

Is Sherlock Holmes Religious?

Introduction:

Sherlock Holmes has been interpreted through many lenses. Some see him as a Christian for quoting the Old and New Testaments, for celebrating Christmas, for attending chapel during college, for praying, etc. Others see him as an agnostic for his stone cold reliance on science, reason, and logic that he placed “above all things.” For others, he is just as clearly an atheist for his strong recommendation of Winwood Reade’s anti-religious book, “Martyrdom of Man,” for his quoting Charles Darwin and other atheistic religious critics like Goethe and Jean Paul Richter, and for his rejection of supernatural considerations in his detective work.

Still others place Holmes in the Buddhist community after his Great Hiatus of three years, involving two years in Tibet, China. While at Lhasa, he had a “days-long visit” with its head Lama. Moreover, he studied and discussed the Buddhism of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in a scholarly way. Did he convert?

Or, perhaps his “short but interesting visit” with the Caliph of Khartoum, Sudan, was decisive for him. Afterward, he made a personal “report to the Foreign Office.” Was this a declaration of his Muslim faith?

Another possibility is that Sherlock found for himself a synthesis of several traditions and lived at a respectful but cautious distance from official religion.

Uniqueness of this book:

This is the **only** book that presents **all** of Holmes’ pertinent quotes as recorded by Dr. John H. Watson, M.D., and published by Arthur Conan Doyle—and does so without interpretation. That is the reader’s job! A few comments made by others in the stories, either to Holmes or about him, may be helpful.

Cases and method of presentation:

All sixty cases in the Sherlockian canon are listed alphabetically and accompanied by Jay Findlay Christ's famous 1947 four-letter abbreviations. Following that list, those with possible religious or other meanings will be identified and the quotes presented. Perhaps surprising is that only 7 did not make that list.

Spaces for readers' "Notes and Comments" will follow each quote, and one for their final Conclusion.

Sources of Sherlock's Quotes:

The source materials for this book are the Sherlock Holmes stories already in readers' hands. There is no need to purchase expensive books or visit libraries or thrift stores and yard sales for partial or complete collections of Holmes' cases. What readers already have, or find on the Internet, is sufficient (and all are online).

Because page numbers, illustrations, and print size vary, there is no way to identify a quote with a simple: "see page 526 for Holmes' soliloquy on the Moss Rose."

More reliable is to identify the story containing the quote, followed by the first few words of the paragraph in which the quote appears, and then the actual quote.

For example, the Moss Rose quote is from The Naval Treaty and falls within a paragraph beginning: "He walked past the couch...". These opening words introduce the quote which continues into the next paragraph. In the four "long stories, a quote may be referenced first by a major story heading and followed by the first words of the paragraph containing the quote, then the quote.

Readers are encouraged to read each entire story, especially surrounding paragraphs to determine for themselves the meaning of Holmes' comments. An advantage to this method of quote identification is that it violates no copyrights. No other book, author, edition, etc., is referenced. In fact, all 60 of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories are now in the public domain.

About the author:

Russell G. Waldrop is a native of Mississippi. He was born in Columbia, raised in Brookhaven, and received his B.A. degree from the University of Mississippi in 1968. His double major: Political Science and Sociology, are rich fields for the study of Sherlock Holmes and his world.

In addition to a professional Doctoral degree in counseling, Dr. Waldrop has earned Masters and Doctoral degrees in “Sherlockiana” through the Fortescue Scholarship program of the Beacon Society of London, England. As a member of that society, he promotes the academic study and advancement of “all things Sherlockian.”

Dr. Waldrop’s other degrees and certifications may imply, rightly or wrongly, how he might answer the question: “Is Sherlock Holmes Religious?” For that reason, he has been selective in sharing his history. Likewise, he has omitted an “Additional Readings” list as some may use it for clues rather than doing their own interpretive work.

Other non-biasing biographical information includes Waldrop’s Law Enforcement experiences. He graduated from the Peace Officers Standards and Training Academy in 1981 at Orleans Parish Prison in New Orleans, Louisiana, receiving the highest score on the P.O.S.T. exam. Following graduation and commission as a Deputy Sheriff of Orleans Parish, he became an Instructor in Law Enforcement Psychology in subsequent academies.

Dr. Waldrop is retired now from institutional work that included several mental and general hospitals. He lives in Virginia and serves throughout the Commonwealth as a grief and trauma counselor to employment sites where workers’ effectiveness is diminished by emotional traumas affecting the job performance, such as deaths, accidents or violence.

He is also a retired psychotherapist with 35 years in private practice.

Russ is married to the former Molly Moore Grogan Lindamood, a retired schoolteacher. They have three grown children: Kevin and Kelly Lindamood and Sarah Waldrop.

They also have a rescued Bichon Frise named Penny and Willy, a Dachshund.

