Three Rauens

Thomas Ravenscroft (ca. 1590-1633)



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There were three Rauens sat on a tree, Downe, a downe, hay downe, hay downe. There were three Rauens sat on a tree, with a downe, There were three Rauens sat on a tree, they were so blacke as they might be, with a downe, derrie, derrie, downe, downe.

The one of them said to his mate Where shall we our breakfast take?

[o] Downe in yonder greene field, There lies a Knight slain under his shield.

His hounds they lie downe at his feete, So well they can their Master keepe.

His Haukes they flie so eagerly, There is no fowle dare him come nie.

[o] Down there comes a fallow Doe, As great with yong as she might goe.

[o] She lift up his bloudy hed And kist his wounds that were so red.

She got him up upon her backe And carried him to earthern lake.

She buried him before the prime, (She) was dead her selfe ere euen(-song) time.

[o] God send euery gentleman Such haukes, such hounds and such (a) Leman.

[o] Ergänzung (...) nicht singen