

CHARLES DICKENS



**A Christmas
Carol**

Ein Weihnachtslied

*easy*Original.com

Lesemethode von Ilya Frank

ENGLISCH

Charles Dickens

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Ein Weihnachtslied

Aus dem Englischen übersetzt von

Ulrike Wittmann

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Stave One

Stave One (Strophe Eins; **stave** — *Knüppel; Notenlinie; Strophe*)

Marley's Ghost (Marley's Geist; *ghost* [gəʊst])

Marley was dead (Marley war tot), **to begin with** (zunächst einmal).

There is no doubt whatever about that (es gibt keinerlei Zweifel darüber; *doubt* [daʊt]; **whatever** [(h)wɒt'evə] — *egal; trotz allem; was immer*). **The register of his burial was signed by the clergyman** (das Register seines Begräbnisses war vom Geistlichen unterschrieben; **register** ['redʒɪstə] — *Stimmfrage; Verzeichnis; Register; burial* ['berɪəl]; *sign* [saɪn]; **clergyman** ['klɜ:ʒɪmən]), **the clerk, the undertaker, and the chief mourner** (der Kanzlist, der Totengräber, und dem wichtigsten Trauernden; **clerk** [klɜ:k] — *Angestellter; Kanzlist; undertaker* [ˌʌndə'teɪkə]; **chief** — *hauptsächlich; wichtig; mourner* ['mɔ:nə]). **Scrooge signed it** (Scrooge unterschrieb es). **And Scrooge's name was good upon 'Change for anything** (und Scrooge's Name war an der Börse ausreichend für Alles; **good** — *gut; ausreichend; exchange* [ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ] — *Austausch; Börse; to exchange* — *austauschen*) **he chose to put his hand to** (dass er beschloss zu unterschreiben; **to choose** — *auserwählen, aussuchen; beschließen; to put* — *setzen, stellen, legen*).

Old Marley was as dead as a doornail (der alte Marley war so tot wie ein Türnagel = mausetot).

Marley was dead, to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that. The register of his burial was signed by the clergyman, the clerk, the undertaker, and the chief mourner. Scrooge signed it. And Scrooge's name was good upon 'Change for anything he chose to put his hand to.

Old Marley was as dead as a doornail.

Mind (Achtung; *to mind* — *aufpassen; bedenken*)! **I don't mean to say** (ich will nicht sagen; *to mean* — *bedeuten; meinen; wollen*) **that I know of my own knowledge** (dass ich aus eigener Kenntnis weiß; *knowledge* [ˈnɒlɪdʒ] — *Wissen, Kenntnis*), **what there is particularly dead about a doornail** (was besonders Totes an einem Türnagel ist; *particularly* [pəˈtɪkjələli] — *insbesondere, besonders; about* — *über; um; an*). **I might have been inclined, myself** (ich selbst wäre vielleicht geneigt gewesen; *to incline* [ɪnˈklaɪn] — *neigen, tendieren*), **to regard a coffin-nail as the deadest piece of ironmongery in the trade** (einen Sargnagel als das toteste Stück Eisenware im Handel anzusehen; *regard* [rɪˈɡɑːd]; *coffin* [ˈkɒfɪn]; *piece* — *Teil, Stück; ironmongery* [ˈaɪəŋ, mɒŋg(ə)rɪ]; *to be in the trade* — *im Geschäft sein, im Handel sein; trade* — *Handel, Gewerbe, Beruf*).

But the wisdom of our ancestors is in the simile (aber die Weisheit unserer Vorfahren ist = *liegt im Gleichnis; wisdom* [ˈwɪzdəm];

ancestor [ˈænsəstə]; *simile* [ˈsɪmɪlɪ]); and my unhallowed hands shall not disturb it (und meine ungeheiligten Hände sollen sie nicht stören; *unhallowed* [ʌnˈhæləʊd]; *disturb* [dɪˈstɜːb]), or the country's done for (oder das Land ist im Eimer; *to be done for* — *erledigt sein, geschafft sein, im Eimer sein*). You will, therefore, permit me to repeat, emphatically (Sie werden mir daher gestatten, eindringlich zu wiederholen; *therefore* [ˈðeəfɔː]; *permit* [ˈpɜːmɪt]; *repeat* [rɪˈpiːt]; *emphatically* [ɪmˈfætɪk(ə)lɪ] — *ausdrücklich, eindringlich*), that Marley was as dead as a doornail (dass Marley mausetot war).

2

Mind! I don't mean to say that I know of my own knowledge, what there is particularly dead about a doornail. I might have been inclined, myself, to regard a coffin-nail as the deadest piece of ironmongery in the trade.

