow
 Said (S:) "One of your family I'll have to have now,"
 Lady be gay if you can be.

"And it isn't your son or daughter I crave,"
 O Lady be gay
 "It isn't your son or your daughter I crave
 But your old naggin' wife I'll carry away,"
 Lady be gay if you can be

"Ah, take her away with all of my heart,"
 O Lady be gay
 "Take her away with all of my heart
 And I'll bet the two of you never will part,"
 Lady be gay if you can be

He set her down at the fork in the road
 O Lady be gay
 He set her down at the fork in the road
 He said (S:) "Old woman you're a hell of a load,"
 Lady be gay if you can be

Then he carried her down to the gates of hell
 O Lady be gay
 He carried her down to the gates of hell
 Said, (S:) "Rake up the coals and we'll roast her well,"
 Lady be gay if you can be

Two little devils were playing with chains
 O Lady be gay
 Two little devils were playing with chains
 She up with her foot and she kicked out their brains,
 Lady be gay if you can be

One poor little devil peeked over the wall
 O Lady be gay
 One poor little devil peeked over the wall

Said, (N:) "Take her home, Daddy; she'll murder us all!"
Lady be gay if you can be

So the devil he hoisted her up on his back
O Lady be gay
The devil he hoisted her up on his back
And home again with her in a pack
Lady be gay if you can be

The woman went whistlin' over the hill
O Lady be gay
The woman went a whistlin' over the hill
"If the devil won't have me, I've done pretty well,"
Lady be gay if you can be

There is an advantage we have over men
O Lady be gay
There is an advantage we have over men
We can go down to hell and come back again
Lady be gay if you can be

Lady be gay...
... if you can be.