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The 60 Sherlockian cases in the Conan Doyle/John Watson “canon”:

1. ABBE—The Abbey Grange
2. BERY—The Beryl Coronet
3. BLAC—Black Peter
4. BLAN—The Blanched Soldier
5. BLUE—The Blue Carbuncle
6. BOSC—Boscombe Valley Mystery
7. BRUC—Bruce Partington Plans
8. CARD—The Cardboard Box
9. CHAS—Charles Augustus Milverton
10. COPP—The Copper Beeches
11. CREE—The Creeping Man
12. CROO—The Crooked Man
13. DANC—The Dancing Men
14. DEVI—The Devil's Foot
15. DYIN—The Dying Detective
16. EMPT—The Empty House
17. ENGR—The Engineer's Thumb
18. FINA—The Final Problem
19. FIVE—The Five Orange Pips
20. GLOR—The “Gloria Scott”
21. GOLD—The Golden Pince Nez
22. GREE—The Greek Interpreter
23. HOUN—Hound of the Baskervilles
24. IDEN—A Case of Identity
25. ILLU—The Illustrious Client
26. LADY-Disappearance of LFC
31. MUSG—The Musgrave Ritual
32. NAVA—The Naval Treaty
33. NOBL—The Noble Bachelor
34. NORW—The Norwood Builder
35. PRIO—The Priory School
36. REDC—The Red Circle
37. REDH—The Red Headed League
38. REIG—The Reigate Squire(s)
39. RESI—The Resident Patient
40. RETI—The Retired Colourman
41. SCAN—A Scandal in Bohemia
42. SECO—The Second Stain
43. SHOS—Shoscombe Old Place
44. SIGN—The Sign of Four
45. SILV—Silver Blaze
46. SIXN—The Six Napoleons
47. SOLI—The Solitary Cyclist
48. SPEC—The Speckled Band
49. STOC—Stockbroker's Clerk
50. STUD—A Study in Scarlet
51. SUSS—The Sussex Vampire
52. THOR—Thor Bridge
53. 3GAB—The 3 Gables
54. 3GAR—Three Garridebs
55. 3STU—The Three Students
56. TWIS-The Man with a Twisted Lip

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| 27. LAST—His Last Bow | 57. VALL—The Valley of Fear |
| 28. LION—The Lion’s Mane | 58. (VEIL)—The Veiled Lodger |
| 29. MAZA—The Mazarin Stone | 59. WIST—Wisteria Lodge |
| 30. MISS—The Missing Three Quarter | 60. YELL—The Yellow Face |

Following are the 53 of 60 stories selected as possibly suggesting a religious or non-religious identity for Sherlock Holmes:

1. (ABBE) The Adventure of the Abbey Grange

The very last chapter of the story begins with Sherlock saying: “*Vox populi vox Dei*,” which is Latin for:

“The voice of God (is) the voice of the people.”

Notes and Comments:

In the paragraph beginning: “No, I couldn’t do it, Watson...”, Sherlock Holmes says:

“Once or twice in my career I feel that I have done more real harm by my discovery of the criminal than ever he had done by his crime. I have learned caution now, and I had rather play tricks with the laws of England than with my own conscience. Let us know a little more before we act.”

2. (BERY) The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet

In the paragraph beginning: “It is unfortunately more than...”, Sherlock says:

“The devil knows best what he said, but at last she became his tool and was in the habit of seeing him nearly every evening.”

Notes and Comments:

Sherlock begins the last paragraph of the story:

“I think that we may safely say,” returned Holmes, that she is wherever Sir Gorge Burnwell is. It is equally certain, too, that whatever her sins are, they will soon receive a more than sufficient punishment.”

Notes and Comments:

3. (BLAC) The Adventure of Black Peter

The very first paragraph of the story begins: “I have never known my friend...”. Within that paragraph, Dr. Watson says of Holmes:

“So unworldly was he—or so capricious—that he frequently refused his help to the powerful and wealthy where the problem made no appeal to his sympathies, while he would devote weeks of most intense application to the affairs of some humble client whose case permitted those strange and dramatic qualities which appealed to his imagination and challenged his ingenuity.”

Notes and Comments:

The next paragraph contains the quote:

“In this memorable year ‘95, a curious and incongruous succession of cases had engaged his attention, ranging from his famous investigation of the sudden death of Cardinal Tosca—an inquiry which was carried out by him at the express desire of His Holiness the Pope—...”

Notes and Comments:

4. (BLAN) The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier, (a story written by Sherlock himself)

In the paragraph beginning: “It happened that at the moment...”, Sherlock says in the next sentence of that paragraph:

“I had also a commission from the Sultan of Turkey which called for immediate action, as political consequences of the gravest kind might arise from its neglect.”

Notes and Comments:

5. (BLUE) The Adventure of The Blue Carbuncle

The very first sentence of the opening paragraph of the story begins:

“I had called upon my friend Sherlock Holmes upon the second morning after Christmas, with the intention of wishing him the compliments of the season.”

Notes and Comments:

In the paragraph beginning: “When the commissionaire had gone, Holmes took up the stone and held it against the light. ‘It’s a bonny,’ said he. ‘Just see how it glints and sparkles. Of course it is a nucleus and focus of crime. Every good stone is. They are the devil’s pet baits.’”