But the wisdom of our ancestors is in the simile; and my unhallowed hands shall not disturb it, or the country's done for. You will, therefore, permit me to repeat, emphatically, that Marley was as dead as a doornail.

Scrooge knew he was dead (Scrooge wusste, dass er tot war; *to know*)? Of course he did (natürlich tat er das). How could it be otherwise (wie konnte es anders sein; *otherwise* [ˈʌðəwaɪz])? Scrooge and

he were partners (Scrooge und er waren Partner) **for I don't know how many years** (für ich weiß nicht wie viele Jahre).

Scrooge was his sole executor (Scrooge war sein einziger Testamentsvollstrecker; **executor** [ɪg'zekjutə] — *Ausführender; Vollstrecker; Testamentsvollstrecker*; **to execute** ['eksɪkjut] — *abarbeiten; vollstrecken*), **his sole administrator** (sein einziger Vermögensverwalter; **administrator** [əd'mɪnɪstreɪtə] — *Verwalter, Verwaltungsleiter, Vermögensverwalter*; **to administer** — *administrieren, verwalten*), **his sole assign** (sein einziger Rechtsnachfolger; **assign** [ə'saɪn]), **his sole residuary legatee** (sein einziger übriger Vermächtnisnehmer; **residuary** [rɪ'zɪdʒuəri]; **legatee** [ˌlegə'ti:]), **his sole friend** (sein einziger Freund), **and sole mourner** (und einziger Trauernder; **to mourn** [mɔ:n] — *beweinen, trauern*). **And even Scrooge was not so dreadfully cut up by the sad event** (und selbst Scrooge war nicht so furchtbar erschüttert über das traurige Ereignis; **dreadfully** ['dredf(ə)lɪ]; **dread** — *Furcht, Grauen, Schrecken*; **to cut up** — *zerschneiden; erschüttern*) **but that he was an excellent man of business on the very day of the funeral** (dass er selbst am Tag des Begräbnisses nicht ein ausgezeichnete Geschäftsmann gewesen wäre; **but that** — *dass nicht*; **excellent** ['eks(ə)l(ə)nt] — *hervorragend, ausgezeichnet*; **funeral** ['fju:n(ə)rəl]), **and solemnised it with an undoubted bargain** (und stimmte ihn mit einem unzweifelhaften Handel festlich; **to solemnise** ['sɒləmnaɪz] — *feiern, etw. feierlich begehen*; **bargain** ['bɑ:ɡɪn] — *Schnäppchen, Angebot, Handel*).

Scrooge knew he was dead? Of course he did. How could it be otherwise? Scrooge and he were partners for I don't know how many years.

Scrooge was his sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend, and sole mourner. And even Scrooge was not so dreadfully cut up by the sad event but that he was an excellent man of business on the very day of the funeral, and solemnised it with an undoubted bargain.

The mention of Marley's funeral brings me back (die Erwähnung von Marley's Begräbnis bringt mich zurück) **to the point I started from** (zu dem Punkt, von dem ich begonnen habe). **There is no doubt that Marley was dead** (es gibt keinen Zweifel, dass Marley tot war). **This must be distinctly understood** (dies muss deutlich verstanden sein; *distinctly* [dɪ'stɪŋktli]), **or nothing wonderful can come of the story I am going to relate** (oder es kann nichts Wunderbares von der Geschichte kommen, die ich erzählen werde; *wonderful* ['wʌndəf(ə)]); **to come of** — *abstammen, herkommen*; *relate* [rɪ'leɪt]). **If we were not perfectly convinced** (wenn wir nicht absolut überzeugt wären; *perfectly* ['pɜːfɪktli]; *convinced* [kən'vɪn(t)st]) **that Hamlet's father died before the play began** (dass Hamlet's Vater starb, bevor das Stück begann; *to begin*), **there would be nothing more remarkable in his**

taking a stroll at night (wäre nichts Bemerkenswertes mehr daran, dass er in der Nacht einen Spaziergang unternimmt; *remarkable* [rɪ'mɑ:kəbl]; **to remark** — anmerken, äußern, bemerken; **to take** — ergreifen, fangen, nehmen; *stroll* [strəʊl]), **in an easterly wind, upon his own ramparts** (in einem östlichen Wind, auf seinen eigenen Befestigungsmauern; *easterly* ['i:st(ə)li]; *rampart* ['ræmpɑ:t]), **than there would be in a breezy spot** (als da an einem windigen Ort; *spot* — Fleck, Ort) — say **St Paul's Churchyard, for instance** (sagen wir zum Beispiel St. Paul's Friedhof; *churchyard* ['tʃ:ʃjɑ:d]; *instance* ['ɪn(t)stən(t)s]) — **literally to astonish his son's weak mind** (um buchstäblich den schwachen Geist seines Sohnes zu erstaunen; *literally* ['lɪt(ə)r(ə)li]; *astonish* [ə'stɒnɪʃ]; **weak** — machtlos, schwach).

