



Journey of Life

J. H. Rheem
(1835-1918)

John Henry Rheem (1835-1918) was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He was musical from his youth and started singing in the church choir at age eight. At age 21, he went to Boston to study with Lowell Mason and the other leading teachers in that city. He returned to Pennsylvania and taught school music in Carlisle and Reading. In 1871, he moved to Iowa and taught briefly in Chariton then settled in Ottumwa. He taught music there for a decade then began a music business, selling musical instruments. He invented and patented the "Rheem Accompanist," a device designed to assist a beginner to play any instrument. He organized a company to manufacture the device, employing many in the area. He was a respected member of the community and active in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He wrote hymns, many songs for school use, and issued music collections for singing schools. He died in Ottumwa.

See the pretty rivulet come tripping down the hill,
On its way to help the brooklet turn the busy mill,
And whene'er that work is done it glides along so free,
Till it joins the river on its journey to the sea,
Pretty rivulet,
Working brooklet,
Sturdy river,
Foaming sea.

Oh, how much like childhood, as it prattles on its way,
Till it comes to boyhood, mixing labor with its play,
Then to sturdy manhood, as he joins the busy throng,
Adding to the sea of life until his work is done,
Prat'ling childhood,
Merry boyhood,
Sturdy manhood,
Grey old age.

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Fast

S
See the pret - ty riv - u - let come trip - ping down the hill, On its way to help the brook - let

A
See the pret - ty riv - u - let come trip - ping down the hill, On its way to help the brook - let

T
See the pret - ty riv - u - let come trip - ping down the hill, On its way to help the brook - let

B
See the pret - ty riv - u - let come trip - ping down the hill, On its way to help the brook - let

4
S
turn the bu - sy mill, And when - e'er that work is done it glides a - long so free,

A
turn the bu - sy mill, And when - e'er that work is done it glides a - long so free,

T
turn the bu - sy mill, And when - e'er that work is done it glides a - long so free,

B
turn the bu - sy mill, And when - e'er that work is done it glides a - long so free,

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7

S Till it joins the riv - er on its jour - ney to the sea, Pret - ty riv - u - let,

A Till it joins the riv - er on its jour - ney to the sea,

T Till it joins the riv - er on its jour - ney to the sea,

B Till it joins the riv - er on its jour - ney to the sea,

10

S

A Work - ing brook - let,

T Stur - dy riv - er,

B Foam - ing sea,

13

S Pret - ty riv - u - let, Work - ing brook - let, Stur - dy riv - er, Foam - ing sea.

A Pret - ty riv - u - let, Work - ing brook - let, Stur - dy riv - er, Foam - ing sea.

T Pret - ty riv - u - let, Work - ing brook - let, Stur - dy riv - er, Foam - ing sea.

B Pret - ty riv - u - let, Work - ing brook - let, Stur - dy riv - er, Foam - ing sea.

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17

S Oh, how much like child-hood, as it prat-tles on its way, Till it comes to boy-hood, mix-ing

A Oh, how much like child-hood, as it prat-tles on its way, Till it comes to boy-hood, mix-ing

T Oh, how much like child-hood, as it prat-tles on its way, Till it comes to boy-hood, mix-ing

B Oh, how much like child-hood, as it prat-tles on its way, Till it comes to boy-hood, mix-ing

20

S la - bor with its play, Then to stur - dy man - hood, as he joins the bu - sy throng,

A la - bor with its play, Then to stur - dy man - hood, as he joins the bu - sy throng,

T la - bor with its play, Then to stur - dy man - hood, as he joins the bu - sy throng,

B la - bor with its play, Then to stur - dy man - hood, as he joins the bu - sy throng,

23

S Add - ing to the sea of life un - til his work is done, Prat' - ling child - hood,

A Add - ing to the sea of life un - til his work is done,

T Add - ing to the sea of life un - til his work is done,

B Add - ing to the sea of life un - til his work is done,

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26

Musical score for measures 26-28. The score is for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 8/8. Measure 26: Soprano has a whole rest; Alto sings 'Mer - ry boy - hood,'; Tenor has a whole rest; Bass has a whole rest. Measure 27: Soprano has a whole rest; Alto has a whole rest; Tenor sings 'Stur - dy man - hood,'; Bass has a whole rest. Measure 28: Soprano has a whole rest; Alto has a whole rest; Tenor has a whole rest; Bass sings 'Grey old age,'.

S
A Mer - ry boy - hood,
T
8 Stur - dy man - hood,
B Grey old age,

29

Musical score for measures 29-32. The score is for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 8/8. Measure 29: Soprano sings 'Prat' - ling child - hood, Mer - ry boy - hood, Stur - dy man - hood, Grey old age.'; Alto sings 'Prat' - ling child - hood, Mer - ry boy - hood, Stur - dy man - hood, Grey old age.'; Tenor sings 'Prat' - ling child - hood, Mer - ry boy - hood, Stur - dy man - hood, Grey old age.'; Bass sings 'Prat' - ling child - hood, Mer - ry boy - hood, Stur - dy man - hood, Grey old age.' Measures 30, 31, and 32 continue the same melody for all voices.

S
A Prat' - ling child - hood, Mer - ry boy - hood, Stur - dy man - hood, Grey old age.
T
8 Prat' - ling child - hood, Mer - ry boy - hood, Stur - dy man - hood, Grey old age.
B Prat' - ling child - hood, Mer - ry boy - hood, Stur - dy man - hood, Grey old age.

J. C. Crandall
(1874)

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