

# **IMMORTALITY AND THE MODERN MIND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649325078

Immortality and the Modern Mind by Kirsopp Lake

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**KIRSOPP LAKE**

**IMMORTALITY AND  
THE MODERN MIND**



The Ingersoll Lecture, 1922

Immortality and the  
Modern Mind

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Cambridge

Harvard University Press

London: Humphrey Milford

Oxford University Press

1922

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS

First impression, May, 1922  
Second impression, July, 1922  
Third impression, December, 1922

308847

YHABLI GHOHAT

PRINTED AT THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS., U. S. A.

## THE INGERSOLL LECTURESHIP

*Extract from the will of Miss Caroline Haskell Ingersoll, who died in  
Keene, County of Cheshire, New Hampshire, Jan. 26, 1803*

*First.* In carrying out the wishes of my late beloved father, George Goldthwait Ingersoll, as declared by him in his last will and testament, I give and bequeath to Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., where my late father was graduated, and which he always held in love and honor, the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) as a fund for the establishment of a Lectureship on a plan somewhat similar to that of the Dudleian lecture, that is — one lecture to be delivered each year, on any convenient day between the last day of May and the first day of December, on this subject, "the Immortality of Man," said lecture not to form a part of the usual college course, nor to be delivered by any Professor or Tutor as part of his usual routine of instruction, though any such Professor or Tutor may be appointed to such service. The choice of said lecturer is not to be limited to any one religious denomination, nor to any one profession, but may be that of either clergyman or layman, the appointment to take place at least six months before the delivery of said lecture.

The above sum to be safely invested and three fourths of the annual interest thereof to be paid to the lecturer for his services and the remaining fourth to be expended in the publishment and gratuitous distribution of the lecture, a copy of which is always to be furnished by the lecturer for such purpose. The same lecture to be named and known as "the Ingersoll lecture on the Immortality of Man."





ὅς γὰρ ἐὰν θέλῃ τὴν  
ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν σῶσαι  
ἀπολέσει αὐτήν.

MARK viii. 35.



## IMMORTALITY AND THE MODERN MIND

**H**AD the Ingersoll Lecture on Immortality been in existence in the eighteenth century, there would probably have been, in the New England world which found its centre in Harvard College, but few to question the importance of the subject or to doubt the right approach to it. Men of true piety and sound learning unhesitatingly held that the authoritative revelation of Scripture justified the expectation that after death they would retain or recover all the characteristics of their individual lives. But by the end of the nineteenth century when the Lecture was founded a rapid change had set in. Men were no longer convinced that the writers of Scripture knew more about a future life