4

The mention of Marley's funeral brings me back to the point I started from. There is no doubt that Marley was dead. This must be distinctly understood, or nothing wonderful can come of the story I am going to relate. If we were not perfectly convinced that Hamlet's father died before the play began, there would be nothing more remarkable in his taking a stroll at night, in an easterly wind, upon his own ramparts, than there would be in a breezy spot — say St Paul's Churchyard, for instance — literally to astonish his son's weak mind.

Scrooge never painted out Old Marley's name (Scrooge übermalte nie den Namen des alten Marley). There it stood, years afterwards (da stand er, Jahre später; *afterwards* ['ɑ:ftəwədʒ] — *danach, später*), above the warehouse door (über der Tür des Lagerhauses; *above* [ə'bʌv]; *warehouse* ['weəhaus]): Scrooge and Marley. The firm was known as Scrooge and Marley (die Firma war bekannt als Scrooge und Marley; *to know* — *wissen, kennen*). Sometimes people new to the business (manchmal Leute neu im Geschäft) called Scrooge Scrooge, and sometimes Marley (nannten Scrooge Scrooge, und manchmal Marley), but he answered to both names (aber er reagierte auf beide Namen; *to answer* ['ɑ:n(t)sə] — *antworten, reagieren*). It was all the same to him (es war ihm egal; *all the same* — *ebenso, genauso*).

5

Scrooge never painted out Old Marley's name. There it stood, years afterwards, above the warehouse door: Scrooge and Marley. The firm was known as Scrooge and Marley. Sometimes people new to the business called Scrooge Scrooge, and sometimes Marley, but he answered to both names. It was all the same to him.

Oh! but he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge (oh! aber er war eine knallharte Hand am Schleifstein, Scrooge; *tight*—*eng, fest, geizig; fist* — *Faust; grindstone* ['graɪndstəʊn])! a squeezing,

wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner (ein quetschender, reißender, greifender, kratzender, klammernder, begehrllicher alter Sünder ; *to squeeze* — *auspressen, drücken, quetschen*; *wrench* [ren(t)]]; *grasp* [gra:sp]; *to scrape* — *abkratzen, kratzen*; *to clutch* — *ergreifen, umklammern*; *covetous* [ˈkʌvɪtəs])! **Hard and sharp as flint** (hart und scharf wie Feuerstein), **from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire** (von dem kein Stahl je reichliches Feuer geschlagen hatte; *to strike* — *erfassen; anzünden; schlagen*; *generous* [ˈdʒen(ə)rəs]); **secret, and self-contained** (verschwiegen, und verschlossen; *secret* [ˈsi:kɹət] — *geheim, heimlich; verschwiegen*; *to contain* [kənˈteɪn] — *beinhalten, enthalten, umfassen*), **and solitary as an oyster** (und einzelgängerisch wie eine Auster; *solitary* [ˈsɒlɪt(ə)rɪ]). **The cold within him froze his old features** (die Kälte in ihm froz seine alten Gesichtszüge ein; *to freeze*; *feature* [ˈfi:tʃə]), **nipped his pointed nose** (zwickte seine spitze Nase; *to nip* — *nippen; zwicken*), **shrivelled his cheek** (machte seine Wange runzlig; *shrivelled* [ˈʃrɪv(ə)ld]), **stiffened his gait** (versteifte seinen Gang); **made his eyes red, his thin lips blue** (machte seine Augen rot, seine dünnen Lippen blau); **and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice** (und äußerte sich scharfsinnig aus seiner knirschenden Stimme; *to speak out* — *frei heraussagen, sich äußern*; *shrewd* [ʃru:d] — *schlau, gerissen, scharfsinnig*).

6

Oh! but he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge!

a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice.

