

## Jane Siberry

# "Quoi, Ma Voisine, Es-Tu Fachee?"

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Neighbour, what has you so excited?  
Do tell me please.  
Haven't you heard a child is born that all want to see?  
Son of a pure and modest virgin, Mary's her name  
They say her baby is the savior prophets proclaim

I would be pleased to go with you, so likely I'll go  
But can we take our time to see him?  
Shop on the road?  
Have you some cake to take the infant?  
Sugar-plums, too?  
I'm sure that Mary's house is lovely, tidy and new

I am afraid that you're mistaken, wrong as can be  
This blessed maiden has no splendid rich place to stay  
For she lies within a wretched stable dirty and poor  
There is no table for your presents, only the floor

Surely she has a warm soft cradle there for the child  
One has to rock and calm an infant  
So weak and so mild  
What sort of guards and servants  
Has she to give her aid?  
Cannot the heavenly father's power help the poor  
maid?

All they could think to find for a cradle - a manger bed  
Bundle of dusty, dry straw to pillow his head  
Joseph, her husband, he cares for Mary best as he can  
In place of servant, ox and donkey are looking on

Traveling tires me, and this journey seems a long way  
Only to see a new-born baby lying on hay  
Maybe you shepherds find excitement in this affair  
But I am used to things much better in which to share

You must not talk that way, my neighbor  
- mark what I say  
Upon my honour, this is our saviour born on this day  
It is his choice to come so humbly there in a stall  
Granting his pow'r and grace so gently to one and all

O blessed mother, free us all from arrogant pride  
May we, when life on earth is ended,  
Hasten to your side  
Daring to hope you will present us to your dear son  
And that we'll gain the bliss and joy of paradise won

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