

## "Posthumous," "Morning Stanzas in October"

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“POSTHUMOUS”

“MORNING STANZAS *in October*”

The spreading oak and silver poplar tall,  
Now feel the approach of winter's dreary hour;  
And from on high their faded honours fall,  
In many a silent melancholy shower.

Still is each feather'd songster in the grove, 5  
Unless the Robin swell his little throat;  
Still is the Blackbird, still the plaintive dove;  
Nor floats aloft the Sky Lark's bolder note.

Pleas'd with the calmness of the rising morn,  
Faint spreading o'er the east it's milder light; 10  
The healthful huntsman winds his early horn,  
And sounds a farewell to the ling'ring night.

The sluggish mist now leaves the low, dank vale,  
And slowly climbs the distant mountain's side;  
Whilst the blithe milkmaid sings beneath her pail 15  
And welcomes morn, whatever it betide.

The shepherd's fleecy charge his fold forsakes;  
The nightly-plundering fox, and timorous hare,  
The coverts seek: And man once more awakes  
To grief, to joy; to pleasure, or to care. 20

### NOTES:

**5** *feather'd songster* Birds that sing.

**7** *plaintive* “Afflicted by sorrow; grieving, lamenting” (*OED*).

**8** *Sky Lark* “The common lark of Europe, *Alauda arvensis*, so called from its habit of soaring towards the sky while singing” (*OED*).

**18** *timorous* “Full of or affected by fear (either for the time or habitually)” (*OED*).

**19** *coverts* "A covering" (*OED*).

**Source:** *The Gentleman's Magazine* (November, 1768), p. 536.

*Edited by Jasmine Lopez*

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