

Scrooge But you were always a good man of business, Jacob.

Marley Business! Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence were all my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business! At this time of the rolling year, I suffer most. Why did I walk through crowds of fellow-beings with my eyes turned down, and never raise them to that blessed Star which led the Wise Men to a poor abode? Were there no poor homes to which its light would have conducted me?

*(An ominous thud is heard in the distance. Voices are heard whispering "Jacob..." )*

Marley You will be haunted by Three Spirits.

Scrooge Is that the chance and hope you mentioned, Jacob?

Marley It is.

Scrooge I think I'd rather not.

Marley Without their visits, you cannot hope to shun the path I tread. Expect the first tomorrow, when the bell tolls one.

Scrooge Couldn't I take 'em all at once, and have it over, Jacob?

Marley 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; and look that, for your own sake, you remember what has passed between us! Remember me, Ebenezer. Remember me...