

FAMILY DISGRACE

For seven months, she tie she belly up.

Dis village rumour go never stop.

Running from mouth to mouth it mounting up

How she tie she belly up.

Nobody did know de real truth.

De village talk was suspicion to boot.

She head was high, an' she mouth like a lock,

Nobody could know if she really tie she belly up.

One day de truth did come to light,

No more darkness now, she fall in a fight,

To keep de seven-month secret in,

Nobody woulda know, for de bleeding.

People now know why she tie she belly up.

She kick like a mule, an' grunt in toil,

De spit in she mouth turn water and boil,

Eyes in she head roll in pain and closed shut -

So dat's why she tie she belly up.

She remember de times she lie in de trace,
How she mother warns she of family disgrace.
You never learn till yuh get burn, is fact,
Is sin too, she tie she belly up.

Now she mother hold she face in shame,
De people, dem say is she to blame.
Yes, Lord, dis rumour go never stop,
How she daughter tie she belly up.

LeRoy Clarke

1968.