Notes and Comments:

Holmes listens to a client who uses religious language on him in this opening paragraph, and responds to him in the next one:

“Ryder threw himself down suddenly upon the rug and clutched at my companion’s knees. ‘For God’s sake, have mercy!’ He shrieked. ‘Think of my father!—of my mother! It would break their hearts. I never went wrong before! I never will again. I swear it. I’ll swear it on a Bible. Oh, don’t bring it into court! For Christ’s sake, don’t!’

“Get back into your chair!” said Holmes, sternly. “It is very well to cringe and crawl now, but you thought little enough of this poor Horner in the dock for a crime of which he knew nothing.”

Notes and Comments:

The last last paragraph of the story begins: “After all, Watson,” said Holmes...”, and it also contains the following quote:

“I suppose that I am commuting a felony but it is just possible that I am saving a soul. This fellow will not go wrong again; he is too terribly frightened. Send him to jail now, and you will make him a jail-bird for life. Besides, it is the season of forgiveness. Chance has put in our way a most singular and whimsical problem, and the solution is its own reward.”

Notes and Comments:

6. (BOSC) In the Boscombe Valley Mystery, in the sixth paragraph from the end of the story, the quote begins and continues for two more paragraphs. Watson is quoting Sherlock as saying:

“Well, it is not for me to judge you,” said Holmes as the old man signed the statement which had been drawn out. “I pray that we may never be exposed to such a temptation.”

“I pray not, sir. And what do you intend to do?”

“In view of your health, nothing. You are yourself aware that you will soon have to answer for your deed at a higher court than the Assizes. I will keep your confession, and if McCarthy is condemned, I shall be forced to use it. If not, it shall never be seen by mortal eye; and your secret, whether you be alive or dead, shall be safe with us.”

Notes and Comments:

The next to last paragraph of the same story begins:

“God help us!” said Holmes after a long silence. “Why does fate play such tricks as these with poor helpless worms? I never hear of such a case as this that I do not think of Baxter’s words, and say, ‘There, but for the grace of God, goes Sherlock Holmes.’”

Notes and Comments:

7. (BRUC) The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans

On the last page of the story, in the paragraph beginning: “Everything is known...,” Sherlock says:

“Let me advise you to gain at least the small credit for repentance and confession, since there are still some details which we can only learn from your lips.”

Notes and Comments:

8. (CARD) The Cardboard Box

In the last paragraph of the story, Watson records this question from Sherlock:

“What is the meaning of it, Watson?” said Holmes solemnly as he laid down the paper, “What object is served by this circle of misery and violence and fear? It must tend to some end, or else our universe is ruled by chance, which is unthinkable. But what end? There is the great standing perennial problem to which human reason is as far from an answer as ever.”

Notes and Comments:

9.(CHAS) The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton

This paragraph begins and contains Sherlock's comment to Watson:

“I’ll tell you, Watson. He is the king of all the blackmailers. Heaven help the man, and still more the woman, whose secret and reputation come into the power of Milverton! With a smiling face and a heart of marble, he will squeeze and squeeze until he has drained them dry.”

Notes and Comments:

The paragraph containing this quote begins:

“Technically, no doubt, but probably not. What would it profit a woman, for example, to get him a few months’ imprisonment if her own ruin must immediately follow? His victims dare not hit back. If ever he blacked an innocent person, then indeed we should have him, but he is as cunning as the Evil One. No, no, we must find other ways to fight him.”

Notes and Comments:

The next paragraph with Sherlock’s quote is:

“Well, I am afraid I can’t help you, Lestrade,” said Holmes. “The fact is that I knew this fellow Milverton, that is that I considered him to be one of the most dangerous men in London, and that I think there are certain crimes which the law cannot touch, and which therefore, to some extent, justify private revenge. I have made up my mind. No, it’s no use arguing. My sympathies are with the criminals rather than with the victim, and I will not handle this case.”

Notes and Comments:

10. (COPP) The Adventure of the Copper Beeches

The paragraph containing the quote begins: “It was not very long before...” It says:

“As to Holmes, I observed that he sat frequently for half an hour on end, with knitted brows and an abstracted air, but he swept the matter away with a wave of his hand when I mentioned it. “Data! data! data!”, he cried impatiently. I can’t make bricks without clay.’ ”

Notes and Comments:

The next quote from Holmes begins this paragraph and continues for two more paragraphs:

“They always fill me with a certain horror. It is my belief, Watson, founded upon my experience, that the lowest and vilest alleys in London do not present a more dreadful record of sin than does the smiling and beautiful countryside.”

“You horrify me” (Watson).

