

## “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 feathered 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.

Pleased 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.

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.

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.

### NOTES:

**5** feathered songster Birds that sing.

**7** plaintive • Afflicted by sorrow; grieving, lamenting (QED).

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

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

**19** coverts • A covering (QED).

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

*Edited by Jasmine Lopez*