A frosty rime was on his head (frostiger Raureif war auf seinem Kopf), **and on his eyebrows** (und seinen Augenbrauen; *eyebrow* [‘aɪbraʊ]), **and his wiry chin** (und seinem drahtig /behaarten/ Kinn; *wiry* [‘waɪəri] — *sehnig, drahtig; wire* — *Draht, Kabel*). **He carried his own low temperature always about with him** (er trug seine eigene niedrige Temperatur immer mit sich herum; *temperature* [‘temp(ə)rətʃə]); **he iced his office in the dog-days** (er kühlte sein Büro während der Hundstage; *dog-days* — “Hundstage”, *heißeste Sommertage, Hitzetage*), **and didn’t thaw it one degree at Christmas** (und erwärmte es nicht ein Grad an Weihnachten; *to thaw* — *schmelzen, tauen; erwärmen; degree* [di’ɡri:]; *Christmas* [‘krɪsməs]).

External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge (äußerliche Hitze und Kälte hatten wenig Einfluss auf Scrooge; *external* [ɪk‘stɜ:n(ə)]); **little** — *klein; wenig; influence* [‘ɪnfluənt(s)]). **No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him** (keine Wärme konnte ihn wärmen, kein winterliches Wetter ihn abkühlen; *warmth* [wɔ:mθ]).

A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dog-days, and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.

External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him.

No wind that blew was bitterer than he (kein Wind der blies war bitterer als er; *to blow*), **no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose** (kein fallender Schnee war mehr auf seinen Zweck bedacht; *intent* [ɪn'tent]; *purpose* ['pɜ:pəs]), **no pelting rain less open to entreaty** (kein Platzregen weniger offen für Beschwörung; *entreaty* [ɪn'tri:tɪ]). **Foul weather didn't know where to have him** (schlechtes Wetter wusste nicht, wo ihn erwischen; *foul* [faʊl] — *verdorben, faul; schlecht*). **The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet** (der heftigste Regen, und Schnee, und Hagel, und Graupel; *heavy* ['hevi] — *schwer; bedeckt; heftig*) **could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect** (konnte nur in einer Hinsicht von einem Vorteil über ihn prahlen; *advantage* [əd'vɑ:ntɪdʒ]; *respect* [rɪ'spekt] — *Respekt; Hinsicht*). **They often 'came down' handsomely** (sie kamen oft großzügig herunter; *often* ['ɔf(t)(ə)n]; *to come down* — *abstammen; aufkommen*;

herunterkommen; **handsomely** [ˈhæn(d)səmli] — *hübsch*; *großzügig*),
and Scrooge never did (und Scrooge tat das nie).

8

No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. Foul weather didn't know where to have him. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect. They often 'came down' handsomely, and Scrooge never did.

Nobody ever stopped him in the street (niemand hielt ihn je auf der Straße auf) **to say, with gladsome looks** (um mit fröhlichen Mienen zu sagen; *gladsome* [ˈglædsəm]; **look** — *Aussehen*; *Blick*; *Miene*), **'My dear Scrooge, how are you** (mein lieber Scrooge, wie geht es Ihnen)? **When will you come to see me** (wann werden Sie kommen, um mich zu besuchen)?' **No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle** (keine Bettler flehten ihn an, ihnen eine Kleinigkeit zu schenken; *beggar* — *Bedürftiger*, *Bettler*; **to beg** — *anflehen*, *betteln*; *implore* [ɪmˈplɔː]; *bestow* [brɪˈstəʊ]; *trifle* [ˈtraɪfl]), **no children asked him what it was o'clock** (keine Kinder fragten ihn, wie spät es war), **no man or woman ever once in all his life** (kein Mann oder Frau jemals in seinem Leben; *once* [wʌn(t)s]) **enquired the way to such and such a place, of**

Scrooge (fragte Scrooge nach dem Weg zu diesem oder jenem Ort; **to enquire** [ɪn'kwɪə] = *to inquire* — *abfragen, anfragen, fragen*).

9

Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, 'My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?' No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o'clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life enquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge.

Even the blind men's dogs appeared to know him (selbst die Blindenhunde schienen ihn zu kennen; *even* ['i:v(ə)n]; *blind* [blaɪnd]; **to appear** [ə'piə] — *ankommen, erscheinen*); **and, when they saw him coming on** (und, wenn sie ihn herankommen sahen; **to come on** — *angehen, herankommen*), **would tug their owners into doorways and up courts** (zogen sie ihre Besitzer in Türöffnungen und Höfe hinauf; *court* [kɔ:t]); **and then would wag their tails** (und würden dann mit ihren Schwänzen wedeln) **as though they said** (als ob sie sagten), 'No eye at all is better than an evil eye, dark master (gar kein Auge ist besser als ein böses Auge, dunkler Meister; *evil* ['i:v(ə)]; *master* ['mɑ:stə])!'