“But the reason is very obvious. The pressure of public opinion can do in the town what the law cannot accomplish. There is no lane so vile that the scream, or the thud of a drunkard’s blow, does not beget sympathy and indignation among the neighbors, and then the whole machinery of justice is ever so close that a word of complaint can set it going, and there is but a step between the crime and the dock. But look at these lonely houses, each in its own fields, filled for the most part with poor ignorant folk who know little of the law. Think of the deeds of hellish cruelty, the hidden wickedness which may go on, year in, year out, in such places, and none the wiser. Had this lady who appeals to us for help gone to live in Winchester, I should never have had a fear for her. It is the five miles of country which makes the danger. Still, it is clear that she is not personally threatened.”

Notes and Comments:

11. (CREE) The Adventure of the Creeping Man

This quote is embedded in the paragraph beginning: “My line of thoughts about the dogs...”:

“A dog reflects the family life. Whoever saw a frisky dog in a gloomy family, or a sad dog in a happy one? Snarling people have snarling dogs, dangerous people have dangerous ones. And their passing moods may reflect the passing moods of others.

“I shook my head. ‘Surely, Holmes, this is a little far-fetched,’ said I.

“He had refilled his pipe and resumed his seat, taking no notice of my comment.

“The practical application of what I have said is very close to the problem which I am investigating. It is a tangled skein, you understand, and I am looking for a loose end. One possible loose end lies in the question: ‘Why does Professor Presbury’s wolfhound, Roy, endeavor to bite him?’

“I sank back in my chair in some disappointment. Was it for so trivial a question as this that I had been summoned from my work? Holmes glanced across at me.

“The same old Watson!” said he. “You never learn that the gravest issues may depend upon the smallest ‘things.’ ”

Notes and Comments:

The last paragraph of the story begins: “The real source...” and the next quote starts at the second sentence:

“When one tries to rise above nature one is liable to fall below it. The highest type of man may revert to the animal if he leaves the straight of destiny... There is danger there—a very real danger to humanity. Consider, Watson, that the material, the sensual, the worldly, would all prolong their worthless lives. The spiritual would not avoid the call to something higher. It would be the survival of the least fit. What sort of cesspool may not our poor world become?”

Notes and Comments:

12. (CROO) The Adventure of the Crooked Man

This is a one-sentence paragraph where Holmes says:

“It’s every man’s business to see justice done.”

Notes and Comments

The last paragraph of the story begins with Sherlock Holmes saying:

“Yes; David strayed a little occasionally, you know, and on one occasion in the same direction as Sergeant James Barclay. You remember the small affair of Uriah and Bathsheba? My biblical knowledge is a trifle rusty, I fear, but you will find the story in the first or second of Samuel.”

Notes and Comments:

13. (DANC) The Adventure of the Dancing Men

This is the first of stories where Sherlock Holmes makes no comments that imply anything about his religious or non-religious identity. Readers may agree or disagree in the space below:

Notes and Comments:

14. (DEVI): The Adventure of the Devil’s Foot

This paragraph's first line draws Holmes' response in the next paragraph:

"It's devilish, Mr. Holmes, devilish!" cried Mortimer Tregennis. "It is not of this world. Something has come into that room which has dashed the light of reason from their minds. What human contrivance could do that?"

"I fear," said Holmes, "that if the matter is beyond humanity it is certainly beyond me. Yet we must exhaust all natural explanations before we fall back upon such a theory as this."

Notes and Comments:

Sherlock's next quote is embedded in the paragraph beginning "It won't do, Watson!":

"I take it, in the first place, that neither of us is prepared to admit diabolical intrusions into the affairs of men. Let us begin by ruling that entirely out of our minds. Very good."

Notes and Comments:

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Next is a one sentence paragraph that is followed by Sherlock's non-verbal response:

"I believe that you are the devil himself!," he (Sterndale) cried.

"Holmes smiled at the compliment."

Notes and Comments:

The last quote from the Devil's Foot begins the last paragraph of the story:

“I have never loved, Watson, but if I did and if the woman I loved had met such an end, I might act even as our lawless lion-hunter has. Who knows?”

Notes and Comments:

15. (DYIN) The Dying Detective

Sherlock's quote is given as a response to the paragraph beginning below:

“You are proud of your brains, Holmes, are you not? Think yourself smart, don't you? You came across someone who was smarter this time. Now cast your mind back, Holmes. Can you think of no other way you could have got this thing?”

“I can't think. My mind is gone. For heaven's sake help me!”

“Yes, I will help you. I'll help you to understand just where you are and how you got here. I'd like you to know before you die.”

“Give me something to ease my pain.”

Notes and Comments:

16. (EMPTY) The Empty House

The first quote is brief and is embedded deeply in the paragraph beginning:

“No, Watson, I never was in it.” ...

“We tottered together upon the brink of the fall. I have some knowledge, however, of baritsu, or the Japanese system of wrestling, which had more than once been very useful to me.” I slipped through his grip...”.

Notes and Comments:

The next Sherlockian quote follows the opening sentence of this paragraph.

“It came about in this way. The instant that the Professor had disappeared, it struck me what a really extraordinary lucky chance Fate had placed in my way.”

