

When **Joseph** went to **Bethlehem**, I think he took **great care** to place his tools and close his shop and leave no shavings there. He **urged the donkey** forward then, **with Mary** on its back, and carried bread and goat cheese in a **little linen sack**.



**I think there at the busy inn  
that he was meek and mild  
and awed to be the**



**guardian  
of Mary's  
sacred  
child.**

**Perhaps all through the  
chilly hours he smoothed  
the swaddling bands, and  
Jesus felt the quiet strength  
of Joseph's gentle hands.**

And close beside the  
**manger** bed, he **dimmed**  
the **lantern's light** and



**held** the **little Jesus** close  
upon that **holy night**.