But what did Scrooge care (aber was kümmerte es Scrooge)? **It was the very thing he liked** (es war genau was er wollte; **to like** — *schätzen, gernhaben, wollen*). **To edge his way along the crowded**

paths of life (langsam auf seinem Weg auf den überfüllten Pfaden des Lebens voranzukommen; **to edge** — *unauffällig vorankommen, sich den Weg bahnen, schleichen*; **edge** — *Kante, Rand*; **along** [ə'lɔŋ]; **crowd** [kraud] — *Gedränge, Menschenmenge*; **path** [pɑ:θ] — *Weg, Pfad*), **warning all human sympathy to keep its distance** (alle menschliche Anteilnahme warnend, ihren Abstand zu wahren; **warning** ['wɔ:niŋ]; **human** ['hju:mən]; **sympathy** ['sɪmpəθɪ]; **distance** ['dɪst(ə)n(t)s]), **was what the knowing ones call 'nuts' to Scrooge** (war, was die ihn kannten, "verrückt" an Scrooge nannten; **to know** — *wissen, kennen*; **nuts** — *bescheuert, verrückt*).

10

Even the blind men's dogs appeared to know him; and, when they saw him coming on, would tug their owners into doorways and up courts; and then would wag their tails as though they said, 'No eye at all is better than an evil eye, dark master!'

But what did Scrooge care? It was the very thing he liked. To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance, was what the knowing ones call 'nuts' to Scrooge.

Once upon a time (*es war einmal*) — **of all the good days in the year** (*von all den guten Tagen im Jahr*), **on Christmas Eve** (*am Weihnachtsabend*; **eve** [i:v]) — **old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house**

(der alte Scrooge saß beschäftigt in seinem Kontor; *to sit; busy* [ˈbɪzi]; *counting-house* [ˈkaʊntɪŋhaus] — Büro, Kontor; *to count* — zählen; erfassen; *house* — Haus; Niederlassung). It was cold, bleak, biting weather (es war kaltes, trostloses, beißendes Wetter; *bleak* — öde, düster, trostlos; *biting* — beißend, scharf; *to bite* — beißen); foggy withal (neblig obendrein; *foggy* — neblig; *fog* — Nebel; *withal* [wɪˈðɔ:l]); and he could hear the people in the court outside (und er konnte die Leute im Hof draußen hören) go wheezing up and down (die keuchend auf und ab gingen; *to wheeze* — keuchen, röcheln, schnaufen; *up and down* — auf und ab, rauf und runter), beating their hands upon their breasts (ihre Hände auf ihre Brust schlugen; *breast* [brest]), and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them (und ihre Füße auf die Gehsteigsteine stampften, um sie aufzuwärmen; *pavement* [ˈpeɪvmənt]).

11

Once upon a time — of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve — old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house. It was cold, bleak, biting weather; foggy withal; and he could hear the people in the court outside go wheezing up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them.

The City clocks had only just gone three (die Stadtuhrn hatten gerade drei Uhr geschlagen), but it was quite dark already (aber es war schon recht dunkel; *quite* [kwart]; *already* [ɔ:l'reɪ]) — it had not been light all day (es war den ganzen Tag nicht hell gewesen) — and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices (und Kerzen flackerten in den Fenstern der benachbarten Büros; *to flare* — *abfackeln, flackern*; *neighbouring* ['neɪb(ə)rɪŋ]), like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air (wie rötliche Schmierer auf der greifbaren braunen Luft; *ruddy* — *verdammt; rötlich*; *palpable* ['pælpəbl]). The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole (der Nebel kam durch jeden Spalt und jedes Schlüsselloch hereingeströmt; *to pour* [pɔ:] — *fließen, strömen*; *keyhole* ['ki:həʊl]), and was so dense without (und war draußen so dicht), that, although the court was of the narrowest (dass, obwohl der Hof einer der schmalsten war; *although* [ɔ:l'ðəʊ]; *narrow* ['nærəʊ]), the houses opposite were mere phantoms (die Häuser gegenüber bloße Phantome waren; *opposite* ['ɒpəzɪt]; *mere* [mɪə]; *phantom* ['fæntəm] — *Geist, Erscheinung, Phantom*).

12

The City clocks had only just gone three, but it was quite dark already — it had not been light all day — and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices, like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air. The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole, and was so dense without, that, although

the court was of the narrowest, the houses opposite were mere phantoms.

