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A VISION OF HEAVEN AND HELL
By A Wesleyan Lady
Recorded by Robert Young, Minister

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(The little book from which this is quoted was published in 1841 at the Wesleyan
Bookroom, under the title of "The Entranced Female.")

This pamphlet will bear careful perusal, and it would be well to obtain some to place in
letters and hand to friends and callers, as well as distribute in general, exhorting all to carefully
read the message it contains, for it is well supported by God's Word. Also, Christians should be
advised to keep a copy in their Bibles for frequent reference, that they may be incited to more
earnest efforts in laboring for the rescue of lost souls.

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While residing in a British colony, as a Wesleyan minister, I was called one evening to
visit Miss D____, who was said to be dying. Mrs. Young, by whom she was met weekly for
religious instruction, feeling a deep interest in her spiritual welfare, accompanied me to her
residence. We found her in the chamber of a neat little cottage, exceedingly ill, but confiding in the
merits of Jesus. After spending some time with her in conversation and prayer, we commended her
to God, and took our departure without the least hope of seeing her again in this life.

Soon after we left, she seemed to die: but as the usual signs of death, which so rapidly develop themselves in that country, did not appear, her friends concluded that she was in a trance (Acts 22:17; 2 Cor. 12:24), and anxiously waited to see the end. She remained in this state for several days, during which period we repeatedly visited her; and the only indications we could perceive that life was not extinct were a slight foaming at the mouth and a little warmth about the region of the heart.

She was watched with great interest both night and day; and after having been in this state for nearly a week, she opened her eyes, and said,

"Mr. C____ is Dead."

Her attendants, thinking that she was under the influence of delirium, replied that she was mistaken, as he was not only alive, but well. "Oh, no," said she, "he is dead; for a short time ago, as I passed the gates of hell, I saw him descend into the pit, and the blue flame cover him. Mr. B____ is also dead; for he arrived at heaven just as I was leaving that happy place, and I saw its beautiful gates thrown wide open to receive him, and heard the host of heaven shout, 'Welcome, weary pilgrim!' " (Luke 16:19-26.)

Mr. C____ was a neighbor, but a very wicked person, and Mr. B____, who lived at no great distance, was a good old man, and for many years had been a consistent and useful member of the church of God. The parties who heard Miss D____'s startling and confident statement immediately sent to make inquiries about the two individuals alluded to, and found, to their utter astonishment, that the former had dropped dead about half an hour before, while in the act of tying his shoe; and that about the same time the latter had suddenly passed into the eternal world. For the truth of these facts I do solemnly vouch. She went on to tell where she had been, and

What She Had Seen and Heard.

After being sufficiently recovered to leave the house, she paid us a visit; and Mrs. Young, as well as myself, heard from her own lips the following account of what she had passed through.

She informed us that at the time she was supposed to die, a celestial being conducted her into the invisible world, and mysteriously unveiled to her the realities of eternity. He took her first to heaven; but she was told that as she yet belonged to time she could not be permitted to enter into that glorious place, but only to behold it, which she represented as infinitely exceeding in beauty and splendor the most elevated conceptions of mortals, and whose glories no language could describe. (I Cor. 2:9; Isa. 64:4; Psa. 31:19.)

She beheld the Savior upon a throne of light and glory, surrounded by the four and twenty elders and a great multitude which no man could number, among whom she recognized patriarchs, and prophets, and apostles, and martyrs, and missionaries who had died in that colony, besides many others whom she mentioned. Although those parties were not named by the angel that attended her, yet she said, that seeing them was to know them. She described those celestial spirits as being variously employed, and although she felt herself inadequate to convey any definite idea

of the nature of that employment, yet it appeared to be adapted to their respective mental tastes and spiritual attainments. She also informed us that she heard sweet and most enrapturing music, such as she had never heard before; and made several attempts to give us some idea of its melodious character, but found her notes too earthly for that purpose.

While thus favored, the missionaries already referred to, and other happy spirits, as they glided past her, sweetly smiled, and said they knew whence she came, and, if faithful to the grace of God, she would in a short time be admitted into their delightful society. All the orders of heaven were in perfect and blessed harmony, and appeared to be directed in all their movements by a mysterious influence, proceeding from the throne of God.

She was next conducted to a place whence

She Had a View of Hell,

which she described in the most terrific language, and declared that the horrid shrieks of lost spirits still seemed to sound in her ears. As she approached the burning pit, a tremendous effort was made to draw her into it; but she felt herself safe under the protection of her guardian angel.

She recognized many in the place of torment whom she had known on earth, and even some who had been thought to be Christians. There were princes and peasants, rich and poor, learned and unlearned, writhing together in a dreadful and unquenchable fire, where all earthly distinctions and titles were forever at an end. Among them she beheld a Miss W____ who had occupied a prominent station in society, but had died during the trance of this young woman. She said that when Miss W____ saw her approach, her shrieks were appalling beyond the power of language to describe, and that she made a desperate, but unsuccessful, effort to escape.

