

MARLEY'S GHOST (cont'd)

A lifetime of avarice and self-indulgence.
Don't you recognize it?

SCROOGE

Should I?

MARLEY'S GHOST

You should know the weight and length of the chain you bear. It was as heavy and as long as this seven Christmas Eves ago. It is a ponderous chain and you have labored on it since.

Scrooge, puzzled, looks at the floor around his feet expecting to see his long chain.

SCROOGE

Jacob Marley. My old friend. Speak comfort to me.

MARLEY'S GHOST

I have none to give. Comfort must come from other regions and other spirits. Spirits, who in life, nurtured their fellow men. In life, my spirit never roamed beyond our money changing hole. An eternity of weary journeys lie before me.

SCROOGE

Seven years dead and travelling all the time?

MARLEY'S GHOST

The whole time. No rest! No peace! Incessant torture of remorse.

(he rises)

Captive and bound in this iron! Never to know the labors of goodness and compassion; never to know the true Christian spirit working kindly towards the multitudes. And eternally tortured in the knowledge that I could have gone forth in life with these things and chose not to.

SCROOGE

But, you were always a good man of business, Jacob.

MARLEY'S GHOST

(wailing)

Business! Business! Mankind was my business! The common welfare was my business! Charity, mercy, forbearance and benevolence were all my business! The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business! At this time of the rolling year I suffer most.

(MORE)

MARLEY'S GHOST (cont'd)

Why did I walk through life with my eyes turned down? And, never raise them to that Blessed Star which led the Wise Men to that poor abode? Hear me! My time is almost done. I am here tonight to warn you that you have yet a chance and hope of escaping my fate.

SCROOGE

Jacob! Please!

NO. 8A - LONELY AM I

MARLEY'S GHOST

ON THE WINGS OF THE WIND
DOOMED TO WANDER WITHOUT END.
I CANNOT REST. I CANNOT STAY.
I CANNOT LINGER ANYWHERE.
WHY DID I TURN AWAY?
AWAY FROM THAT BLESSED STAR.
AWAY FROM ALL I COULD HAVE SHARED.
AWAY FROM THOSE WHO LOVED AND CARED.
ON AND ON WITH NO COURSE.
INCESSANT TORTURE OF REMORSE.
THIS CHAIN I WEAR I FORGED IN LIFE.
A RUTHLESS, SELFISH, GREEDY LIFE.
WHY DID I TURN AWAY?
AWAY FROM THAT BLESSED STAR?
AWAY FROM GOOD. AWAY FROM PRAYER.
I WATCHED THE PEOPLE IN DESPAIR.
AND NOW FOR ALL ETERNITY,
LONELY AM I.
HEAR ME SCROOGE. MY TIME IS THROUGH.
THERE'S STILL A HOPE OF SAVING YOU.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU TO STOP
AND BE THE MAN THAT I WAS NOT.
YOU WATCHED ME TURN AWAY.
AWAY FROM THAT BLESSED STAR.
NOW I WANDER FAR AND WIDE
TO FIND THE ANSWER TO MY LIFE.
MY SORROW CUTS ME LIKE A KNIFE.
SO LONELY AM I.

PHANTOMS

MARLEY! HELP US!
HELP US! DON'T LEAVE US!
YOU TURNED AWAY. YOU DID NOT CARE.
HELP US! HELP US!

MARLEY'S GHOST

(V.O.)

LONELY AM I.
CAPTIVE AND BOUND FOREVER.
TORTURED FOR A SQUANDERED LIFE.
WHY DID I TURN AWAY?
AWAY FROM THAT BLESSED STAR.
AWAY FROM LOVE AND CHARITY.

ALL I GAVE WAS MISERY.
AND NOW FOR ALL ETERNITY
LONELY AM I.

MARLEY'S GHOST (cont'd)
You will be visited by three spirits.

SCROOGE
I think Id rather not.

MARLEY'S GHOST
Without their visits, you cannot hope to avoid
the path I travel. Expect the first when the
clock tolls one: the second at the hour of two:
and the third...the third will appear in it's
own good time. My time is done. And remember,
Ebenezer Scrooge, what has passed between us.

The Ghost moves off as it entered.
Scrooge is frozen and staring in
horror.

SCROOGE
(choking)
Humb...

As the candle on the table
extinguishes itself, Scrooge curls
up on the chair. There is a short
blackout.

NO. 9 - THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

The lights come up slowly
revealing Scrooge curled up and
asleep on the chair. Scrooge is
awakened as the music continues.
He rubs his eyes as the GHOST OF
CHRISTMAS PAST enters.

SCROOGE (cont'd)
Who's there?

GHOST
AH...AH...
GAZE UPON THIS ANCIENT VISION.
SEE THE HOLY STAR THAT'S RISEN.
WE SHALL FLY TO DISTANT PLACES.
ON A PATH THAT STARLIGHT TRACES.
GAZE UPON THIS ANCIENT VISION.
SEE THE HOLY STAR THAT'S RISEN.
CRYSTAL COLD AND FRAGRANT FLOWERS.
GLEAMING SUNLIGHT THROUGH ICY SHOWERS.

Scrooge rises. He rubs his eyes
and stares in disbelief.