Notes and Comments:

Sherlock's next quote is introduced in the paragraph beginning: “I did not take long to think about it. ...” It reads:

“Halfway down I slipped, but, by the blessing of God, I landed, torn and bleeding, upon the path.”

Notes and Comments:

The quote is embedded in a paragraph beginning: “I had only one confidant—my brother Mycroft.” Sherlock says:

“I traveled for two years in Tibet, therefore, and amused myself by visiting Lhasa, and spending some days with the head lama. ...

I then passed through Persia, looked in at Mecca. and paid a short but interesting visit to the Khalifa at Khartoum, the results of which I have communicated to the Foreign Office.”

Notes and Comments:

The next Holmesian quote lies in the paragraph beginning: “It is true,” Holmes answered.

“There are some trees, Watson, which grow to a certain height, and then suddenly develop unsightly eccentricity. You will see it often in humans. I have a theory that the individual represents in his development the whole procession of his ancestors, and that such a sudden turn to good or evil stands for some strong influence which came into the line of his pedigree. The person becomes, as it were, the epitome of the history of his own family.”

Notes and Comments:

The last quote is the brief sixth paragraph from the end of the story:

“Ah, my dear Watson, there we come into those realms of conjecture, where the most logical mind may be at fault. Each may form his own hypothesis upon the present evidence, and yours is as likely to be correct as mine.”

Notes and Comments:

17. (ENGR) The Adventure of the Engineer’s Thumb is the second of cases that show no demonstrable examples of either a religious or non-religious identity for Sherlock Holmes. You may agree or disagree below:

Notes and Comments:

18. (FINA) The Final Problem

The quote is within the following paragraph:

“His career has been an extraordinary one. He is a man of good birth and excellent education, endowed by nature with a phenomenal mathematical faculty. ... But the man had hereditary tendencies of the most diabolical kind. A criminal strain ran through his blood, ...”.

Notes and Comments:

In the paragraph beginning: “ ‘Well, well, said he at last,” we find a conversation between Professor Moriarty and Sherlock Holmes. Moriarty speaks first:

“Mr. Holmes, you hope to place me in the dock. I tell you that I will never stand in the dock. You hope to beat me. I tell you that you will never beat me. If you are clever enough to bring destruction upon me, rest assured that I shall do as much to you.’

“You have paid me several compliments, Mr.. Moriarty” said I. “Let me pay you one when I say that if I were assured of the former eventuality I would, in the interest of the public, cheerfully accept the latter.

“I can promise you the one, but not the other.”

Notes and Comments:

Next is a quote within the paragraph beginning: “For a charming week we wandered...” Dr. Watson is describing Holmes’ awareness of his mission in life”

“It was a lovely trip...; but it was clear to me that never for one instant did Holmes forget the shadow which lay across him.

Notes and Comments:

Sherlock’s next quote begins the third paragraph from the one above. Sherlock tells Watson:

“I think that I may go so far as to say, Watson, that I have not lived wholly in vain,” he remarked. “If my record were closed tonight I could still survey it with equanimity. The air of London is sweeter for my presence. In over a thousand cases I am not aware that I have ever used my powers upon the wrong side.”

Notes and Comments:

The next to last paragraph of The Final Problem begins a last communication from Holmes to Watson, a handwritten note from the very precipice of his anticipated meeting with Moriarty at the Reichenbach Falls. The fourth sentence reads:

“I am pleased to think that I shall be able to free society from any further effects of his presence, though I fear that it is at a cost which will give pain to my friends, and especially, my dear Watson, to you. I have already explained to you, however, that my career had in any case reached its crisis, and that no possible conclusion to it could be more congenial to me than this.”

Notes and Comments:

The last quote is from Dr. Watson in the last paragraph of the story. He describes the impact Sherlock Holmes has made upon his life, saying that Sherlock Holmes is :

“...the best and wisest man I have ever known.”

19. (FIVE) The Five Orange Pips

In the paragraph beginning: “That hurts my pride, Watson, ...” Sherlock says:

“It becomes a personal matter with me now, and, if God sends me health, I shall set my hand upon this gang.”

The next paragraph begins with Sherlock exclaiming:

“They must be cunning devils, ...”

A few paragraphs later, Sherlock begins:

“I have them in the hollow of my hand. Young Openshaw shall not remain unavenged. Why, Watson, let us put their own devilish trade-mark upon them.”

Notes and Comments:

20. (GLOR) The “Gloria Scott”

Sherlock’s quote is embedded in the paragraph beginning: “You never heard me talk of Victor?” He says to Watson:

“Trevor was the only man I knew, and that only through the accident of his bull terrier freezing onto my ankle one morning as I went down to chapel.”

Notes and Comments:

21. (GOLD) The Golden Pince Nez

The Golden Pince Nez is the third case that contains no indication as to Sherlock Holmes' religious or non-religious identity. Readers may agree or disagree below:

Notes and Comments:

22. (GREE) The Greek Interpreter

This is the fourth case in which no clue is found that indicates Sherlock Holmes' religious or non-religious identity. Readers may agree or disagree below.