To see the dingy cloud come drooping down (diese düstere Wolke herabhängen zu sehen; **dingy** — *schäbig; düster; to droop* — *herabhängen*), **obscuring everything** (die alles verschleierte; **to obscure** [əb'skjuə] — *verbergen, verdunkeln, verschleiern*), **one might have thought** (hätte man denken können) **that nature lived hard by** (dass die Natur in der Nähe lebte; **hard by** — *nahe bei, in der Nähe*), **and was brewing on a large scale** (und im großen Ausmaß braute; **scale** — *Waage; Ausmaß*).

The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open (die Tür von Scrooge's Kontor war offen), **that he might keep his eye upon his clerk** (damit er ein Auge auf seinen Angestellten haben konnte; **to keep one's eye** — *im Blick haben, im Auge behalten*), **who in a dismal little cell beyond** (der in einer trostlosen kleinen Zelle darunter; **dismal** ['dɪzməl] — *düster; trostlos; beyond* [br'jɒnd]), **a sort of tank** (einer Art Behälter), **was copying letters** (Briefe kopierte). **Scrooge had a very small fire** (Scrooge hatte ein sehr kleines Feuer), **but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller** (aber das Feuer des Angestellten war so viel kleiner) **that it looked like one coal** (dass es aussah wie eine Kohle; **to look** — *blicken, aussehen; coal* [kəʊl]).

To see the dingy cloud come drooping down, obscuring everything, one might have thought that nature lived hard by, and was brewing on a large scale.

The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open, that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal.

But he couldn't replenish it (aber er konnte es nicht wiederaufstocken; **to replenish** [rɪ'plɛnɪʃ] — *nachgießen; wiederaufstocken*), **for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room** (denn Scrooge behielt die Kohlentruhe in seinem eigenen Raum; *to keep*); **and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel** (und so gewiss, als der Angestellte mit der Schaufel hereinkam; **surely** ['ʃʊəli] — *sicherlich, gewiss; to come; shovel* ['ʃʌv(ə)l]), **the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part** (sah der Meister vorher, dass es notwendig für sie sein würde sich zu trennen; *predicted* [prɪ'dɪktɪd]; *necessary* ['nesəs(ə)rɪ]). **Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter** (woraufhin der Angestellte seinen weißen Wollschal umband; *wherefore* ['(h)weəfɔː]; **to put on** — *anstecken; überziehen; umbinden; comforter* ['kʌmfətə] — *Steppdecke; Wollschal; to comfort* — *beruhigen, trösten*), **and tried**

to warm himself at the candle (und versuchte, sich an der Kerze zu wärmen); **in which effort** (in welchem Versuch; *effort* [ˈɛfət] — *Bemühung; Versuch*), **not being a man of strong imagination** (da er kein Mann mit starker Einbildungskraft war; *imagination* [ɪ,mædʒɪˈneɪʃ(ə)n]), **he failed** (er scheiterte; *to fail* — *danebengehen, scheitern*).

14

But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of strong imagination, he failed.

'A merry Christmas, uncle (ein frohes Weihnachten, Onkel)! **God save you** (Gott schütze dich)!' **cried a cheerful voice** (rief eine fröhliche Stimme; *to cry* — *weinen; rufen; cheerful* [ˈtʃiəf(ə)l]). **It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew** (es war die Stimme von Scrooge's Neffen; *nephew* [ˈnefjuː]), **who came upon him so quickly** (der so schnell auf ihn stieß; *to come upon* — *vorfinden, auf... stoßen; quickly* — *rasch, schnell*) **that this was the first intimation he had of his approach** (dass dies das erste Anzeichen war, das er von seinem Herannahen hatte; *intimation* [ɪ,ɪntɪˈmeɪʃ(ə)n] — *Andeutung, Anzeichen; approach* [əˈprəʊtʃ] — *Denkansatz; Herannahen*).

‘Bah (pfff)!’ said Scrooge (sagte Scrooge). ‘Humbug (Unsinn; *humbug* [‘hʌmbʌg])!’

He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost (er hatte sich mit raschem Gehen in Nebel und Frost so erhitzt; *rapid* [‘ræpɪd]), this nephew of Scrooge’s (dieser Neffe von Scrooge), that he was all in a glow (dass er völlig glühte; *glow* [gləʊ] — *Leuchten, Glühen*); his face was ruddy and handsome (sein Gesicht war rot und gutaussehend; *handsome* [‘hæn(d)səm]); his eyes sparkled (seine Augen leuchteten), and his breath smoked again (und sein Atem dampfte wieder; *breath* [breθ] — *Atemzug, Atem; to smoke* — *rauchen; dampfen*).

