

Scrooge: *(when Scrooge sees the light he will snort and he calls out)* What! What do you want? *(still sleepy)*

Marley: Much, *(Slowly)* Ebenezer, much.

Scrooge: What? I don't understand...*(still half asleep...)*

Marley: Ebenezer!

Scrooge: **Ah!!!** *(Scrooge pokes his head through the bed curtains, still unable to see Marley..)*

Marley: Ebenezer! *(Scrooge whimpers, still shaking)* Ebenezer Scrooge!

Scrooge: How now! *(Scrooge starts down the stairs)* Who are you? *(stops and looks back to his bedroom)* Where are you? *(looking over the banister!)* What are you? *(face shows disbelief as he comes into his parlor!)*

Marley: *(Marley comes out of the corner)* I bring you the Word of the Lord! *(as Scrooge hides his face)*

Scrooge: *(composes himself)* Nonsense! *(boldly. grabbing his collar)* I – am – my - Lord!

Marley: Are you? Is that why only minutes ago you were turning envy toward your Christian nephew, Bob Cratchit.

Scrooge: Can you set? *(motions for Marley to set...)*

Marley: I can! *(Marley sets...)*

Scrooge: *(pause, looking in disbelief)* What do you want of me?

Marley: For reasons unknown to me, God has allowed me to appear to you tonight in a shape such as you can see. I know many things about you, for the Father has given me that knowledge.

Scrooge: Huh...??? *(pause, while scratching his head)* Well then, read my mind. I say you are a lie.

Marley: What evidence would you have of my reality -- beyond that of your own senses?

Scrooge: Well, I am sure, you would have none to give. *(confident but still fearful)*

Marley: Why do you question the ways of the Father? Why do you doubt Him?

Scrooge: Because, you could be almost anything. *(pause)* You may be an undigested bit of beef, *(pause, picks at his teeth)* a crumb of moldy cheese, *(pause, belches)* a fragment of an underdone potato. *(doubling over, holding his stomach)* Oh...no! *(turns and runs back up to his bedroom and points to the window)* There's more gravy than grave about you, whatever you are!

Marley: Moldy cheese – An underdone potato! *(stands and yells, shaking his chains)* What about your heart, Ebenezer? Its telling you that I am here and God is real, isn't it? *(Scrooge grabs his heart.)* For once in your life, Ebenezer Scrooge, believe your heart!