

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

ALL SING MELODY:  
WE ARE NOT DAILY BEGGARS  
THAT BEG FROM DOOR TO DOOR  
BUT WE ARE NEIGHBOURS' CHILDREN  
WHOM YOU HAVE SEEN BEFORE

ALL IN HARMONY:  
LOVE AND JOY COME TO YOU  
AND TO YOU A-WASSAIL TOO,  
AND GOD BLESS YOU AND SEND YOU  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

ALL:

Hooray!

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT  
Come down! Come down! And know me better, man.

SCROOGE  
Who are you? And why are you in my bedroom?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT  
I am the Ghost of Christmas Present. Look upon me! (All cheer.) You have never seen the like of me before!

SCROOGE  
Never.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT  
You have never walked forth with any of my brothers and sisters?

SCROOGE  
I don't think I have. I am afraid I have not. Have you many brothers and sisters, Spirit?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT  
More than eighteen hundred! One for each season of Christmas.

SCROOGE  
That's a tremendous family to provide for. (All laugh and the company parades off singing.)

ALL IN HARMONY:  
LOVE AND JOY COME TO YOU  
AND TO YOU A-WASSAIL TOO,  
AND GOD BLESS YOU AND SEND YOU  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
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SCROOGE

Spirit conduct me where you will. I went forth by compulsion with the Ghost of Christmas Past and learned a lesson which is working now. Tonight, if you have anything to teach me, let me profit by it.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

(The Ghost laughs.) Touch my robe! (Scrooge does and they travel to the street.)

SCENE 2

(A few people are waiting to bring their basket of food to be cooked in the baker's oven.)

WOMAN WITH BASKET #1

Excuse me but I was here first.

WOMAN WITH BASKET #2

No you weren't. I came to the baker's first to have my goose cooked.

WOMAN WITH BASKET #1

I'll cook your goose alright if you don't let me by.

(The Ghost sprinkles them with incense and the two women begin to smile.)

WOMAN WITH BASKET #1

It's a shame to quarrel-

WOMAN WITH BASKET #2

On Christmas Day no less. Please you go first.

WOMAN WITH BASKET #1

No you first. I insist.

WOMAN WITH BASKET #2

Let's go in together.

WOMAN WITH BASKET #1

Agreed.

SCROOGE

Is there a particular flavor in what you sprinkle from your torch?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

There is. Mine own.

SCROOGE

Would it apply to any kind of dinner on this day?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

To any kindly given. To a poor one most.

SCROOGE

Why to a poor one most?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Because it needs it most.

SCROOGE

Spirit, I wonder why you would desire to cramp these people's opportunities of innocent enjoyment?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

I?

SCROOGE

You would deprive them of their means of dining every seventh day, often the only day which they can be said to dine at all, wouldn't you?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

I?!

SCROOGE

You seek to close these places on the Seventh Day.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

I seek?!

SCROOGE

Forgive me if I'm wrong. It has been done in your name, or at least in that of your family.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

There are some upon this earth who lay claim to know us, and do their deeds of passion, pride, ill-will, hatred, envy, bigotry, and selfishness in our name. Remember that, and charge their doings on themselves, not us.

SCROOGE

I will, Spirit. I promise.