

Eliy. Clark

was born at Northuram, in the
Parish of Halifax. My Parents being Quakers, I
was baptiz'd according to their Profession, as my
Mother departed this life while I was yet very young,
my Father being left with 4 Children, namely one son
and 3 Daughters, and being strictly religious, took all
possible care to preserve us from the seductions of the
world. His concern of God, together with my natural thought-
ful turn of mind, led me to an enquiry after future
happiness, even in my Childhood, at which time the fear of
death restrain'd me from enjoying my self in the manner
usual to others at that age, contrary to my inclination
which was to divert my thoughts, not being able to
satisfy my self by those means, as I grew older I took
the resolution to exert the utmost of my power to shake
off my former Convictions, and I found even then that my
best efforts prov'd vain to help my indwelling propensity
to the allurements of this world, having in private
often besought the Lord with tears to save me, and still
found I was as prone as ever to come into the same
condemnation. I pursued this resolution as far as I was
able and accepting the invitation of others of my Companions
threw to amuse my thoughts by publick diversions, in
the midst of one of which assemblies, I was so amazingly
struck with Horror & Condemnation, that I was forc'd to
retire, beseeching the Lord to have Mercy upon me I
resolv'd never to come in to the like occasion again.

which I also never did, altho till my heart was unconcerned
nor had I any desire to engage in Religion, as many of
my acquaintance would have perswaded me, by opportunity
of Mr Jaghams Preaching who was just then come into these
parts, my reason was to try ~~if~~ if I could find no satisfaction
more in the world first, but finding by experience that my
misery pursued me more closely then ever, I gladly made use
of the offer of the Gospel made by the B^{orn} at their
first coming into Northshire. by whose means I found the
only way to seek true satisfaction, and lamented with many
tears my former indifference towards my S^{av} who had
so graciously led me unknown to myself of from all other
pleasures to seek my happiness alone in Him. The B^{orn}
soon began now to settle Bands among the young women
but not having much acquaintance with me thought best
to refer my reception into their society sometime longer.
this Circumstance together with my ardent desire for their
fellowship caus'd me many sorrowfull reflection over
myself for my past neglect. but as they not only
visited those in connection with them, but those whom
they found adher'd to their Preaching, so among the
rest I was an object of their care, and by occasion
of a Visit of the Late S^{ist} Eliz. Ragget. found
freedom to divulge the concern of my heart, in a hearty
conversation with her. She assur'd me that our S^{av}
aim was to make me intirely happy, and gave me also
great encouragement to hope for fellowship with His

longⁿ, this was very comfortable to me, and ~~not long~~ ^{soon} after
I was admitted to a Band among S^{ist} with whom I could
converse freely concerning the situation of my heart, to my
great comfort & blessing. being very much distressed, on
such an occasion I spoke very openheartedly of my Misery
and Concern, when the before mention'd S^{ist} in a feeling
Manner display'd the loving condescension of our S^{av}
in taking upon himself our Guilt & Misery, and by His
Meritorious Sufferings & Death, making a full atonement
for all sin, procuring thereby peace and pardon for every
Soul who conscious of those wretchedness turn'd to Him
with a simple Confidence in His Mercy. at which I
was so deeply affected that retiring in my way home I
earnestly intreated our S^{av} to grant me the happy
experience of His saving power & deliverance from the
Misery of the Fall, & depravity of my own nature & for
his wounds sake to bestow on me that pardon & peace which
he had merited for me, I had not gone far in this situation
of mind, before He graciously drew near my heart, and I
was thereby so overpowered that all my former Misery
vanished, instead of which I felt such Peace & Comfort
that I could scarce recollect how it had been with me, but
went on my ^{way} rejoicing in God my S^{av} who had regarded
my low estate & had help'd me out of all my distress.
Not long after I was rec'd into the longⁿ in April
1740 to my great Joy, this abas'd me very much on
account of the unexpected favour it was to me.
but I went on cheerfull in ^{my} course till Aug^r
following. when by opportunity of a visit by some

Ben the red Sist^{rs} were spoken with individually,
concerning the aim & intention of reception. this made
a deep impression on my mind and being appointed to
be at Pudy the Sunday following I grew exceedingly
concerned about my self lest I should not answer
the end & aim of my call to the Congⁿ being thus
perplexed in my way. Altho^{ugh}, my recourse was to
my Dr^r Sioⁿ who comforted and reassured me of the
Love & favour towards me, but upon my arrival at
Pudy how great was my surprise. when the Ben^{ts}
told me that our Sioⁿ had directed them to invite
me with them to the Holy Comⁿ, I was at once so
struck with Joy and awe that I scarce knew what
to think, but reflecting on the particular instance
of His feeling nearness on the road, I was encouraged
to venture my self upon them, and enjoyed this higher
good sacramentally to my great comfort & Blessing.

In the year 1746 the Ben^{ts} began to regulate & settle
Deconims. I got permission to move into the first of
this regulation at Achay's. Where the Manner of
Life being quite new to me and expecting in myself
something extraordinary, I came so far into my
own reason that I grew perplexed, and the more
so as I had gone to the Comⁿ which thro^{ugh} an
Aur^{ence} not altogether clear to me, I had also

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this led me so far that I was at last so distressed I
knew not what to do. in this perplexity I was determined
to take my retreat to my best Friend, with this resolve
if it must be so, to perish at His Feet casting my self
thus upon His Mercy. I became from that time more than
ever sensible of the cause of this my dubious State.
and that it proceeded from my own selfworking &
striving, whereby I could not come thro^{ugh} as all my happiness
depended on his free grace alone, & not on any thing
of my willing or doing, but simply depending & looking
unto Him in every case & circumstance, this gave me
the clearest insight into the poor Sinners happiness
I ever had before, & proved an abiding blessing to
me thro^{ugh} all future vicissitudes, I learned daily more
to know the poverty of my own heart and the in-
sufficiency of human reason. and as in the year
1748 I moved with other Sist^{rs} to the Little Moore
Deconimy. and was appointed to Visit the Country Sist^{rs}.
it proved a blessed school to my own heart. being
conscious of my unworthiness & want of experience, which
often drew tears from my eyes, but gave rise to many
tender & sinnerlike conversations with my souls Friend
whose Consolation, supported and comforted me on all
occasions. my Sist^{rs} who with me had the grace to be
members of the Congⁿ and particularly my Elder
Sist^r was a comfort to me. but as it pleased our
Sioⁿ

to call her to himself in the year 1740. which was
a painfull Circumstance to me, as thereby I lost in her
a tender faithfull heart, whose conversation had been
usefull and edifying to me upon many Occasions. but
as our Sav^r had approv'd himself in so many cases
to my heart as able to comfort & supply all my
necessities so I again cast myself upon Him anew
and thereby found a fresh proof of his tenderness &
faithfullness towards ^{me} his poor and bashfull one.

In the year 1752 the Sist^{rs} moved into their new
Choir House out of the several Aconimys. but
as some few still remain'd in the Paddy-Town
Aconimy I mov'd thither with another Sist^r to
inspect the same Aconimy. but got permission
in a few months to change with one out of the
Choir House, and came thereby at last to my
long desir'd home, rejoiced & thankfull for all the
kind & gracious leading & dealings of my d^r Lord
who had brought me thus far