

## Derby Ram

*An early C18 folk song which is included here due to the nautical references in some verses. The song was sung by village youths who travelled house-to-house at midwinter (as with wassailing), one of whom was "dressed in sheepskin to represent the old Tup". At this point, Tup still "had the power to confer or withhold good luck for the coming year" and was linked to fertility.*

As I was going to Derby, 'twas on a market day  
I met the finest ram, sirs, that ever was fed upon hay

### Chorus

*That's a lie, that's a lie  
That's a lie, a lie, a lie!*

This ram and I got drunk, sir, as drunk as drunk could be  
And when we sobered up, sir, we were far away out on the sea

This wonderful old ram, sir, was playful as a kid;  
He swallowed the captain's spyglass along with the bo'sun's fid

One morning on the poop, sir, afore eight bells was struck  
He climbed up to the sky's I yard an' sat down on the truck

This wonderful ol' ram, sir, he tried a silly trick  
He tried to jump a five-barred fence and landed in a rick

This wonderful ol' ram, sir, it grew two horns of brass  
One grew out o' his shoulder blade, t'other turned into a mast

An' when this ram was killed, sir, the butcher was covered in blood  
Five and twenty butcher boys was carried away in the flood

An' when this ram was dead, sir, they buried it in St. Joan's  
It took ten men an' an elephant to carry one of its bones

Chorus x2