

The Boys of Bedlam

Alexander James Adams

1. For to see Mad Tom of Bedlam
Ten thousand miles I traveled
Mad Maudlin goes on dirty toes
For to save her shoes from gravel

*Still I sing bonny boys, bonny mad boys
Bedlam boys are bonny
For they all go bare and they live by the air
And they want no drink nor money.*

2. I went down to Satan's kitchen
For to get me food one morning
And there I got souls piping hot
All on a spit a-turning.
3. There I took up a cauldron,
Where boiled ten thousand harlots
Though full of flame I drank the same,
to the health of all such varlets.
4. My staff has murdered giants
My bag a long knife carries
For cut mince pies from children's thighs
And feed them to the fairies.
5. The spirits white as lightening
Would on my travels guide me
The stars would shake and the moon would quake
Whenever they espied me
6. No gypsy slut nor doxy,
shall win my Mad Tom from me
I'll weep all night, the stars I'll fight,
the fray will well become me.
7. It's when next I have murdered,
the Man-In-The-Moon to powder
His staff I'll break, his dog I'll bake,
they'll howl no demon louder.
8. So drink to Tom of Bedlam,
he'll fill the seas in barrels
I'll drink it all, all brewed with gall,
with Mad Maudlin I will travel.

or:

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| 8. I now regret that ever
Poor Tom I so disdain.ded
My wits are lost since him I crossed
and now I must go chain-ed. | 9. From the hag and hungry goblin
That into rags would rend ye
All the sprites that stand by the naked man
In the book of moons, defend ye. |
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