

Posthumous, Morning Stanzas in October

Description

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, Unless the Robin swell his little throat; Still is the Blackbird, still the plaintive dove; Nor floats aloft the Sky Lark's bolder note.	5
Pleasant with the calmness of the rising morn, Faint spreading o'er the east its milder light; The healthful huntsman winds his early horn, And sounds a farewell to the lingering night.	10
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 And welcomes morn, whatever it betide.	15
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