Notes and Comments:

23. (HOUN) The Hound of the Baskervilles

The four "long stories" locate the paragraph under a story division. In this famous case, the story division is: "CHAPTER 1: MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES and the paragraph where the quote begins is: "For the very simple reason..." Sherlock speaks:

"Now is the dramatic moment of fate, Watson, when you hear a step upon the stair which is walking into your life, and you know not whether for good or ill."

Notes and Comments:

Under the division heading, “CHAPTER 2: THE CURSE OF THE BASKERVILLES,” the paragraph containing the quote begins: “I must thank you...” and Sherlock’s quote in that paragraph is the following sentence:

“I had observed some newspaper comment at the time, but I was exceedingly preoccupied by that little affair of the Vatican cameos, and in my anxiety to oblige the Pope, I lost touch with several interesting English cases.”

Notes and Comments:

The next book division with a pertinent quote is: “CHAPTER 3: THE PROBLEM.”

Holmes is listening as Dr. Mortimer describes the claims that a gigantic “hell-hound” is loose and reigning terror upon the family of Baskervilles. Their conversation is as follows:

Sherlock Holmes: “And you, a trained man of science, believe it to be supernatural?”

Dr. Mortimer: “I do not know what to believe.”

Dr. Watson: “Holmes shrugged his shoulders.”

Holmes: “I have hitherto confined my investigations to this world. In a modest way I have combated evil, but to take on the Father of Evil himself would, perhaps, be too ambitious a task. Yet you must admit that the footprint is material.”

Dr. Mortimer: “The original hound was material enough to tug a man’s throat out, and yet he was diabolical as well.”

Sherlock Holmes: “I see that you have quite gone over to the supernaturalists.”

Notes and Comments:

A few paragraphs later, their conversation is as follows:

Holmes: “Put into plain words, then, the matter is this,” said he. “In your opinion, there is a diabolical agency which makes Dartmoor an unsafe abode for a Baskerville—that is your opinion?”

Dr. Mortimer: “At least I might go the length of saying that there is some evidence that this may be so.”

Holmes: “Exactly. But surely, if your supernatural theory be correct, it could work the young man evil in London as in Devonshire. A devil with merely local powers like a parish vestry would be too inconceivable a thing.”

Dr. Mortimer: “You put the matter more flippantly, Mr. Holmes, than you would probably do if you were brought into personal contact with these things.” ...

Notes and Comments:

A page or so over, the next paragraph containing a Holmsian quote is a conversation between Sherlock and Dr. Watson:

Dr Watson: “It must be a wild place.”

Holmes: “Yes. The setting is a worthy one. If the devil did desire to have a hand in the affairs of men—”...

Dr. Watson: “Then you are yourself inclining to the supernatural explanation.”

Holmes: “The devil’s agents may be of flesh and blood, may they not? ... Of course, if Dr. Mortimer’s surmise should be correct, and we are dealing with forces outside

the ordinary laws of Nature, there is an end of our investigation. But we are bound to exhaust all other hypotheses before falling back on this one.” ...

Notes and Comments:

The next story heading is: “CHAPTER 4: SIR HENRY BASKERVILLE.” Sherlock’s quote begins a paragraph. He asks Dr. Mortimer:

“What do you make of it, Dr. Mortimer? You must allow that there is nothing supernatural about this, at any rate?”

Notes and Comments:

CHAPTER 7: THE STAPLETONS OF MERRIPIT HOUSE.”

In the paragraph beginning: “It seemed hopeless to pursue...,” the last sentence has Dr. Watson speaking to the reader:

“I prayed, as I walked back along the gray, lonely, road, that my friend might soon be freed from his preoccupations and able to come down and take this heavy burden of responsibility from my shoulders.”

Notes and Comments:

In CHAPTER 8: FIRST REPORT OF DR. WATSON, the third paragraph begins: “All this, however, is foreign to the mission...” and the next sentence is a comment from Dr. Watson to Sherlock Holmes:

“I can still remember your complete indifference as to whether the sun moved round the earth or the earth round the sun.” ...

Notes and Comments:

In CHAPTER 12: DEATH ON THE MOOR, a small core of “exclamations” may be of interest to readers. The first begins a paragraph and is spoken by Dr. Watson:

“Good heavens, Holmes! Are you sure of what you say? How could you have permitted sir Henry to fall in love with her?”

The second quote comes from Holmes:

“The hound!” cried Holmes. “Come, Watson, come! Great heavens if we are too late!”

The third exclamation also begins a paragraph and is spoken by Holmes. He exclaims:

“Fool that I was to hold my hand. And you, Watson, see what comes of abandoning your charge! But, by Heaven, if the worst has happened, we’ll avenge him!”

Another slightly different exclamation is by Dr. Watson in a short paragraph in which he says:

“The brute! The brute!” I cried with clenched hands. “Oh, Holmes, I shall never forgive myself for having left him to his fate.”

