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The Course of Life of our late S<sup>r</sup>.  
Lydia How's

I was Born in Pudsey in the Parish of Coverly, in the Year 17<sup>4</sup>~~4~~<sup>6</sup>. My Parents belonging to y<sup>c</sup> B<sup>m</sup> <sup>they</sup> sent me on my Birthday Dec<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> being 3 years Old, Accompanied by some S<sup>r</sup> to the Childrens Economy at Mileend. I began to take Notice, that the S<sup>r</sup> & Children used to tell how well they had felt at the Meetings, this I began to be heavy about, wondering how it was that I went also to their Meetings, I very often knew not a word that was said, much less to take any thing into Serious Consideration. I however pray'd our Sav. in A Childlike way, to give me A feeling of His dying Love in my Heart, in order to render me able to take in what I heard to an abiding Blessing.) This request the as the Childrens friend took notice of & granted the desire of my heart. from that time whenever I went to A Meeting it was to me as if I had never heard any thing, the like before. As A Child I felt in my degree the effects of the fall! Pride, & Selflove was often A plague to me, I did not like to be found fault with. Yet amidst all, I cant but look back with pleasure on My Childrens Years, for I often enjoyd A Childlike connection with my dear Sav. In the year 1752 if please our Sav. to take my dear Papa home to Himself, & 2 years after my dear Mama also, My Sis<sup>r</sup> & I was left in the care of the late B<sup>r</sup> Charsleworth, who has in all respects, acted like a true Father to us.

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In the year 1755. I with the Economy moved to Fulneck,  
this was indeed a new School forme: as I grew older, often  
felt how needfull it was, to remain a poor sin<sup>r</sup> before  
our Sav<sup>r</sup>. & each one else. There was not one that was found much  
fault with, therefore in my own breif I had many A struggle  
with the pride that lay there, which no one knew of, as I  
kept things pretty close to myself. March 25<sup>th</sup> 1760 I was  
Pee<sup>r</sup> into the Great Girls Choir, previous to which I kept a  
hearty band with our Sav<sup>r</sup>, intreating Him to take me  
anew & seal me as his own against every evil I should feel  
 liable to as a poor human creature. I indeed went on for  
some time in a true happy intercourse with my best friend.  
Aug<sup>st</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> the same year, I was Pee<sup>r</sup> into the Congregation.  
soon after this I became very dark & gloomy, which I own  
I had no need for, as it was a time when our Sav<sup>r</sup> intended  
to bring me thoroughly acquainted with myself, but instead  
of casting myself on His mercy, who surely lets all things  
turn out for good, to those that confide in him, I strove  
against my dear Sav<sup>r</sup>. & His Spirit, yea against all  
convictions not being willing to feel so bad as I was, but  
did all that I could to harbour pleasing Ideas: for  
I was frightened with myself thinking no one ever  
felt the like. Therefore I kept it all to myself & our  
Sav<sup>r</sup> at that time could not attain his aim with me.  
& therefore I went on for some time as tho' hardened.  
Nov<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1762 I came out of the Chil<sup>n</sup>. Economy to  
live in the Choir House, this was indeed quite anew  
School for me, I went on for sometime in a very legal  
way, knowing I was not as I should be.

I did

I did my best to mend, but all prov'd vain: our Sav<sup>r</sup>  
wanted to strip me of my self made holiness, which  
was a constant snare in my course, My labours often  
told me. I was thought on for g<sup>e</sup>. holy Comm<sup>n</sup>, but our Sav<sup>r</sup>  
gave me no leave, this caused me often to search into my  
heart wanting to find out the reason: but that clearness  
betwixt me & my wounded friend was not rightly establish'd,  
therefore in my best endeavours I found many stumbling blocks.  
I went on along time in this way, often uneasy knowing  
I was not right, & really was blind, to that which was my greatest  
hindrance, In the year 1764 after the general Synod, I felt  
a new stirring of grace tho' I did not go to y<sup>e</sup> Comm<sup>n</sup>. I felt  
I was a limb of Christ Body, & at the same time felt I stood  
in need of his chastisements. When the Cong<sup>n</sup>. therefore had  
no leave to go to y<sup>e</sup> Comm<sup>n</sup>, I felt more then words can  
describe, feeling my dear Sav<sup>r</sup> & the holy Ghost very busy  
also in my heart, in order to take away what was not  
according to the Heart of Jesus: & to make me to his Heart's  
pleasure in this world. I always felt it in the bottom of my  
heart, that my Sav<sup>r</sup> ordered it by grace so free! I shou'd  
a happy creature be: but it was impress'd on my mind not  
to be satisfied, till I felt true pardoning peace, seal'd to  
my poor heart, as an undeserving sinner, the convictions of  
y<sup>e</sup> Holy Ghost always followed me, & from that time I felt  
that our Sav<sup>r</sup> had a right to claim me as his property,  
March 16<sup>th</sup> 1765 as I was setting in a Room by myself  
it was as if the door to my misery was open'd, & I saw my  
self in such a light as I could never have imagined any  
One to have been in.

I directly felt a conviction not to stifle this feeling,  
for our Sav<sup>r</sup>. own was to bring me to a thorough  
knowledge of myself & of his unbounded mercy.  
I went on for some time very uneasy Night & Day,  
Our Sav<sup>r</sup>. left me awhile, not letting me feel any  
real comfort from him. Indeed it ~~went~~<sup>went</sup> so far with  
me, that I thought I had trifled so long with my  
Sav<sup>r</sup>. Grace, that He had quite forsaken me. In this  
distress I took the great Hymn Book, in order to open  
myself a verse, & accordingly I spend between these  
2 Verses.

