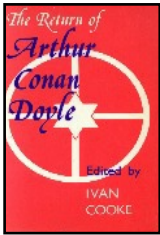


Conscious spirituality in search of truth...



IVAN COOKE: THE RETURN OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is best known for his fiction writing of the “Sherlock Holmes” detective books. However, Doyle was an incredibly gifted businessman who devoted a large portion of his life promulgating Spiritualism, mediumship, researching proof of survival following the death of the physical body and more in the last century.

Through the spiritual mediumship of Grace Cooke Doyle's spirit was able to communicate experiences as now understood by him from the etheric worlds. This was even to the extent of updating his previous knowledge of spiritualist teachings as experienced from the realms of 'consciousness' existence. In “The Return of Arthur Conan Doyle” book edited by Ivan Cooke, Grace's husband and published by White Eagle Publishing Trust in 1963 Doyle conveys a deeply spiritual expression of an afterlife.

During the 1970s -1980s, I was following spiritualistic teaching and Doyle's work contributed considerable new wisdom-knowledge. In 2014 whilst developing my 'conscious spirituality project' [current] and re-reading an original copy of the above book the literature reaffirmed early spiritual depth. This book, and similar works by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is highly recommended for seekers of Truth. An extract follows.

– Philip Crouch, Tasmania, 2020

ACD: 'THE HARMONY, PERFECTION AND GLORY OF THE HEAVEN LIFE'

[PP: 106 -108] CHAPTER 11: PART TWO

‘...Slight messages such as these gave assurance to my family that I was conscious, at all events. And then I seemed to be picked up, as it were, by a ray of light. A power unknown came to my aid giving me understanding of my true state, and I subsequently learned that this ray of light was a projection of love and power from the Polaire Brotherhood. It proved inestimable value to me and brought a clear vision of the actual state of life which exists immediately after death.

For it seems that every soul must pass through such a condition, or such a period of time, which may be short or long according to the mental condition of the man when he leaves his body. With some souls this is only a matter of a few hours or days; with others it may occupy years. Even the Master Jesus descended into a condition of uncertainty which is called Hades the sphere of disquieted spirits. So also must every soul on leaving the earth pass through that sphere.



As I have said before, it is very difficult for the soul to escape from its physical, mental and astral attachments—only the enlightened soul can traverse rapidly the spheres of the denser astral. In spirit, life **time ceases to have reality**. ‘In the twinkling of an eye we shall be changed’—as St. Paul said—‘at the last *day*’—but this does not mean at the end of this world, as our Christian friends are apt to declare. It means at the end of the soul’s *world of matter*; and the astral worlds are still worlds of matter, albeit of finer matter.

Then, when man passes through the grey astral spheres and is touched by the light of the eternal spirit of God, in the twinkling of an eye he is changed, and casts off the old terrestrial body and puts on the body celestial and dwells in the heart of the eternal spirit. Truly, it is said that a gulf is fixed between the man who dwells in Abraham’s bosom and the rich man imprisoned in the fires of hell! Can this be obviated? Will this same gulf always exist between the man of heaven and the man of Earth?

Always; that is, so long as the latter thinks only earthly thoughts and so houses his being in earthliness. We have dealt with the conditions immediately following death, and it may appear that we have enlarged overmuch on the gloomy side, by talking rather pessimistically about the grey astral spheres, the astral memories and the mistakes of the Spiritualists. This may be because I have so recently passed through that state, which is so disquieting and disturbing that it may have left a rather deep impression on that part of me which more readily contacts the earth.’

The difficulty is to find adequate words with which to describe the conditions of life after death. The representations of life spent on the astral planes made from time to time through Spiritualism are often only the actual experiences of souls still closely linked with earth. For on the astral planes are many conditions closely attuned to the desires of those dwelling there, much as on earth you get the many grades of society living in their own environment.

You will therefore obtain a variety of descriptions each pertaining to its own particular plane of astral existence. After passing through a ‘death’ of his astral body, the man discards his astral vehicle and enters into heavenly life, we find at last a condition of at-one-ment, of attunement; a condition wherein the soul is conscious only of the one vibratory note of love and service permeating its being. In these spheres the soul thus becomes cognizant of the cosmic powers which rule creation.



