

**24. The Hidden Way Across the Threshold, or the Mystery which hath been Hidden for Ages and from Generations. An explanation of the concealed forces in every man to open the Temple of the Soul and to learn the Guidance of the Unseen Hand. Illustrated and made plain with as few occult phrases as possible. By J. C. Street, A. B. N. Fellow of the Order S. S. S and of the Brotherhood Z. Z. R. R. Z. Z. Boston, Lee & Shepard 1887. 8vo. xi, 587. \$3.50.**

**The author tells us that he has gathered the contents of this ponderous and so far as mechanical labor and taste are concerned, very beautiful**

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book, "from intelligencies in the form and out of it, from souls embodied and disembodied," during his "union and intercourse with the Adepts of many lands and the Dervishes and Lamas of the East;" and he claims that he is led to lay it before the public in answer to "numerous calls from the two worlds." He finds it difficult, he says, to write so as to be understood by those who use the English language. His themes are; Astrology, sin, soul-seeds, astral photospheres, white, red and black magic, obsession, materialization, hermetic science, reincarnation, angels and archangels, soul-development, mind-cure, etc. etc. and it must be confessed that the language employed by him is far above human understanding, and is such as is commonly designated nonsense. He is an ardent believer in the materialization of spirit, and holds that "Where, in honestly conducted seances, the form has been seized and the medium has been discovered in the captor's arms, it has been transfiguration and not materialization, and mediums or their friends make a great mistake in not explaining this different phase to those who attend their circles." He informs us that:

"A physical or materializing medium is a person in whom the unconscious Will may be relaxed to a certain extent, liberating the life and the magnetic forces with which Spirits come in sympathetic unison, producing a balance or equipoise of elementary forces on our plain of being, and resulting in a material, tangible human form, separate from the medium. It must always be remembered, however, that this human form is made up of the life forces of the medium, and belongs of right to him or her, and the unconscious Will, but partially relaxed, is continually calling back its own. For this reason Spirits hold this form only by an effort and, when advancing far from the medium, are apparently drawn back again by irresistible attraction. Demoralization occurs when the Spirit releases its hold upon the form; the next force which asserts itself being gravity, the form drops and disappears. The clothing these forms wear is actual material substance for the time being, procured in various ways, generally focalized from the clothing of the medium or surrounding objects, and held on a physical plane on the same principle of a poise of forces. If focalized from inanimate objects, it may remain in our physical plane permanently and portions may be carried away from the seance. These are a few of the simple principles brought into play in Spiritual materialization."

If instructions are faithfully followed, spirits can be materialized, but "To invoke planetary spirits requires most silent concentration ere they respond. They should be invoked only by Adepts and Hierophants, who understand thoroughly the careful conditions necessary for perfect preparation to receive the communications, and open a channel through which they will guard and guide their favored ones. In order to exalt the true Soul up to the prophetic standard, we must purify the element of Fire which is in us, then concentrate the Fire of Soul in mirrors, crystals or globes. When the mind is fully attuned and surrendered to purer fire, it is then a pure glass, and to it come visions of the great world of Souls, the original world of Spirit."

The above quotations are fair specimens of the absurdities with which the volume abounds. It has no value except as a curiosity in literature.