

**THE CONVERSATION  
OF A SOUL WITH  
GOD: A THEODICY**

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The Conversation of a Soul with God: A Theodicy by Henry Mac Cormac

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**HENRY MAC CORMAC**

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CONVERSATION OF A SOUL  
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A Theodicy.

BY  
HENRY MAC CORMAC, M.D.

LONDON:  
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1877.

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141. m. 557.

“Μάχη δὴ, φάμεν, ἀθάνατός ἐστιν ἡ τοιαύτη. Πόμμαχοι δὲ ἡμῖν Θεοὶ τε ἄμα καὶ δαίμονες, ἡμεῖς δ’ αὖ κτήματα θεῶν καὶ δαιμόνων, φθείρει δὲ ἡμᾶς ἀδικία καὶ ὕβρις μετὰ ἀφροσύνη, σώζει δὲ δικαιοσύνη καὶ σωφροσύνη μετὰ φρονήσεως, ἐν ταῖς τῶν θεῶν ἐμφύλοις δικούσαι δυνάμει.”—*Plato*.

“Deathless, we say, is our battle. God and the spirits whose possessions we are, fight for and with us. Injustice, folly, and insolence destroy us. Justice, wisdom, and intelligence, living powers that dwell with God, preserve us.”

**In Memoriam.**

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TO

**WILLIAM MAC CORMAC,**

**WHO PERISHED OF RELAPSING FEVER ON**

**THE WEST AFRICAN COAST,**

**THE DEAREST BROTHER, THE TRUEST FRIEND.**

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TO

**MY GRANDCHILD,**

**JANE,**

**THE SWEETEST CHILD THAT EVER BREATHED.**

„Es gibt nur einen Himmel,  
Den ewigen Sitz der Lust;  
Sucht ihn nicht in den Fernen,  
Sucht ihn nicht über Sternen,  
Sucht ihn . . . in Eurer Brust.“

“There is one only Heaven,  
The soul's eternal part,  
Not placed in dim remoteness,  
But only in the Heart.”

—Anon.



DEDICATION.

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TO

ELISABETH, MY CHILD.

TO YOU, MY PRECIOUS ANGEL,

*These Pages,*

MINTED FROM THE VERY SUBSTANCE OF MY HEART,

I HERE INSCRIBE

IN EVIDENCE OF MY DEEP AFFECTION FOR YOU,

YOUR SURPASSING SWEETNESS, GOODNESS, AND TRUTH,

AS WELL AS THE PERFECT HAPPINESS WHICH I HAVE EVER

EXPERIENCED AT YOUR DEAR HANDS,

YOUR FATHER.

BOURNEMOUTH,

*20th March 1877.*

„Und wie die Seele selbständig, im Gefühl der eigenen Kraft diese geistige Welt schuf, so ließ sie die Außenwelt und sich selbst aus dem Gedanken eines höhern Geistes hervorgehen, dessen inneres Wesen wie ihr eigenes sich nicht ergründen läßt, das sie aber so wenig bezweifeln kann als ihr eigenes Dasein, beleuchtet an dem, was sie gethan hat.“—  
SPARSCHEIN, *Kelten, Griechen, Germanen.*

## PREFACE.

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THIS volume aims to show that all beauty and goodness and sweetness and graciousness and wisdom and truth and love have their origin in God, and that outside of His perfect prevision and pervasive will, nothing can subsist or be. It sets forth that religion's real object is not to contend against death, since we should feel, know, that we are indeed eternal, but only submission, in thought, in feeling, and in act, to our divinest Lord, to whom the fulness of the heart is owing, and in whose very bosom we live and move and have our being.

It urges everywhere the reality of a personal immortality and a personal God, as distinct from nature and the universe, asserts that death, like life, is a divinest boon, and that the Deity does not so much directly hallow man's soul, as by heavenward aims and aspirings enable him to hallow it himself. It affirms that the Creator is not desirous of a false and meretricious, but