The punishment of lost souls she represented as symbolizing the respective sins which had occasioned their condemnation. (Gal. 6:7, 8; Rom. 2:6.) Miss W____, for instance, was condemned for her love of money (1 Tim. 6:9, 10; Jer. 17:10,11), which I had every reason to believe was her besetting sin; and she seemed robed in a garment of gold, all on fire. Mr. O____, whom she saw, was lost through intemperance; and he appeared to be punished by devils administering to him some boiling liquid. She said there was no sympathy among these unhappy spirits, but that unmixed hatred, in all its frightful forms, prevailed in every part of the fiery regions.

She beheld parents and children, husbands and wives, and those who had been companions in sin, exhibiting every mark of deep hatred to each other's society, and heard them in fiendish accents upbraiding and bitterly cursing one another. She saw nothing in hell but misery and despair, and heard nothing there but the most discordant sounds, accompanied with weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. (Matt. 13:41, 2; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 14:9-11; Rev. 20:10-15; Rev. 21:8.)

While she gazed upon this revolting scene, many souls arrived from earth, and were greedily seized by innumerable devils of monstrous shape, amidst horrid shouts of hellish triumph, and

Tortured According to Their Sins.

This fearful view of the state of the lost agrees with the testimony of S____ T____, whose case is on record in Mr. Wesley's Journal (vol. ii., pp. 22-26). She tells us that while in her trance, the place of the condemned was unveiled, and she "saw a vast number who stood up cursing and blaspheming God, and spitting at each other. And many were making balls of fire, and throwing them at one another." She also "saw many others who had cups of fire, out of which they were drinking down flames; and others who held cards of fire in their hands, and seemed to be playing with them," proving that the sins they delighted in once now torment them.

From the Gates of Hell,

Miss D. was conducted to another position, whence she had a view of heaven, and hell, and earth; and she described the earth as appearing like a vast stage crowded with human beings, and full of confusion and blood. From this stage persons were continually stepping off; and others were rapidly approaching its edge, and would very soon disappear, among whom was Mrs. L____, an intimate friend of ours, who died a fortnight afterwards. Other persons, whom she named, were represented as near the edge of the stage, and although quite well when she made this communication, did in every case shortly afterwards leave this probationary state.

One of the days in which Miss D____ lay entranced was the holy Sabbath; and she told us that she knew where I and my colleague preached on that day; and from each chapel she perceived holy incense rise, which she described as mingling together and coming up before the throne; then taken by the Savior and presented to the Father, while angels and all the company of heaven rejoiced together.

She also stated that during one of Mrs. Young's visits to the house where she lay entranced, she saw her sitting by her bedside, reading to the family a chapter out of St. John's Gospel, and then saw her kneel down and pray with them. She likewise gave us to understand that matter, under none of its forms or modifications, is any interruption to the vision or

Movements of Spiritual Beings.

She was next taken to a place whence she was permitted to see the moral state of the world. A lady, holding a prominent situation in the church, was represented as sitting under a tree of most luxuriant and beautiful foliage, with a long tube in her mouth, by which she was drawing people to her. The conducting angel informed Miss D____ that the tube indicated the power of this woman's persuasive language, the foliage of the tree her religious profession, and its trunk the state of her heart. On looking at the trunk, she beheld that its core was rotten, and full of venomous reptiles. Miss D____ told this afterwards to the lady in question; and from her unChristian temper on the occasion, and her subsequent conduct, she fully proved the correctness of the representation. (Matt. 23:27.)

Another lady, a professor of religion, highly respected for her apparent piety, was represented to her as having yielded to temptation, and withdrawn her heart from God. When her

backsliding was announced in the world of spirits, Miss D____ looked towards the Savior, and thought she perceived the appearance of blood trickling from His wounds, as if "crucified afresh." (Heb. 6:6.) When Miss D. was at our house, she sent for this person, and, in the presence of Mrs. Young and myself, told her the above: and, according to her penitential acknowledgment, but to our utter astonishment, it was a correct view of her state. Miss D____ had likewise the moral condition and perilous circumstances of

A Young Man Brought to Her View.

He was in possession of religion, was represented as assailed by a very plausible temptation, and would make shipwreck of faith if he did not resist it. She made this disclosure to him also in our presence; and after some evasion on the subject, he appeared greatly agitated, and declared that such was his temptation, although he had not mentioned it to anyone. For some time he resisted, but finally fell into the snare; and his sad experience proved the correctness of Miss D____'s communication.

A lady was represented to her as attired in the purest white, and surrounded by a number of little children, whom she was striving to wash in pure water, that they too might be white and clean; and the angel told her that the lady's robe was indicative of her purity of heart, and her holiness of life, and that her employment symbolized the nature and effects of her exertions in the church of God. I was well acquainted with this lady, and could bear witness to the correctness of this picture; for she was in my opinion one of the holiest of women, and was exceedingly useful to children and young people: indeed, the honored instrument of bringing many of them to God. (Dan. 12:3.)

