â??Posthumous,â?• â??Morning Stanzas in Octoberâ?•

Description

â??POSTHUMOUSâ?•

â??**MORNING STANZAS *in October***â?•

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

Still is each featherâ??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 Larkâ??s bolder note.

Pleasâ??d with the calmness of the rising morn,
Faint spreading oâ??er the east itâ??s milder light;
The healthful huntsman winds his early horn,
And sounds a farewell to the lingâ??ring night.

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

The shepherdâ??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.

NOTES:

5 *featherâ??d songster* Birds that sing.

7 *plaintive* â??Afflicted by sorrow; grieving, lamentingâ?• (*OED*).

8 *Sky Lark* â??The common lark of Europe, Alauda arvensis, so called from its habit of soaring towards the sky while singingâ?• (*OED*).

18 *timorous* â??Full of or affected by fear (either for the time or habitually)â?• (*OED*).

19 *coverts* â??A coveringâ?• (*OED*).

Source: *The Gentlemanâ??s Magazine* (November, 1768), p. 536.

Edited by Jasmine Lopez