Sometimes he his assistance,  
Does not directly shew:  
But acts as if at Distance,  
He stood, & purposed so,  
To let things go at random,  
And be no more thy God;  
Thee rather to abandon,  
To struggle with thy load.

\* \* \*  
Yet if he but discover  
That thou art faithfull still,  
When least thou hopes that favour  
He extircate thee will:  
Thy Heart shall get exemption,  
From that oppression sore,  
Which from no Ill intention,  
It for a season bore.

These Verses struck me so, that I lay'd the Book down  
& wept for some time. They ~~were~~ were a great encouragement  
to me, as I took them as from the Mouth of my D<sup>r</sup>. Sav<sup>r</sup>.  
who for a little was withdrawn from me.

The next Night when I went to Bed I felt very heavy, intreating our Sav<sup>r</sup>. to have Mercy on me.

That Heart which to the Naked poor & Blind  
Knows more to speak than Mother to her Child:

coud not withhold his Grace, but afire me with a pardony  
Says, that I was his Blood bought property. What a time  
that was, I cant describe: when we thus & together met.  
A thousand thanks to my d<sup>r</sup>. Sav<sup>r</sup> for my happy

Destination to be a poor Sinner: at that time I felt  
clearly that Mighty power, which lies in true poverty  
of spirit, & true Openheartedness commenced. The

Month following I was made Candidate for the holy  
Comm<sup>n</sup>, which was such a great blessing to me as  
I can never describe in words, On y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> of May I was  
Rec<sup>d</sup> into the S<sup>r</sup>. Choir which was a new School to me  
& the 27<sup>th</sup> of March following I partook of my Lords Body,  
& Blood for y<sup>e</sup> first time in the Holy Sacrement, this  
long wishd for grace prov'd such strength to my poor heart  
as words can neer describe, notwithstanding I often felt  
my spirit get the upperhand to hinder oer Saviours work  
of grace, as soon as I could openheartedly speak my  
mind to my d<sup>r</sup> Labourer, She did her utmost to help  
me, in directing me to my d<sup>r</sup> Sav<sup>r</sup> whose peircing Eyes

Puts selflove to the rack,  
And does expose self praise,  
But no triall view does take,  
Of faults & Weaknesses.

Thanks be to my d<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>, who has made me a partaker  
of the blessings he has merited for me this poor Children  
on

on Earth, & that at the appointed hour I can go with joy  
to meet my Bridegroom. Overt thou not exactly such a Day?  
What should I do?

These far her own words.

Our late departed S<sup>r</sup>. was from her Birth of a weakly  
Constitution & a peculiar attention to her diet was required  
to assist her lively Spirit, to ~~keep up under~~ At a bereavement, which  
became almost insupportable many Months before her  
~~the best Cler<sup>d</sup>. Companions did all in their power to make it~~  
~~disolution, which however was rendered bearable, thro' the~~  
~~bearable to see two dear Head & Heart go~~  
~~kind affiance~~ ~~of the best Companions~~. During the course  
of several years spent among us, She gave many proofs—  
in her walk & Conversation of a Childlike happy Connection  
with her Soul's Bridegroom, tho' She often accus'd herself—  
of not making so good use of the care Nursing of the  
Holy Spirit as She might have done! We have observed  
that she carefully avoided all unprofitable Conversation  
with all those who were of an uninter<sup>e</sup> mind; and was  
openhearted with her Labour<sup>s</sup> who felt many lively  
Testimonies of the Grace She enjoyed in her daily Course.  
She willingly assisted in all things to the best of her power  
her faithfullness went often further than her Bodily  
Circumstances would admit. She had many paroxysms  
of a nervous Cramp, which seized her often so strongly,  
that to appearance they were like to take her Life; which  
were so often repeated, that they weakened her Constitution  
so much, that in the beginning of Spring this year, She  
was oblig'd to take wholly to the Sick Room: In which  
place She had for 2 or 3 years past at intervals been in  
out. In Jan: She partook of the H. Sacrement, with  
the Congregation.

after

after which She kept a hearty Band with Her Labours, telling her how great Her poverty was, & that what our faithfull Sav<sup>r</sup> had bestow'd upon Her at this last Comm<sup>n</sup> was quite inexpensible, & that hereby Her whole perplexity which She hitherto had felt when thinking of leaving this World, was chang'd so much, that She desir'd nothing more ardently than to be with our Sav<sup>r</sup> after this She took more to Her Bed & Her natural faculties became weaker & weaker.

being sorely afflicted with a Cough, Accompanied with a Nervous Fever, which agitated her mind so powerfully, that she came into a strange Delirium, & having once in a Slumber a peculiar Dream in which She got an Impression, as if her d<sup>r</sup> Sav<sup>r</sup> woud not admit her into His presence; this together with a Consciousness of her unworthiness, & thinking of not having made the best use of the Connection She might have enjoy'd with her d<sup>r</sup> Redeemer, wrought the thought on her mind that there was no help for her, She must be lost.

thinking she had all the while been a hypocrite. Thereby she sank quite into a deep Melancholy, & could from that time admit of no Comfort, nor of any Conversation at all with any of the S<sup>r</sup> even not those who before had been Her most intimate friends.

this caus'd a painfull sensation & many anxious hours to Her Labours & Choir Companions, who did all in their power to comfort & encourage Her to look to her best friend & Sav<sup>r</sup> but all in vain. This her dark & sullen disposition continued till g. last Day: when She became more lively & friendly, testifying that She long'd much for to be with our Sav<sup>r</sup> & thanking all about her for what they had done for her, on which Day May 13. 1773 She unexpectedly with soft & gentle breathing closed the period of her Life which lasted 26 years.