

The life & age of man : shewing the different stages of man's life, from the cradle to the grave; wherein all Christians may behold their frail nature, and the miseries that attend a sinful life, set forth in a poem.

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THE LIFE & AGE OF MAN,

SHOWING THE DIFFERENT

Stages of Man's Life, from the Cradle to the Grave;

Wherein all Christians may behold their frail nature, and the miseries that attend a Sinful Life, set forth in a poem.

At one year old, or in our cradle lies,
At five a hobby horse we loudly cry
At ten, for birds' nests range the room vain,
To school at fifteen, though we lose gain,
At twenty, brisk and airy, in our prime,
Mind gaming, drinking, revelling our time.

At thirty, weary of a single life,
We suit a woman, till we get a wife
But come none on at forty years of age,
For then we reach the top of mortal stage,
At fifty, stooping, we go down again,
At sixty set, having run out our short race.

At seventy, deaf, stiff, and hoarse we wear,
At eighty, upon sticks we're forced to bear;
Because at that we pass the age of man,
At ninety, without crutches we can't stand,
And if, perchance, we reach one hundred years,
Then bed-ridden we forget all anxious cares.

Considering by a glass, our time is short,
Our time being gone, we to the grave are sent,
Laid in a tomb of clay, our souls are free,
And take flight to God through airy skies,
Whether kings, princes, prophets, all are slaves
To death: and must from cradle to the grave.



AWAKE thy soul from sin, lest death
Should crop thy Youth, and stop thy vital breath
Sing praises to the Lord, who did create
Both heaven and earth and change thy temporal state

BE ever mindful of thy latter end,
Advice with wisdom—treat her as a friend;
For she'll instruct thee in the way of truth,
Then seek her out whilst in the day of Youth.

COME, sluggard, leave thy sin, and with the ant,
Provide, in summer, that thou may'st not want,
Awake thy soul, for surely thou shalt find,
Tho' thou art slow, death's swifter than the wind.

DO not give credit unto human glory,
Since that the best of all is transitory;
Put on thy dear Saviour, Jesus Christ, believe,
Rely on him alone—sin shall not thee deceive.

ENVY no one who is of high degree,
For thou in heaven may be as great as he;
If thou repent while in thy youthful prime,
Thou'lt find great glory in the end of time.

FORGIVE all wrongs as thou would'st be forgiven
Of God, thy maker, who above in heaven,
In heaven sees the secrets of thy heart,
Or, by true penance, mercy will impart.

GIVE glory unto the great God above,
Tis he who only does deserve our love,
His love to us has been already tried,
When on the cross, to save our souls, he died.

HATE lying tongues the servant to that heart,
Which to the soul damnation will impart;
In doing this thou evermore art heavenly blest,
And he at last shall have eternal rest.

JUDGE not at all, lest thou provoke thy God,
To scourge thy soul with his avenging rod;
Let meekness guide thee, God thy ways direct,
Salvation teach thee what thou dost neglect.

KNOWLEDGE once obtained if rightly used,
By no temptations e'er can be abused;
But misapplied, thy God will give no more,
Then thou art worse than e'er thou wert before.

LOVE well thy neighbour, 'tis a godly thing,
And surely 'twill salvation to thee bring;
Although they offend thee, if thou dost love obtain,
Of God the Father, his commands maintain.

MIND e'er old age come on, thy mispent days,
And to thy Maker sing eternal praise:
Treat not true repentance 'till it is too late,
Lest thou should'st end old age in a woeful state.

NOTHING was known of the most ancient fame,
Which God both heaven and earth did frame;
Both man and beast—the winged fowls of the air,—
Fishes, and creeping things—all nothing were.

OMAN, consider that thy days are but few,
Prepare for death, be sure, what'er thou do;
Ask of God his Grace, and he will give,
When fit to die, then thou art fit to live.

POVERTY, where'er she hath pitched her tent,
Ought in her case always to be content;
For he who gave us all, from us can take away,
But will restore again another day.

QUARREL not with thy friend, nor eke thy foe,
But rather choose another road to go;
Let patience guide thee on this earthly stage,
And strive always thy wrath for to assuage.

RUN not away from those that would thee teach,
God's holy word, salvation to thee preach;
Lest when thou would'st, thy God shall say thee nay
And stop his ears when thou to him shall pray.

SERVANTS obey your masters, that is right,
And ever pleasing to the almighty's sight;
Nor with eye-service, but with all your heart,
Most gladly too, or thou shalt feel the smart.

TIME, thou endless, matchless, end may we,
By diligence and care, lay hold on thee
Which if we do, our souls to God will fly,
Living from glorious time to time eternally.

VANITY, thy name let's strive to hate,
Thy ways are foolish, tho' thy name's so great
Persons almost to heaven have found the way,
And yet by thee have been quite cast away.

WOULDST thy parents honour, God will bless,
With peace, long life, great joy & happiness,
But he that curses, surely will at the last,
Without God's mercy into hell be cast.

XAMPLE take by him who walks uprightly,
'Twill yield thee profit, and give thy soul delight
And make that death, which is by some so feared,
Welcome to thee, by him thy soul is steered.

YOU that observe those lines, pray notice take,
See that you don't the holy sabbath break;
Six days God gave that we should labour so,
And let the seventh to his holy worship go.

ZEALOUSLY live—all God's commands obey,
There's none knows how soon their dying day
May overtake them ere they are aware,
God grant that we of sin may have a care.