And Sherlock replies: “I am more to blame than you, Watson. In order to have my case well rounded and complete, I have thrown away the life of my client. It is the greatest blow which has befallen me in my career.”

Another exclamatory comment is the last sentence in the paragraph before the one beginning: “We stood with bitter hearts... .” Holmes says:

“But by heavens, as cunning he is, the fellow shall be in my power before another day is past!”

Two other quotes from CHAPTER TWELVE, though non-exclamatory, may be of interest to readers considering this book’s theme.

One is by Sherlock who begins a paragraph by saying:

“There will be plenty for us to do tomorrow. Tonight we can only perform the last offices to our poor friend.”

Holmes’ last quote is a paragraph beginning:

“One cannot always have the success for which one hopes. An investigator needs facts and not legends or rumors. It has not been a satisfactory case.”

The space for notes and comments has been expanded to cover these several quotations.

Notes and Comments:

In CHAPTER 13: FIXING THE NETS, Sherlock Holmes makes this comment in a paragraph beginning:

“Dear me!,” said Holmes, “he seems a quiet, meek-mannered man enough, but I dare say that there was a lurking devil in his eyes.”

Notes and Comments:

A few paragraphs down from there is one that begins another quote:

“Yes, it is an interesting instance of a throwback, which appears to be both physical and spiritual. A study of family portraits is enough to convert a man to the doctrine of reincarnation.”

Notes and Comments:

In CHAPTER 14: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, in the paragraph beginning: “We are going too far...,” Dr. Watson describes Holmes this way:

“He dropped on his knees and clapped his ear to the ground. ‘Thank God, I think that I her him coming.’ ”

Notes and Comments:

Likewise, Dr. Watson describes Holmes in the second sentence of the following opening paragraph:

“Sir Henry lay insensible where he had fallen. We tore away his collar, and Holmes breathed a prayer of gratitude when he saw that there was no sign of a wound and that the rescue had been in time.”

Notes and Comments:

In CHAPTER 15, A RETROSPECTION, in the paragraph beginning: “So much for the death of Sir Charles Baskerville...,” Dr. Watson continues with this quote from Sherlock Holmes:

“You perceive the devilish cunning of it, for really it would be almost impossible to make a case against the real murderer.”

Notes and Comments:

24. (IDEN) A Case of Identity

The opening paragraph of the story is:

“My dear fellow,” said Sherlock Holmes as we sat on either side of the fire in his lodgings at Baker Street, “life is infinitely stranger than anything which the mind of man could invent. We would not dare to conceive the things which are really mere commonplaces of existence. If we could fly out of that window hand in hand, hover over this great city, gently remove the roofs, and peep in at the queer things which are going on, the strange coincidences, the plannings, the cross-purposes, the wonderful chains of events, working through generations, and leading to the most outre results, it would make all fiction with its conventionalities and foreseen conclusions most stale and unprofitable.”

Notes and Comments:

Likewise, the third paragraph of the story ends with Sherlock saying:

“Depend upon it, there is nothing so unnatural as the commonplace.”

Notes and Comments:

The last paragraph of the story begins with a comment by Sherlock:

“If I tell her, she will not believe me. You may remember the old Persian saying: ‘There is danger for him who taketh the tiger cub, and danger also for whoso snatches a delusion from a woman.’ There is as much sense in Hafiz as in Horace, and as much knowledge of the world.”

Notes and Comments:

25. (ILLU) The Adventure of the Illustrious Client

Sherlock’s comment to Dr. Watson comes near the end and begins the paragraph below:

“The wages of sin, Watson—the wages of sin!”, said he. “Sooner or later it will always come. God knows, there was sin enough.”

Notes and Comments:

26. (LADY) The Disappearance of Lady Francis Carfax

Sherlock's quote to Watson is the second sentence in the following paragraph;

“It shows, my dear Watson, that we are dealing with an exceptionally astute and dangerous man. The Rev. Dr. Schlessinger, missionary from South America, is none

other than Holy Peters, one of the most unscrupulous rascals that Australia has ever evolved—...”

Notes and Comments

In the same paragraph, in the next to last sentence, Sherlock tells Dr. Watson:

“All my instincts tell me that she is in London, but as we have at present no possible means of telling where, we can only take the obvious steps, eat our dinner, and possess our souls in patience.”

Notes and Comments:

The next quote from Sherlock is in the two-sentence paragraph that follows:

“My companion started. ‘Well?,’ he asked in that vibrant voice which told of the fiery soul behind the cold gray face.”

Notes and Comments:

Sherlock Holmes’ next comment to Watson is the following paragraph beginning:

“Well, well, we shall be strong enough. ‘Thrice is he armed who hath his quarrel just.’ ”

Notes and Comments:

Next is Sherlock’s comment when he found that the person in a casket was not who he feared it to be. Dr. Watson records this brief two-sentence paragraph:

“Thank God,” he muttered. “It’s someone else.”