15

‘A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!’ cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge’s nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.

‘Bah!’ said Scrooge. ‘Humbug!’

He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge’s, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.

‘Christmas a humbug, uncle (Weihnachten ein Unsinn, Onkel)!’ said Scrooge’s nephew (sagte Scrooge’s Neffe). ‘You don’t mean that (das meinst du nicht /wirklich/; **to mean** — *beabsichtigen; bedeuten; meinen*), I am sure (da bin ich sicher)?’

‘I do (tue ich),’ said Scrooge (sagte Scrooge). ‘Merry Christmas (frohe Weihnachten)! What right have you to be merry (welches Recht hast du, froh zu sein)? What reason have you to be merry (welchen Grund hast du, froh zu sein; *reason* [‘ri:z(ə)n])? You’re poor enough (du bist arm genug; *poor* [puə]; *enough* [ɪ’nʌf]).’

‘Come, then (dann komm),’ returned the nephew gaily (erwiderte der Neffe unbekümmert; **to return** [rɪ’tɜ:n] — *wiederbringen; erwidern*). ‘What right have you to be dismal (welches Recht hast du, trübselig zu sein)? What reason have you to be morose (welchen Grund hast du, mürrisch zu sein; *morose* [mə’rəʊs])? You’re rich enough (du bist reich genug).’

16

‘Christmas a humbug, uncle!’ said Scrooge’s nephew. ‘You don’t mean that, I am sure?’

‘I do,’ said Scrooge. ‘Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You’re poor enough.’

‘Come, then,’ returned the nephew gaily. ‘What right have

you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough.'

Scrooge, having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment (Scrooge, der spontan keine bessere Antwort parat hatte; *ready* ['redi]; *on the spur of the moment* — Hals über Kopf, kurz entschlossen, spontan; *spur* [spɜ:] — Abzweigung; Sporn; *moment* ['məʊmənt]), said, 'Bah!' again (sagte wieder "Pfff"); and followed it up with 'Humbug!' (und folgte dem mit "Unsinn!" nach).

'Don't be cross, uncle (sei nicht böse, Onkel; *cross* — verärgert, böse)!' said the nephew (sagte der Neffe).

'What else can I be (was kann ich sonst sein),' returned the uncle (erwiderte der Onkel), 'when I live in such a world of fools as this (wenn ich in einer solchen Welt von Narren wie dieser lebe)? Merry Christmas (frohe Weihnachten)! Out upon merry Christmas (raus mit frohe Weihnachten)!

Scrooge, having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said, ‘Bah!’ again; and followed it up with ‘Humbug!’

‘Don’t be cross, uncle!’ said the nephew.

‘What else can I be,’ returned the uncle, ‘when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas!’

What’s Christmastime to you but a time for paying bills without money (was ist Weihnachten für dich außer einer Zeit, um Rechnungen ohne Geld zu bezahlen); **a time for finding yourself a year older** (eine Zeit um festzustellen, dass du ein Jahr älter bist; *to find* — *finden; feststellen*), **and not an hour richer** (und nicht eine Stunde reicher); **a time for balancing your books** (eine Zeit, um deine Bilanz zu ziehen; *to balance* [‘bæləns] — *ausbilanzieren, begleichen*), **and having every item in ’em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you** (und um jeden Gegenstand darin während eines runden Dutzends von Monaten strikt gegen dich präsentiert zu haben; *’em* = *them*; *dozen* [‘dʌz(ə)n]; *to present* [‘prez(ə)nt] — *anbieten; aufführen; präsentieren*; *dead against* — *klar gegen, strikt gegen*)? **If I could work my will** (wenn ich meinen Willen wirken könnte; *to work* — *arbeiten; funktionieren; wirken*), **’ said Scrooge indignantly** (sagte Scrooge entrüstet; *indignantly* [ɪnˈdɪgnəntli]), **’every idiot who goes about with**

“Merry Christmas” on his lips (jeder Idiot, der dauernd über “Frohe Weihnachten“ redet; *idiot* [ˈɪdɪət]; *to go about* — *wenden*; *dauernd über etwas reden*) should be boiled with his own pudding (sollte mit seinem eigenen Pudding gekocht werden), and buried with a stake of holly through his heart (und mit einem Pfahl aus Stechpalme durch sein Herz begraben werden; *to bury* [ˈberi] — *beisetzen, einscharren, begraben*). He should (sollte er)!

18

What’s Christmastime to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, and not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books, and having every item in ’em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will,’ said Scrooge indignantly, ‘every idiot who goes about with “Merry Christmas” on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!’

