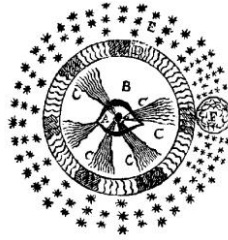


# Spirit's Day Studies

The Writings of Jane Lead,  
17<sup>th</sup> Century Christian Mystic



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## Spiritual Death Symptoms

or, The Death of Moses

JANUARY THE 26, 1677

This Word came this morning fresh unto me, saying, Now that I have shown you what rewards the death-conquerors will have, will you not desire and most freely obey, as my servant *Moses* did, to go up and die on Mount *Nebo*? That is, take leave of this earthly congregation, and go apart from all that still would invite you to abide with them. For if you do not withdraw out of their sight, you will never be able to die voluntarily, while they see any strength, vigor, or force to be in your natural ability, as the beloved *Moses* had. They will be crying, *What need is there of such a dying, as no more to be seen or known by us, after the manner of what has been?* So that unless you follow this example, to go apart, you will hardly die away quietly, but you will be disturbed to bring your life back again, so that it will be a lingering dying death.

Therefore well consider this impeding thing. And so that you might not be alone in a suffering dying state, I have provided one that will be a dying-mate with you, to support and strengthen each other, till a dissolution is finished. Then you may totally cast yourselves upon your dying beds, there waiting for the hour of your change. The utmost grievousness of it will be but as a slumbering trance, that will make you forget this principle, with all its good or evil properties. All things will be alike to you, being gathered to your own people in the land of light, where more transparent things will take up your minds, and satisfy your sights.

There are certain measures and rules, by which you may know whether or not your approaching end is near.

*First*, Consider the years and date of your age: there is a set and appointed time for Spiritual Death, as well as for the Natural. The bounds thereof are determined, though few, or rarely any, have tasted this Spiritual Death, before their outward man has been broken by Natural Death. Yet there have been some known and some unknown examples: as *Enoch*, *Moses*, and *Elias*, with the Lord of Life, who though He suffered death, yet rising in that body again, was with it for a certain time conversant in the earth, to testify that another change was to pass thereupon. Otherwise He never could have stood upon the Sea of Glass, without being changed into another figure, meet for Mount *Sion* Light. More also have found this translation, though happily concealed. But it is enough that you know by what means it may possibly be reached, through the serious disposing of yourselves into this dying state; making observation by self-examination, of those signs and marks, that you may certainly conclude that the time of your departure is at hand.

*Secondly*, For the bounds and time, without all controversy the Body of Sin is old enough to die: it is not few, but many and evil have been its days, which have been spent unprofitably. Therefore that

life is not to be prolonged, but to seek the cutting of it off, as an unprofitable member, with all that do pertain to it. As the vile Body which through the corrupt principle entering in, changed the very form into the like deformed image—which being brought back again to a nullification, then the Eternal Life will spring, and set all in order, as to the very outward vehicle again.

The *Third* Symptom you are to take notice of is this: How your Life-Pulse beats, weak or strong. That is, whether the life and vigor of the heart be much deadened and spiritless to all, whatever can be named, that has its root from this degenerated principle.

The *Fourth* Symptom is this: Do you feel your stomach and appetite fully gone, that you cannot digest any of the fruits that is brought forth by the sweat of the brow, and toil of the hands, all which was the product of the curse.

A *Fifth* Symptom is this: Nay more, try your selves, that to all which seems to carry a more refined excellency in it, are you able to distinguish it, as garnished only with somewhat out of *Paradise*, but mixed with the wild and sour vintage of this world, whether you do feel real disgusts and loathing.

The *Sixth* place, this is another palpable sign: The Life-Breath is much pent and stopped. The thick air and unsavory fumes of this worldly region, have near stifled the very Life-Breath; so as it will be unbearable, finding nothing at all in this whole universe pleasant to you, because of this your spiritual sickness, which presages death to be so near. Can you now but give a real proof of such languishing symptoms, then may you hope and believe, a glorified translation is hereby working out, where nothing more that is uneasy shall be felt.

*Concerning some means to this perfect Death,  
Consider these that follow.*

JANUARY THE 27, 1677

*First*, Let your Bridegroom Spirit you, who are thus truly dying, and direct you wisely, to put your visible affairs into order, as only using them, as for a mere constrained necessity, during the time of your sick mortal state, always expecting that their date is wearing out. For a transformed body will hereof have no need.

*Secondly*, Then yet again, take this rule from your dear Comforter, who would have you finish all things, that may be in order to this accomplishment, of what may make perfect, and entire, lacking nothing that may make comely.

The *Third* Place, There is another act as necessary to be performed as this, in passing away, and making a disposal, as your last will, of all that you possess in, and from the spirit of this mutable region, that constitutes and gives forth to the fallen ones, their several portions, by and through the visible constellations, that work incessantly in all the rational and sensitive faculties, as also from the subtle introduction of the Prince of Darkness, who thereby holds the life captive, that it cannot so easily come to its total decease. Therefore give up all, as they have proceeded from the earthly rudiments; let them inherit them as their own again. For the Spiritual Birth and Body, that is to take place upon the remove of this, has more high graduated intellectuals and faculties super-sensually engraved upon the mind, which will always generate from the Crystal Source of the Immense Being.