

Old Apple Tree

Apple Tree Wassail

trad. English (Somerset)

with a swing ♩ = 96



Old ap - - ple tree, _____ we'll was - - sail thee, _____ And
hop - - ing thou wilt bear. _____ The Lord does know _____ where
we shall be, To be mer - ry an - - o - - ther year. _____

CHORUS

To _____ blow well and to bear well, And so mer - - ry let us
be; _____ Let ev - - 'ry - one _____ drink up his cup: _____ Here's
health to the old ap - ple tree! _____

Old apple tree, we'll wassail thee,
And hoping thou wilt bear.
The Lord does know where we shall be,
To be merry another year.

Chorus:
To blow well and to bear well,
And so merry let us be;
Let ev'ryone drink up his cup:
Here's health to the old apple tree!

Shouted:
Hatfuls, capfuls, three bushel bagfuls
And a little heap under the stairs
Hip! Hip! Hurray!

From "The Christmas Revels Songbook": This wassail ritual, performed at night by firelight, ensured new growth in the fruit trees. Bits of lambs' wool, dipped in old cider, were affixed to the branches of the trees. The singing and dancing was punctuated with loud banging noises and shouts to drive away evil spirits. This variant from Somerset reflects the early origins of the carol, which involved taking hands and singing while dancing in a ring or around a bush or May tree.