

Scrooge, Ghost of Jacob Marley

MARLEY: (FROM OFF STAGE, MOANING.) Ohhhhhhhhhhh!

SCROOGE: (RISING.) Eh? Oh it's humbug! I won't believe it!

MARLEY: (MOANING FROM OFF STAGE.) Ohhhhhhh! - Ebenezer! Ebenezer Scrooge!

SCROOGE: (ANNOYED, BUT AFRAID.) Wh - What? What is it?

SCROOGE: (FEARFULLY TO THE GHOST.) How now! What do you want with me?

MARLEY: Much!

SCROOGE: Who are you?

MARLEY: Ask who I was.

SCROOGE: Who were you, then?

MARLEY: In life I was your partner, Jacob Marley. (PAUSE.) Ah! I see you don't believe in me.
SCROOGE: I don't.

MARLEY: What proof would you have? Why do you doubt your own senses?

SCROOGE: Because a little thing affects them. You may be a slight disorder of the stomach, a bit of undigested beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese or potato. There's more of gravy than the grave about you, whatever you are! Humbug, I tell you! Humbug!

MARLEY: (HE GROANS LOUDLY.) Ohhhhhhhhhhh!

SCROOGE: (FRIGHTENED, FALLS TO HIS KNEES.) Mercy! Dreadful apparition, why do you trouble me?

MARLEY: (STERNLY.) Do you believe in me, or not?

SCROOGE: I do. I must. But why do Spirits walk the earth, and why do they come to me?

MARLEY: It is required of every man that his spirit should walk among his fellow man, and travel far and wide. If the spirit does not go forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. (HE RATTLES HIS CHAINS AND MOANS YET AGAIN.) Ohhhhhhhhhhh!

SCROOGE: You — you are chained. Tell me why?

MARLEY: I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link, yard by yard. I put it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is the pattern strange to you? (SCROOGE IS SPEECHLESS AND TREMBLING.) Or do you know the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? It was full as heavy and as long as this seven Christmas Eves ago. You have labored on it since. It is a ponderous chain!

SCROOGE: (LOOKS AT HIS HANDS, HALF EXPECTING TO SEE THE CHAIN.)
Jacob! Old Jacob Marley, tell me more! Speak comfort to me, Jacob!

MARLEY: I have none to give. A little more time is all that's permitted to me. I cannot rest, I cannot stay; I cannot linger anywhere. In life my spirit never walked beyond our counting house, and weary journeys lie before me!

SCROOGE: Seven years dead, and traveling all the time?

MARLEY: The whole time. No rest. No peace. (MOANS) Ohhhhhh! Captive, bound, double ironed! Yes, such was I! Such was I!

SCROOGE: B-but you were always a good man of business, Jacob.

MARLEY: (MOANING.) Business! Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business. Charity, mercy, forbearance and benevolence were all my business!

SCROOGE: Jacob!

MARLEY: Hear me, Ebenezer! My time is nearly gone.

SCROOGE: Yes, Jacob. But don't be hard on me!

MARLEY: I am here tonight to warn you that there is a chance and a hope for you to escape my fate.

SCROOGE: You were always a good friend to me, Jacob. I thank you!

MARLEY: Listen! You will be haunted by three Spirits. Expect the first tomorrow when the bell tolls one. Expect the second on the next night at the same hour. The third upon the next night, when the last stroke of twelve has ceased to vibrate. Look to see me no more! For your own sake, Ebenezer, remember what has passed between us!