When speaking of the Second Death through which every soul must some day pass before it quits the astral, and after experiencing a period of unconsciousness which may last for minutes, hours, days or even years, we said that the soul then wakes to a renewed, rich and vivid life.

Time is nothing over here, although we have to speak in terms of your earth time. The Second Death has taken place, and all that remained which was of the earthy, in that soul has passed away. With the Second Death there comes the great awakening—the soul's awakening—when it sees truth revealed, and for a moment gains a vision of the mighty salvation attainable through Christ.

With such prospect as this in view the man advances into the *mental* condition of his being. I would however make it clear that the soul does not pass through every mental plane of the spiritual life, but automatically migrates to the particular mental plane to which it is attuned.

There after in succession the soul will work its way through every planes of grade of *spiritual* existence; and this is not because of the single existence on earth which it is supposed each man undergoes (and thinks only of mortal life) but by and through every incarnate life which he has ever experienced. For the soul of each man lives through many incarnations. During each separate incarnation it will mark out the plane or place on the mental plane to which it will some day travel, and where it will for a period dwell.

Thus, in the course of time that soul will experience every phase and every condition of the spiritual life. Is this clear? Do you understand that during his life in the physical world man is always laying foundations for the particular astral, mental, or celestial home to which he must go; so that he will attain a lesser or fuller degree of freedom and happiness in his astral, mental or celestial life in exact accordance with the degree of his aspirations and spiritual growth during his span on earth.

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I have now to endeavour so show the difference between the *mental* planes (whereon the soul emerges to dwell after the Second Death), the mental activities on these planes and the *celestial* life which lies beyond. For the mental body which man inhabits after quitting his experiences in the astral worlds is a purely *mental* state, which differs widely from the spiritual state beyond.

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The mental plane is one of great power, on which the soul must exercise its full mental faculties, which, as it were, become unleashed and augmented when it enters this plane of existence. Nor can it quit the mental plane until a delicate **balance has been reached between its mental and spiritual qualities.**

For a period it would seem that the soul must remain on the mental plane to grow in quietude, much as a seed is sown in the soil and left to germinate.

Have passed into the mental world, man has to dwell there to obtain soul-growth before emerging into the celestial world, bringing with him the spiritual power and equipment he has gathered during his journey.

It is in the *celestial* world that the work of creation really begins.

That is the glory and magnificence of the celestial, and of its creative art which is the real *becoming* of all creation. In this heaven world the soul of man absorbs the a potency of divine quality of Christ; having itself become almost angelic, it dwells among angelic being sharing their lustre. Would that we could endow you with some flash of intuition or insight which would reveal a glimpse of the harmony, the perfection and the glory of heaven life!

For it is here that the soul of man becomes conscious at last of its true nature, here the ego knows itself a very part of God. After their passing from earth life the souls of men reach this celestial sphere of being in about thirty years of time (as men gauge time) and in the normal course of their development. Nothing drives the soul onward against its own inclination.

Man's own power of freewill is ever operative. If he wants to linger in the astral conditions, he can stay as long as he desires, so that a century or more may pass; or if he wishes he can sometimes pass quickly onwards, **but only when he is longing with all his heart to become reunited with the God-consciousness which is his real home.**



Suggested resources:

The Return of Arthur Conan Doyle, ACD, from the Mediumship of Grace Cooke, 1963, White Eagle Publishing Trust, ISBN: 0-85487-037-7 (Book currently out of print-Amazon has used copies). See White Eagle Lodge] Arthur Conan Doyle's book, "*The Beyond*." Similar context to the 'Return of ACD.'

<https://www.whiteagle.org/shop/books/white-eagle-publishing-book-list/arthur-conan-doyle-s-book-of-the-beyond>

<https://www.conandoyleinfo.com/life-conan-doyle/conan-doyle-and-spiritualism/>

<http://www.victorzammit.com/audio/doyle20nov10.mp3>

<http://www.victorzammit.com/afterlifevoices/index.htm>

