

Leadership (Sung to the tune of the second song of the Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., First Lord of the Admiralty, in HMS Pinafore, Act I)

(The words are by Ian C. McKay, and the full vocal and instrumental score can be downloaded from <http://www.discourses.org.uk>)

EB = Exclusive Brethren

When I was a lad, I was born an EB,
And I served the sandwiches and poured the tea;
I said my prayers and went to the meeting;
And tidied up the hymn books and arranged the seating;

Chorus: He tidied up the hymn books, etc.

I tidied up the hymn books so carefullee
That now I am the leader of the whole EB

Chorus – He tidied up the hymn books so carefullee
That now he is the leader of the whole EB!

Of God and all that I had a bit of doubt,
And I didn't understand what it was all about,
But the peeps didn't mind, and thought it just fine,
And allowed me to partake of the bread and the wine,

Chorus: allowed him to partake of the bread and the wine.

I partook of the bread so reverentlee
That now I am the leader of the whole EB

Chorus --- He partook of the bread, etc.

At the age of about twelve I began to pray
And learned about the things you were supposed to say;
My Mum and my Dad were so very, very proud
When I stood in the meeting and prayed aloud;

Chorus: he stood in the meeting and prayed aloud.

I spoke my script so convincinglee
That now I am the leader of the whole EB.

Chorus – He spoke his script, etc.

At the age of fifteen I began to preach,
Though understanding doctrine was beyond my reach;
I couldn't write a preaching that sounded any good,
So I relayed the preachings of the folks who could;

Chorus: He relayed the preachings of the folks who could.

I relayed their preachings so faithfullee
That now I am the leader of the whole EB.

Chorus – He relayed the preachings so faithfullee, etc.

At the age of twenty-five I declared my belief
In the chap about to make himself our Big White Chief;
I gave him such support that he rewarded me
And declared me his successor as the Chief EB,

Chorus: He declared him his successor as the Chief EB

So they made me an Apostle, a successor of Paul
When he died of an overdose of alcohol.

Chorus – We made him an Apostle, etc.

I don't know much religion, or even right and wrong,
So I just make up the doctrine as I go along;
They all lap it up and treasure every word,
And print it all verbatim, though it sounds absurd;

Chorus: We print it all verbatim, though it sounds absurd.

They send me lots of cash in a great big wad
Now I am the Universal Man of God.

Chorus – We send him lots of cash, etc.

Now Brethren all, whoever you may be,
If you want to rise to the top of the tree,
Whether you're a saint or a rascal or a fool,
Be careful to be guided by this golden rule –

Chorus: Be careful to be guided by this golden rule --

Support your Leader, whatever your belief,
And some happy day you'll be the Great Big Chief.

Chorus -- Support your Leader, etc.