

Louis Collins
Mississippi John Hurt



1. Ms Collins weeped, Ms Collins moaned
To see her son Louis leaving home.
The angels laid him away.

Chorus

The angels laid him away,
Laid him six feet under the clay,
The angels laid him away.

2. Oh, Bob shot one and Louis shot two,
Shot poor Collins, shot him through and through,
The angels have laid him away

Chorus

3. Oh, kind friends, oh ain't it hard,
To see poor Louis in a new grave yard?
The angels laid him away.

Chorus

4. Oh, when they heard that Louis was dead,
All the people they dressed in red.
The angels laid him away.

Chorus

5. Ms Collins weeped, Ms Collins moaned
To see her son Louis leaving home.
The angels laid him away.

Chorus

Recorded by Mississippi John Hurt on December 21, 1928 in New York City. He said, when asked about this murder ballad, that he "made it up from hearing people talk. He was a great man, I know that, and he was killed by two men named Bob and Louis. I got enough of the story to write me a song."

While black is the color worn both for funerals and for post-funereal mourning among Europeans, in Africa, and among African-Americans in earlier times, dressing in red has been a funerary custom. It is reminiscent of burial with red ochre pigment, which was used among Neolithic people. The religious idea behind this custom is that as a baby is born from the mother's womb through blood, so will rebirth occur through blood.

Mississippi John Hurt was one of the smoothest blues guitarist that I have ever heard. His recordings are well worth listening to.