

Old Man in the Hob

Song

Robbie McMahon



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Old Man in the Hob

Sit back into your chairs my boys
And I'll stay in the hob.
I'll fill me twisty pipe once more
And put it in me gob.
And when the smoke ascends me boys,
A tale I'll tell to you
Concerning my youthful days
A story sad and true.

Come all you wild craiceálaighs
Come listen here to me.
Shure I am old and feeble now,
My age being eighty three.
But I was once so young like you,
But times have changed since then.
Ah'h God give me my memory now
'Til I think back again.

And talk of eighty years ago
When I was very small.
I had no bike to ride on
Or motor car at all.
For all I got were stumpy feet
Which pained when snow did fall.
Cáibín and torn petticoat
Them times shure that was all.

When I was but a buachaillín
'Twas badly I was fed.
To school I went a barefoot boy,
No butter on me bread.
And boys when I did scamper home
Or do you think it great
For all I got was buttermilk
And praties on me plate.

When I had grown to manhood,
Those times were very tough.
My land was small and very poor.
I scarcely had enough.
I dug those hills with spade me boys

With sweat down from me brow.
Them times we had no horse at all,
And no one knew a plough.

Ah'h boys when I was young like you,
I never will forget,
The hunger and the pains of cold,
And the hardships which I met.
But then it was so great to be
Let live from day to day.
Ah'h God be with my youth a stór
Is all that I should say.

Come pass me o'er me snuffbox now
And I will take a sniff.
It satisfies a man like me,
Who's feeble, old, and stiff.
Come lift me from this hob me boys
For something's happening queer.
If those chairs aren't moving boys
Then death for me is near.

Come take me by the arm now
And bring me o'er me stick
To walk me to my bedroom door
For I am feeling sick.
Now lay me gently on me bed
And call in Father Dan.
For something strange came o'er me,
Come hurry if you can.

Oh, Father Dan, how are you?
And come over here to me.
Come lay your holy hand on me
For I am on me way
To a land that's far beyond the sky
Where I'll have pains no more.
For God Himself has called me
To His own eternal shore.