



How I Converted These Manuscripts to Text

Some have expressed an interest in learning exactly how I converted Jane Lead's writings to text for publishing on this website, using the authentic manuscripts. And so I am happy to provide a little background on how I got involved in this, and how I went about it to accomplish it.

When I began this project in 2004, I was only interested in making the 17th Century version of Jane Lead's writings available in booklet form so that I could then pass them on to others. And so I contacted a website that already had these writings reproduced online, and asked them if I might be able to use their text. However at the time I was quite naïve about the process, and knew absolutely nothing about the tremendous amount of work that was involved. I was also totally ignorant in the area of Internet Law. I just did not realize the enormity of my request.

And while they did not grant my request, one volunteer kindly explained some of the things that are involved in this process. She also went so far as to lovingly suggest that I might not want to build my work upon another's foundation. This affected me very deeply, and through her helpful words the Lord brought me understand that if He had work for me to do in this arena, *He* would enable me to do it all myself. About this time I felt that the Lord would have me do something beyond reproducing the 17th Century text. And so the seed was planted for the creation of the modernized *Spirit's Day Version*.

In the beginning, I did not realize that the original manuscripts can easily be obtained on microfilm through the library system. And so I initially went the long route, and traveled three hours to the University of Idaho (twice) where I located five of them. I sent out some emails for help and was put in touch with Betty Hodges of the Shofar Letters, who graciously sent me four additional manuscripts. But once I discovered that I could get them through my local library, it eased my search tremendously.

When I began putting them into text, I started typing one word at a time—for I knew of no other way. I typed all day long for two weeks and ended up with a severe case of tendonitis in my right thumb and wrist. But even with a brace on my hand, and my thumb taped and immovable, I continued to press on. Then a friend suggested, "Can't you use a scanner and save yourself all that work?" I indeed had a scanner, but I *assumed* that it didn't have the capability of converting images to text. But upon investigation I discovered that all along I had a scanner that could indeed convert to text!

Once I started using the scanner my pace stepped up significantly. But I quickly discovered that what you see isn't necessarily what you get. That is, much of the original text does not convert properly, as you can see by the following:

Original Manuscript

Query. *How are Spirits to be Discern'd.*

IF this Query refers to the Persons themselves, who are, or suppose themselves led by a Good Spirit, it is Answered, That the Manner of Discernment is by Sensation, which is not to be described. This Sensation like the New Song, the New Name, and the White Stone, they only who do experiment, and while they do experiment, are able to distinguish. But then it may be Queried, How shall they who suppose themselves to be led by a True Spirit, and are not, be enabled to discern aright in this matter, since they are without this Spiritual Sensation, by which the others are assur'd concerning the Truth of their Visions and Revelations? *Ans.* They are to seek for it of God, by a perfect Mortification of their own Wills, and especially as to these very supposed Favours; and by most instant and violent Prayer. Thus some who upon the Commission of an evilthing, have been depriv'd of the Good Spirit of God, which they did enjoy, and have been deliver'd up to a Spirit of Delusion for some time,
 I i 4 Satan

Text After Conversion

~I~ery. *How are Spirits to be Diffrern'd.*

[F this Query refers to the Perfons I themselves, who are, orfuppofe themselves led by a Good Spirit.~ it is Anfwer- ed~ That the Manner of Difcernment is by Senfation, which is not to be described. This Senfation like the New Song, the New Name, and the White Stone, they only whodo experiment, and while they do e~periment, are able to difitioguffb. But then it may be Quer-ed, How (hail they who fuppofe themselves to be led by a True Spirit, and are not, be enabled to difszern aright in this niatter, fince they are without this Spiritual Sensation, by which the others are affur'd concerning the Truth of their Vifiotjs and Revelations ~ Auj They are to feek for it of God, by a perfeCt Mortification of their own Wills, and ~fpacially as to theſe very fuppofed Fa- yours; and by moſt infkant and violent Prayer. Thus Come who upon the Corn- miffion of an evilthing, have beeridepriv'd of the Good Spirit of God, which they did enjoy, and have been deliver'd up 4~—a- Spitit--of -Del ufl~ for Come time~

Ii 4 Satan

As you can see by what I've underlined in the illustration on the right, the conversion generates many misspelled words and extra characters. And so in my editing process the first thing I do is employ a macro I created that automatically performs over 100 specific changes. First the macro changes all of the text to the same font and size; it changes all italicized and bold letters to normal; and it removes unwanted tabs and spacing between words and punctuation. The macro also replaces commonly mis-converted characters such as "3" with "B" and "\$" with "S" and so on.

You will notice in the Original Manuscript that the letter "s" can appear two different ways, either as an "s" or an "f." Since every "f" cannot automatically be replaced with an "s," the macro replaces the more common words, such as "difcern" with "discern," and "fo" with "so." Next I do a "Find and Replace" and look up every remaining occurrence of the letter "f" and replace it accordingly. I do the same with the letter "e" which sometimes converts to the letter "c."

So after I implement the macro, and perform my manual replacements, I now have some text that I can work with for the next phase of my edit:

Text after my macro is applied

~I~ery. How are Spirits to
 be Diffrn'd.
 '[F this Query refers to the Persons I
 themselves, who are, or suppose themselves
 led by a Good Spirit. ~ it is Answer- ed~
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 Sensation, which is not to be described.
 This Sensation like the New Song, the New
 Name, and the White Stone, they only
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Now I'm ready to begin the next phase of the editing process—which is broken down into four different stages. First I do a word by word, line by line comparison against the original. (That includes every jot and tittle as well.) Second: I review the page again to check for capitalization against the original. Third: I reapply italics, bold lettering, or any other special fonts as they appeared in the original. Fourth: I cut and paste my reproduced text onto a master document. I perform all of these steps for *every page, page by page*, throughout the entire manuscript—except for those sections in the original that are heavily italicized. There is simply too much that doesn't convert properly; therefore I hand type all those sections.

When the master document is finished, in order to clean up the text, I then remove all hidden hyphens and OCR styles that carried over from the conversion process (i.e. “c1,” or “p3,” etc.). I then check for double spacing between words. Now I have a final copy which I save as my “Original Text.” This final copy is what I use as my base for the Spirit's Day Version. (See the article [About the Spirit's Day Version](#) to learn about the differences between the SDV and the original).

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As you can see, converting these ancient manuscripts is a detailed and time consuming process. But the Lord wonderfully opened up the way for me to quit my fulltime job in order to devote all of my time to this work. It's also a very solitary endeavor. Over the past five years I've spent many hours alone at my computer, day after day, month after month, year after year.

But this is my call in life—there is no place on earth I'd rather be.

In Christ Jesus,

Diane Guerrero
Editor of the Spirit's Day Version

Email: diane@janelead.org

Web: www.janelead.org

8220 Gage Blvd #707
Kennewick, WA 99336
U.S.A.