



The Aged Aged Man



BY LEWIS CARROLL · IN PHONETIC TEXT





The Aged Aged Man

a poem by Lewis Carroll

from his book Alice Through the Looking Glass
transcribed into S4 phonetic text by Simon Vickers

ai'l te'l yuu evriþiŋ ai **kæ'n**

ðeez lit'l tuu r**ileit**

ai soo 'n eidzid eidzid **mæ'n**

ə sitiŋ o'n ə **geit**

huu **aa** yuu eidzid mæ'n ai sed

æ'nd **hau** iz-it yuu **liv**

hiz aa'nsə trik'ld þruu mai **hed**

laik wootə þruu ə **siv**

hii **sed** ai luk fə **ba·tə·flaiz**

ðæt **sliip** əmaŋ ðə **wiit**

ai **meik** ð'm i'ntuu mat'n **paiz**

æ'nd **se'l** ð'm i'n ðə **striit**

ai se'l ð'm a'ntuu me'n hii sed

huu seil-o'n stoomii **siiz**

æ'nd ðæts ðə wei ai get mai **bred**

ə traif'l if yuu **pliiz**

bət-ai wz þiŋkiŋ ov ə **plæ'n**

tuu dai wa'nz wiskəz **grii'n**

æ'nd oo'lweiz yuuz sou laadz ə **fæ'n**

ðæt ðei kud not bii **sii'n**

sou hæviŋ nou r**iplai** tuu **giv**

tuu wot ðii **ou'ld** mæ'n **sed**

ai kraid ka'm **te'l** mii hau yuu **liv**

æ'nd **pa'mpt** hi'm o'n ðə **hed**

hiz **ækse'nts** mai'ld tuk **ap** ðə tei'l

hii **sed** ai gou mai **weiz**

æ'nd **we'n** ai sii ə mau'n·ti'n **ri'l**

ai set-it-in-ə **bleiz**

æ'nd **ðe'ns** ðei **meik** ðə staf
ðei **koo'l**

rou l'ndz məkæse oi'l

yet **tap'ns** **heipnii** iz-oo'l

ðei **giv** mii foo mai **toi'l**

bæt-ai wz **þiŋkiŋ** ov ə **wei**
tuu fiid wa'n**se'lf** o'n **bætə**
æ'n sou gou **o'n** fr'm dei tə **dei**
getiŋ ə lit'l **fætə**
ai **fuk** hi'm we'l fr'm **said** tə **said**
a'nti'l hiz **feis** woz **bluu**
ka'm **te'l** mii hau yuu **liv** ai kraid
æ'nd **wot-it-iz** yuu **duu**

hii **sed** ai **ha'nt** foo **hæ·dæks-aiz**
əmaŋ ðə heðə **brait**
æ'nd **wæək** ð'm i'ntuu weskout **bat'nz**
i'n ðə sail'nt **nait**
æ'n **ðiiiz** ai duu not **se'l** foo **gou'ld**
oo **koi'n** ov si'lvrii **fai'n**
bat foo ə **kopə** heipəni
æ'nd **ðæt** wi'l pætfis **nai'n**

ai sa'mtai'mz **dig** foo batəd **rou'lz**
oo set lai'md **twigz** foo **kræbz**
ai sa'mtai'mz **sætʃ** ðə graasii **no'lz**
foo wii'lz ov **hæ'ns'm** **kæbz**
æ'nd ðæts ðə **wei** hii geiv ə **wiŋk**
bai witʃ ai **get** mai **we'lp**
æ'nd verii **glædlii** ai wi'l **drɪŋk**
yoo **o'nəz** noub'l **he'lp**

ai hæd hi'm **ðe'n** foor-ai hæd **dʒast**
k'mpliitid mai dizai'n
tuu kiip ðə **me'nai** bridʒ fr'm **rast**
bai **boi'liŋ** it i'n **wai'n**
ai **pænkt** hi'm **matʃ** foo te'liŋ mii
ðə wei hii got hiz **we'lp**
bat **tʃiiflii** foo hiz **wif** ðæt hii
mait **drɪŋk** mai noub'l **he'lp**

æ'nd nau if **ee** bai tʃaa'ns ai **put**
mai **fiŋgz** intuu **gluu**
oo mædlii **skwiiz** ə rait hæ'nd **fut**
i'ntuu ə **left** hæ'nd **juu**
oo if ai **drop** əpo'n mai **tou**
ə verii hevii **weit**
ai **wiip** foor-it rimai'ndz mii **sou**
ov ðæt ou'ld **mæ'n** ai yuust tə **nou**
huuz **luk** woz **mai'ld**
huus **sbiitʃ** woz **slou**
huuz hee woz **waitə** ðæ'n ðə **snou**
huuz **feis** woz verii laik ə **krou**
wið **aiz** laik si'ndəz oo'l **əglou**
huu sii'md **distræktid** wið hiz **wou**
huu rokt hiz **bodii** tuu æ'nd **frou**
æ'nd matəd **ma'mb'liŋlii** æ'nd **lou**
æz-if hiz **maʊp** wəə fu'l ov **dou**
huu **snootid** laik ə **bafəlou**
ðæt samə **iivniŋ** loŋ **əgou**
ə **sitiŋ** on-ə **geit**

NOTES

About the poem

This poem is a parody by Lewis Carroll of "Resolution and Independence" by William Wordsworth.

Its full text in conventional spelling and information about its background can be found in Wikipedia [here](#).

Carroll's choice of words and rhyme is masterly. And the theme of not listening to other people's problems, until they mention something that interests the listener directly, is a bittersweet and powerful one.

About using it

If English is not your native language and you would like to improve your pronunciation of the sounds of English and your flow of speech, read the phonetic text until your delivery is smooth and accurate.

This text can also be profitably used in a teaching situation.

About phonetic text

English conventional spelling gives no clear indication as to exactly how words ought to be pronounced or where to place stress. Indeed it is positively misleading.

For learners of English, there is a need for clear guidance about pronunciation, and this is exactly what phonetic text provides.

Trying to learn proper pronunciation without phonetic text is like trying to learn arithmetic without pencil and paper, or music without sheet music. It *can* be done, but it is *very* difficult, and most people give up half way.

More

Phonetic text resources are [here](#).