



Narrator - James



Why The Cat Washes Himself So Often

Narr: A long, long time ago the little Christchild was born, in a far away country in a stable among the animals. There were his mother and Joseph, as well as a good ox and gentle ~~ass~~^{sheep}. When the news of His Birth spread, everyone hurried to the stable to pay him homage. There were shepherds and just simple town-folk. They all wanted to welcome the baby and bring him presents. Oh, what a crowd came to the stable to greet the Christchild.

Gentle Lambs

(Stable with Mary and Joseph and baby, Ox and Ass. Shepherds enter on one side.)

Shepherd 1: Let us hurry and find the baby.

Shepherd 2: Here is a stable. Maybe the baby is here.

Shepherd 1: Yes, look how bright it is.

(Shepherds kneel down and give baby gifts. Two town people enter on other side of stage.)

Boy: The shepherds said that a very special baby has been born tonight.

Girl: Where?

Boy: Here in Bethlehem, in a stable.

Girl: Why in a stable?

Boy: I don't know, but come with me and let's see.

Girl: I see a stable

Boy: Let's go in.

(Children go in. Boy gives a gift. Girl gives a shawl to cover the baby)

Shepherd 1: This is such a beautiful baby

Shepherd 2: That is because he is God's Son.

Boy: I'm glad that I have seen him.

Girl: So am I.

Shepherd 1: The angels sang to us and told us of his birth.

Shepherd 2: We ran all the way to find him.

Boy: And you told me about it.

Shepherd 1: But now we must let the baby sleep.

Mary: Maybe you could sing a song.

(Shepherds and children sing very loud. Cat enters and goes to sleep in a corner)

Shepherd 1: We are too loud. We will say good-night.

(Shepherds and children say goodnight and Mary and Joseph say Thank-you)

Narr: Now the Christchild was alone with his mother and Joseph and the animals. His mother began to sing a lullaby.

Mary: (Hums very high)

Narr: Yet it sounded very high. The baby would not close his eyes or fall asleep.

Mary: Maybe you should try, Joseph.

Joseph: (Hums or sings low and loud)

Narr: But Joseph's voice was ~~deeper~~ and loud. He only made the baby open his eyes wider than ever. It was really late now, nearly Midnight. Then his Mother had a wise thought. She would ask the animals to help her.

Mary: Will you, good ox, or you, gentle ass, sing my baby to sleep.

Ox: Yes indeed

Ass: Gladly

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Ox and Ass: Moo-oo Hee-haw

Narr: The poor child was only frightened

Mary: What shall we do?(looks up and sees cat in corner) Here kitty, kitty, kitty, come little furry whiskers and put my baby to sleep.

Cat: (lifts her head) Meow (then looks at herself and starts licking herself clean)

Narr: Little furry whiskers lifted her head. She looked at her sooty coat and was very much ashamed. You see, she had been sleeping in the ashes on top of her mistress' stove. When she had heard the shepherds on their way to the stable, she had left her warm home and followed them. Now they had left her behind in the stable. Her chin was covered in soot and one of her paws was too. Even the tip of her tail was dusty with ashes.

Cat: Oh purry kittens, how can you show your sooty self? Shame on you.

Narr: And she began to wash. How she licked herself.

Mary: Kitty, kitty, come to me.

(Cat washes her little chin very carefully)

Joseph: Please hurry

(Kitten just goes on licking her paws.)

Ox: Won't you ever finish?

(Cat finishes licking tail and softly patters up to manger. She curls herself by the manger and sings or says)

Cat: Ah... ah... Pussies gay
One wears stripes and one is gray
One is short, the other long
And I do love them, big or small
Meow... Meow, Pussies do
One white mitten, one white shoe
Though you're small and even fat
You are still my Pussy-cat

(Mary looks at baby and smiles and then strokes the cat)

Mary: He is sound asleep.

- ✓ Flew / Fry
- ✓ fought / bully
- ✓ guessed / many
- ✓ learned / mystery
- ✓ quit / cylinder
- ✓ road / youth
- ✓ ~~soot~~ / soul
- ✓ ~~thought~~ / shoulder
- ✓ typed / laugh
- ✓ yielded / ~~compound~~
- ✓ yet
- ✓ yarn
- ✓ my

7x49=343

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 49 \\
 \times 7 \\
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 343
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James May

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 49 \\
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 392
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