‘Uncle (Onkel)!’ pleaded the nephew (flehte der Neffe; *plead* [pli:d]).

‘Nephew (Neffe)!’ returned the uncle sternly (erwiderte der Onkel streng; *stern* — *ernst, streng*), ‘keep Christmas in your own way (behalte Weihnachten in deiner eigenen Weise), and let me keep it in mine (und lass mich es in meiner behalten).’

‘Keep it (es behalten)!’ repeated Scrooge’s nephew (wiederholte Scrooge’s Neffe). ‘But you don’t keep it (aber du behältst es nicht).’

‘Let me leave it alone, then (dann lass es mich in Ruhe lassen; *to leave alone* [ə’ləʊn] — *allein lassen, in Ruhe lassen*),’ said Scrooge (sagte Scrooge). ‘Much good may it do you (viel Gutes mag es dir bringen)! Much good it has ever done you (viel Gutes hat es dir je gebracht)!’

‘There are many things (es gibt viele Dinge) from which I might have derived good (von denen ich Gutes hätte erlangen können; *to derive* [dr’rɪv] — *ableiten; herkommen; erlangen*), by which I have not profited (von denen ich nicht profitiert habe; *to profit* [‘prɒfɪt] — *einbringen; profitieren*), I dare say (wage ich zu sagen; *I daresay* [ˌdeə’sɛɪ] — *möchte ich sagen, wage ich zu sagen*),’ returned the nephew (erwiderte der Neffe); ‘Christmas among the rest (Weihnachten unter den übrigen; *among* [ə’mʌŋ]).’

19

‘Uncle!’ pleaded the nephew.

‘Nephew!’ returned the uncle sternly, ‘keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine.’

‘Keep it!’ repeated Scrooge’s nephew. ‘But you don’t keep it.’

‘Let me leave it alone, then,’ said Scrooge. ‘Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!’

‘There are many things from which I might have derived good,

by which I have not profited, I dare say,' returned the nephew;
'Christmas among the rest.

But I am sure I have always thought of Christmastime (aber ich bin sicher, dass ich über die Weihnachtszeit immer gedacht habe), **when it has come round** (wenn sie herankam) — **apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin** (abgesehen von der Ehrfurcht wegen ihres heiligen Namens und Ursprungs; *apart from* [ə'pɑ:t] — *ausgenommen von, abgesehen von*; *veneration* [ˌven(ə)'reɪʃ(ə)n]; *due to* [dju:] — *aufgrund, wegen*; *sacred* ['seɪkrɪd]; *origin* ['ɔ:rɪdʒɪn]), **if anything belonging to it** (wenn irgendetwas, das zu ihr gehört; *to belong* [br'lɔŋ] — *dazugehören, hingehören*) **can be apart from that** (davon getrennt sein kann) — **as a good time** (als einer guten Zeit); **a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time** (einer freundlichen, vergebenden, wohlthätigen, angenehmen Zeit; *forgiving* [fə'gɪvɪŋ]; *charitable* [tʃ'ærɪtəbl]; *pleasant* ['plez(ə)nt]); **the only time I know of** (die einzige Zeit von der ich weiß; *only* — *nur, einzig*), **in the long calendar of the year** (im langen Kalender des Jahres; *calendar* ['kæləndə]), **when men and women seem by one consent** (wenn Männer und Frauen einer Meinung zu sein scheinen; *by one consent* [kən'sent] — *einstimmig, einer Meinung*) **to open their shut-up hearts freely** (ihre verschlossenen Herzen frei zu öffnen; *heart* [hɑ:t]; *freely* — *freiwillig, frei*), **and to think of people below them** (und an Leute unter ihnen zu denken; *below* [br'ləu] — *darunter, unter*) **as if they really were**

fellow-passengers to the grave (als ob sie wirklich Mitpassagiere zum Grab wären; **really** [ˈriəli] — *echt, wirklich*; **fellow** [ˈfeləu] — *Bursche, Kollege, Gefährte*; **passenger** [ˈpæs(ə)nɔʒə] — *Passagier, Fahrgast*; **to pass** [pɑ:s] — *durchgehen, durchlaufen*), **and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys** (und nicht eine andere Art Kreaturen, gebunden an andere Reisen; **creature** [ˈkri:tʃə]; **bound** — *gefesselt; verpflichtet; verbunden*; **journey** [ˈdʒɜ:nɪ] — *Weg, Reise*).

20

But I am sure I have always thought of Christmastime, when it has come round — apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that — as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys.

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