

# DEATH IS JOYFUL, SAYS CONAN DOYLE

Author Tells How the Soul  
"Floats Out From Its  
Earthy Shell"

ONLY "DELICIOUS LANGUOR"

By the Associated Press.  
New York, April 13. — Sir Arthur Conan Doyle last night described the sensations of the deceased as he said they had been communicated to him from beyond the sky.  
"Death is not painful, but a pleasant process," said Sir Arthur. "As

soon approaches, the soul—the ethereal body—floats out from its earthly shell, and hovers above the human "clay," tethered only by the silver cord of which Ecclesiastes speaks. The only sensation is one of delicious languor.  
"The first sight that greets the eye is one of smiling, loving faces bending over the deceased," continued Sir Arthur.  
"Proof?" he asked.  
"I have stood by the side of the dying, seen hands turning cold in death stretch out, heard words of endearment fall from lips that soon would move no more. Delirium," say materialists. No, it is not delirium.  
"Proof?" asked the preacher of spiritualism again. "The disengaging of the ethereal body can be, has been, photographed. I am fortunate enough to have such a plate."  
Then he told of eight daughters—all clairvoyants—who had sat beside their dying mother.  
"It was lovely to see the ethereal body disengage itself," he said. "There was a multiplicity of beautiful lights."  
Other accounts, agreeing in detail,

had been given of the passing of a soul, he added.  
"Is that not good evidence?" he asked.  
The tense silence was broken as his audience in Carnegie Hall, obviously in sympathy with the doctrines of Sir Arthur, broke into prolonged applause.  
Then he proceeded with his defense of the hypothesis that psychical phenomena exist. Table rappings, he said, could be proved by such evidence as would carry a point in a court of law. Furtive signals, he said they were, corresponding to the knock on a door here below, designed merely to herald the approach of a friend and capture the attention of a skeptical world.  
Equal proof, he said, could be brought forward that the spirits of the departed, through mediums, could converse with their beloved below and that these messages were the essential things.  
"I stand but ankle-deep in a vast ocean of psychic knowledge, but even if I am only ankle-deep, I can perhaps bring some message to those who stand dry-shod on the shores."  
Spirits not only can converse with those on earth, Sir Arthur continued,

but they can present themselves in material form. He himself, he declared, had gazed on the faces of his mother, son and brother, and had talked with them.  
The materialization, he said, was made possible through "ectoplasm"—a combination of matter and ether beaten together—which emanated from the bodies of mediums. That substance, he continued, could be felt, analyzed and photographed.  
He said an ethereal body, the exact duplicate of the living, could be temporarily disassociated without death. That could be done, he said, sometimes through the use of narcotics, though, he added smilingly, he did not advise this method.  
He then proceeded to recite what he said constituted proof of existence of spirits, piling up instance on instance, some of which he said he had witnessed himself and all of which he said were thoroughly authenticated.  
Through a Toledo medium, Sir Arthur said, he had been brought in contact with a deceased spiritualist with whom he engaged in an argument over the place where they last had met on earth. Pointing to Lady Doyle, who

sat on the platform beside him, he said she later had convinced him that the spirit had been right.  
The eyes of the audience turned to the novelist's wife.  
She nodded in confirmation.  
Declaring no conflict existed between spiritualism and the Bible, Sir Arthur asserted that "The New Testament, from cover to cover, is pure spiritualism." He quoted several passages of Scripture which he declared could be understood only in the light of spiritualism, and suggested that the spiritualistic theory of life after death was the message that Christ sought to impart 2000 years ago.  
Four Wills Admitted to Probate  
The following wills were probated today: Johanna L. Shoemaker, 914 North Eighth street, \$27,500; Joseph E. Van Deusen, 2101 Toga street, \$24,500; William H. Peterson, 5900 Cedarhurst avenue, \$7,400; and Mary McIntyre, 1737 Pierce street, \$5,090. Inventories of personal estates filed were Hugh C. Cole, \$7,013.18, and M. Anna Osgood, \$8,101.40.

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Of fine madras, with convertible collar and half sleeves.  
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