Another lady she described as standing at the entrance of the path leading to eternal life, with a book in her hand, and crying to the giddy multitude:

"Come back, this is the way;
Come back, and walk therein."

This lady, who was well known to the writer, had made many sacrifices for the cause of Christ, and was doing what she could to bring any poor wanderers back to God.

According to the testimony of Miss D____, she knew, without being informed, the various beings she met with in the world of spirits. It appears to be a region of knowledge intuitively obtained, without any laborious effort or inquiry. This view of the subject is calculated to strike terror into the hearts of those who,

By Their Neglect or Influence,

destroy souls, as it supposes they will know their victims when they shall meet them in the world lying beyond the tomb; but it is a view well adapted to excite pleasurable emotions in the breast of those who "turn many to righteousness," as it encourages the hope of their recognizing their "spiritual children."

The opinion seems correct that the inhabitants of eternity know what is taking place in this world. The temptations presented by wicked spirits (1 Peter 5:8), the guardianship of angelic beings (Psa. 34:7 & 91:11,) the cloud of witnesses represented by the apostle as looking from their place of rest upon Christians running the race set before them (Heb. 12:1; Heb. 11:1-40), and the joy felt in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth (Luke 15:10), certainly very strongly countenance the opinion. This also agrees with Miss D____'s statement; for she told us most distinctly that the state and circumstances of the population of our globe were fully known to the inhabitants of the other world. How startling is the thought! If earth is without a covering to eternity,

How Circumspectly Ought We to Walk!

"Not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Eph. 5:15,16.

One of the persons that Miss D____ saw in torment had been in the habit of violating the Christian Sabbath by matters of worldly business. I more than once reproved her for it, warned her of her danger, and exhorted her to flee from the wrath to come. She acknowledged the propriety of my remarks, but, like many, pleaded her secular engagements, and expressed a hope that at no very distant period she would be able to retire from business and attend to her soul. Unhappy woman!

Procrastination Has Ruined Many a Soul,

and it ruined hers; for while she was about to realize all that her earthly mind had long and ardently desired, the messenger of death suddenly and unexpectedly blighted all her hopes, abruptly put an end to her mortal life, and Miss D____ saw her in hell lift up her eyes, being in torment. [Luke 16:23.]

Oh, that mortals were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end! See Deut. 32:29.

Miss D____ lived about three years after this trance, and then died happy in the Lord.

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Reader, to which place does the road that you are now traveling lead?

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DYING WORDS OF CHRISTIANS:

"The chariot has come, and I am ready to step in." -- Jordan Antle

"Eternity rolls up before me like a sea of glory." -- Margaret Prior

"How bright the room! how full of angels!" -- Martha McCrackin

"Oh, how beautiful! The opening heavens around me shine." -- Philip Heck

"The next time I sing will be when Jesus folds me in His arms." -- Shoeblack Jim

"I wish I had the power of writing; I would describe how pleasant it is to die." -- Dr. Cullen.

"The sun is setting; mine is rising. I go from this bed to a crown. Farewell." -- S. B. Bangs

"Can this be death? Why, it is better than living! Tell them I die happy in Jesus." -- John Arthur Lyth

"I am in perfect peace, resting alone on the blood of Christ. I find this amply sufficient to enter the presence of God with. " -- Trotter

"Oh, that I could tell you what joy! I possess! I am full of rapture. The Lord doth shine with such power upon my soul. He is come! He is come!" -- Mrs. Mary Frances

DYING WORDS OF SINNERS:

"All my possessions for a moment of time!" -- Queen Elizabeth.

"I am suffering the pangs of the damned." -- Talleyrand Perigord

"Give me more laudanum that I may not think of eternity." -- Mirabeau

"The devil is ready to seduce us, and I have been seduced." -- Cromwell

"I am abandoned by God and man! I shall go to hell! O Christ! O Jesus Christ!" -- Voltaire

"What blood, what murders what evil counsels have I followed! I am lost; I see it well!" -- King Charles IX of France

"I would give worlds, if I had them, if the 'Age of Reason' had never been published. O Lord, help me! Christ, help me! Stay with me! It is hell to be left alone!" -- Tom Paine

"Oh, that I was to lie a thousand years, upon the fire that never is quenched (See Mark 9:45.) to purchase the favor of God, and be reunited to Him again! But it is a fruitless wish. Millions of millions of years will bring me no nearer to the end of my torments than one poor hour. Oh, eternity, eternity! forever and forever! Oh, the insufferable pangs of hell!" -- Sir Francis Newport

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SOME CONCLUDING SCRIPTURES:

"Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace." -- Psa. 37:37

"Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!" -- Num. 23:10

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." -- Psa. 116:5

"As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" -- Ezek. 33:11

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THE END