

**BODY AND
SOUL, PP. 1-145**

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Body and Soul, pp. 1-145 by J. Clegg Wright

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J. CLEGG WRIGHT

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SOUL, PP. 1-145**



Yours Truly
J. bless Wright



BODY AND SOUL.

A COURSE OF LECTURES
DELIVERED IN THE TRANCE STATE
THROUGH THE MEDIUMISTIC ORGANIZATION

OF

J. CLEGG WRIGHT.

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P R E F A C E .

This volume is given to the public in the hope that it may be a small contribution to the great study of the soul and the real functions of the mind. The extraordinary phenomena presented by Modern Spiritualism have drawn much attention to their cause and value in estimating the possibilities of conscious continuance of life after the death of the body; they throw light on the subject of immortality and the conditions of life in the future state, and will more and more, as time goes on, become the serious study of those who are seeking for a scientific basis for the belief in immortality, and a future life for the children of the human race.

Metaphysical thinkers have become so wedded to the deductive method that they have ignored all inductive process of the mind being applied to the problems of the soul, its existence and future continuance; they have simply contented themselves with a speculative philosophy of the mind, and dogmatized in fields where their knowledge could not go. With the great advancement of modern science and its methods has arisen a desire to apply the same formula of investigation and reason to the problems of the soul. The truth is, science is the great conqueror of all truth, and nature is the field in which man must look for the foundation of all his facts and laws for and on which he can postulate the great principles of Being and Power. The different states of consciousness seen presented in the processes of action and change to the human mind are within the range and grasp of a correct scientific examination and study. Philosophy must walk

In the path of facts, and give to them order, plan and law. It must cease to be the product of unsupported generalizations and postulates. Science demands that the facts be the basis of correct philosophy, and it must ever concede truth to demonstration, and the hopes and dreams of ages must go before the revelations of nature under the eye of science. The powers of the soul must be studied in the same manner as we study other phenomena presented by nature. The strangest of facts must be noted with care, and their full value taken. Those who have old theories and beliefs to save from destruction cannot easily enter into these investigations. The past has made man a slave to error, and superstition has been the bond and thrall of the human race for ages. The truly scientific man follows the light of reason: the dictates of truth must be obeyed.

It is obvious that if evidence can be found anywhere tending to prove the immortality of the soul, it must be found in the domain of mental action called the abnormal. Sometimes we call that abnormal which is only elemental in its power and nature as a function of mind. There are often seen degrees of clairvoyance that are so close to the condition of hallucination that it is difficult to separate the two conditions. The facts of the dream-state sometimes come so close to the waking-state that it is hard to separate one state from the other. There are difficulties in all studies. The dream consciousness, the trance consciousness, and the clairvoyant consciousness are different phases or planes on which we see presented the evidence of a soul, its power of independent thought, ability to transcend the reach of organic function and common mental action, as presented in the sense consciousness.

PREFACE.

The lectures collected and published in this volume were most of them given in the city of Washington, D. C., and reported by MR. F. WILLIAMS, and to his great kindness I am obligated for the lectures as they stand here as delivered by me while in the trance state. This state, as seen in me, is a state of perfect sleep, that is, the conscious, normal mind is suspended, and the trance mind, with a changed personality, appears and becomes the possessor of the organism for the time being.

The trance consciousness is always accompanied with a changed personality. The personality on its own plane of action is complete. The consciousness has a separate field of knowledge and perception. It has also the power to give and take from the normal organic personality. The knowledge of the medium in this state can be drawn upon and used, and knowledge that is not in the organic normal mind can be given to it, and, under suitable conditions, this knowledge will be retained after the manner that dreams are recollected and remembered after as facts of consciousness.

The portrait accompanying this volume was made by the late and lamented HENRY J. NEWTON, of New York city, so long and so deservedly known as a supporter of all truth as presented by modern science, and the facts and phenomena of modern spiritualism in particular.

With dutiful respect to my readers I leave the lectures to speak for themselves, asking a kind generosity in judgment, as the themes treated lie so far away from the ordinary tracks of common thought and investigation.

Yours in good faith,

J. CLEGG WRIGHT.

Amelia, O., January 8th, 1902.

MY STRUGGLE.

Long did I toil amid the sand. The stones
Oft cut my feet, but I went onward to the goal.
The nights were dark, the skies were black,
But on I went, with seldom a star to light my path.
Stumbling I often fell, yet in pain went on,
For voices bade me rise and walk, and labor to complete
my task ;

And charming dreams did lure me to fancied paradise.
I tarried oft and sought the waters, for I was athirst,
But there was none, the river bed was dry ;
And thus I toiled and wandered far to find the end.
Oh, could I have but seen how long and hard the road
I would have fainted long before the goal was reached.
A solitary star of night shone out, and then the bars of
night gave

Way before the birth of the lordly morn that
Led to the greater glories of the day.

Then spirits came, and with their glorious breath
breathed

Into my torpid brain the thought of other spheres.

Lo, like a current of warm air, I spoke
The thoughts as though the force of heaven
Directed me to speak.

The thought was trained to meet the wants of heart
and brain.

And so I labored.

My labor then was so to live
That I might be a perfect channel for the souls
Walking the ethereal plane and loving man.
And so I struggled on—am straggling still—
To be the instrument attuned with harmonious strings
Whereon spirits can play their truthful psalms of life,
And give through me a legacy of thought to man.