



## The Night Before Christmas

- I. 'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.
- II. The children were nestled all snug in their beds;  
While visions of sugar plums danced in their heads;  
And Mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.
- III. When out on the lawn there rose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
- IV. The moon, on the breast of the new-fallen snow,  
Gave a luster of midday to objects below;  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.
- V. With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name.
- VI. "Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer! Now, Vixen!  
On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, Donner! and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall!  
Now, dash away, dash away, dash away, all!"
- VII. As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,  
So, up to the housetop the coursers they flew,  
With a sleigh full of toys—and St. Nicholas, too!
- VIII. And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof,  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
- IX. He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.
- X. His eyes how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.
- XI. The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;  
He had a broad face and a round little belly,  
That shook, when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
- XII. He was chubby and plump—a right jolly old elf—  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.  
A wink of his eye, and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
- XIII. He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
- XIV. He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle;  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle;  
But I heard him exclaim ere he drove out of sight,

"Merry Christmas To All

... and to All a Good Night"

It is the pleasant privilege of L. S. Ayres & Company to  
make this immortal poem available to our younger friends.

Written by Clement Moore, 1799-1867, Poet

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