

To be a little bit "*balmy* in one's crumpet" means to be slightly crazy. The synonyms are "to be touched," "off one's chump," "wrong in the upper storey," "to have rats in the upper storey," "a tile loose," "half-baked," "dotty." To "go *balmy*" signifies to go mad.

"Ah," said Tom Carleton subsequently to the Talepitcher, "none o' *my* kids ever go *balmy* over flowers or the Academy; give 'em ice cream and Buffalo Bill—that's the business!"

To have a "dose of *balmy*," or a "wink of the *balmy*," to sleep.

As it's rather late, I'll try and get a wink or two of the *balmy*.—*Charles Dickens: Old Curiosity Shop.*

Bālo, bālor, bawlor (gypsy), a pig.

"Oh I jassed to the ker
An' I tried to mang the *bālor*,
Tried to mang the mūllo *bālor*
When I jassed to the ker"—

"I went to the house and I tried to beg the pig, tried to beg the dead pig when I went to the house."

—*English Gypsy Ballads.*

Policemen are also called *bālor*, or "pigs" in gypsy.

Balovas te (an') yoras (gypsy), bacon and eggs; *yoras*, eggs.

"Ballovas an' yoras,
Ballovas an' yoras,
A' the rye an' the rāni
A pirryin āp the drom"—
"Oh! the eggs and bacon,
Oh! the eggs and bacon,
And the gentleman and lady
A-walking up the way."

Balsam (thieves' slang), money.

"It was no great quids, Jim—only six flimseys and three beans. But I'm flush of the *balsam* now, and I ain't funk'd to flash it."—*New York Slang Dictionary.*

—*I.e.*, "There wasn't much money, Jim—only six notes and three sovereigns. But I've plenty of money now, and I am not afraid to show it."

Also impertinence, impudence.

Balwar (Anglo-Indian), a barber.

This is an amusing instance of native blending of *balwala* (hair-person, *capillarius*) with the English word.

It often takes the further form *balbar*, another fictitious hybrid shaped by the Persian *buridan*, to cut; *guosi*, hair-cutter.—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Bam (old), facetious humbug; "to *bam*" was to impose on a person by means of falsehood; also to chaff and poke fun at any one.

Bamboozle, to (common), to cheat, to delude, to humbug.

Fair ladies attend! and if you've a friend
At court, don't attempt to *bamboozle* or
trick her!

Don't meddle with negus, or any mixed
liquor!

Don't dabble in "magic!" my story has
shown,

How wrong 'tis to use any charms but your
own.

—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

In the language of sailors, to *bamboozle* has the meaning of to decoy the enemy by hoisting false colours.

This word has been a stumbling-block to all the etymologists who have attempted to grapple