Notes and Comments:

In the last sentence of the paragraph beginning, “Finally we found our way to Scotland Yard,” Dr. Watson quotes Sherlock as saying:

“We could but pray for patience and wait for the morrow.”

Notes and Comments:

Two paragraphs later and embedded in the middle of this brief paragraph is another quote from Dr. Watson. Sherlock says:

“What time was the funeral? Eight was it not?,” he asked eagerly. “Well, it is 7:20 now. Good heavens, Watson, what has become of any brains that God has given me? Quick man, quick! It’s life or death—a hundred chances on death to one on life. I’ll never forgive myself, never, if we are too late!”

Notes and Comments:

The third to last paragraph of the story begins: “For an hour it seemed that we were...”.

According to Dr. Watson, Sherlock said:

“Meanwhile, the funeral may proceed, and the poor old woman who still lies in that coffin may go to her last resting place alone.”

Notes and Comments:

Finally, in the very next paragraph (which is the next to last one in the story), Sherlock describes to Dr. Watson his own occasional mental fumbles and recoveries. The paragraph begins:

“Should you care to add the case to your annals, my dear Watson...it can only be as an example of that temporary eclipse to which even the best-balanced mind may be exposed. Such slips are common to all mortals, and the greatest is he who can recognize and repair them. To this modified credit, I may perhaps, make some claim.”

Notes and Comments:

27. (LAST) His Last Bow

The first quote is by Watson and the last by Holmes in consecutive opening paragraphs of the story:

“It was nine o'clock at night upon the second of August—the most terrible August in the history of the world. One might have thought already that God's curse hung heavy over a degenerate world, for there was an awesome hush and a feeling of vague expectancy in the sultry and stagnant air.”

Notes and Comments:

“Good old Watson! You are the one fixed point in a changing age. There’s an east wind coming all the same, such a wind as never blew on England yet. It will be cold and bitter, Watson, and a good many of us may wither before its blast. But it is God’s own wind none the less, and a cleaner, better, stronger England will lie in the sunshine when the storm has cleared.” ...

Notes and Comments:

28. (LION) The Adventure of the Lion's Mane (written by Holmes)

In the second sentence of the opening paragraph, Sherlock says:

“It occurred after my withdrawal to my little Sussex home, when I had given myself up entirely to that soothing life of Nature for which I had so often yearned during the long years spent amid the gloom of London.”

Sherlock comments again on “Nature” in the third paragraph where he says:

“Toward the end of July, 1907, there was a severe gale, the wind was blowing up-channel, heaping the seas to the base of the cliffs and leaving a lagoon at the turn of the tide. On the morning of which I speak the wind had abated, and all Nature was newly washed and fresh. It was impossible to work upon so delightful a day and I strolled out before breakfast to enjoy the exquisite air.”

In another short sentence in which Sherlock explains how he had previously known someone, he begins the paragraph by saying:

“He had gleaned along the same furrows as I had.”

Likewise, in the last two sentences of the paragraph beginning: “The pain was evidently terrible...”, Sherlock adds:

“Exhausted Nature had taken refuge in its last storehouse of vitality. It was half asleep and half faint, but at least it was ease from pain.”

Readers may comment on these in the extended space below:

Notes and Comments:

29. (MAZA) The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone

The following conversation, consisting of two opening paragraphs, is between Watson and Holmes:

Watson: “Where is this Count Sylvius?”

Holmes: “I have been at his very elbow all the morning. You’ve seen me as an old lady, Watson. I was never more convincing. He actually picked up my parasol for me once. ‘By your leave, madame,’ said he—half-Italian, you know, and with the Southern graces of manner when in the mood, but a devil incarnate in the other mood. Life is full of whimsical happenings, Watson.”

Notes and Comments:

The following conversation is between Count Sylvius and Sherlock Holmes. It consists of three brief paragraph openings:

Count Sylvius: “We give you best, Holmes. I believe you are the devil himself.”

Sherlock Holmes: ‘Not far from him, at any rate,’ Holmes answered with a polite smile.”

Notes and Comments:

30. (MISS) The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter

This is one of the stories in which no comments appear to indicate either a religious or non-religious identity for Sherlock Holmes. Readers may agree or disagree below:

Notes and Comments:

31. (MUSG) The Musgrave Ritual

This quote from Sherlock begins a paragraph:

“You know my methods in such cases, Watson. I put myself in the man’s place, and, having first gauged his intelligence, I try to imagine how I should myself have proceeded under the same circumstances.”

Notes and Comments:

32. (NAVA) The Naval Treaty

Watson’s quote of Holmes is introduced in one paragraph and the quote follows in the next paragraph:

Dr. Watson: “He walked past the couch to the open window and held up the drooping stalk of a moss-rose, looking down at the dainty blend of crimson and green. It was a new phase of his character to me, for I had never before seen him show any keen interest in natural objects.”

Sherlock Holmes: “There is nothing in which deduction is so necessary as in religion,’ said he leaning with his back against the shutters. “It can be built up into an exact science by the reasoner. Our highest assurance of the goodness of Providence seems to me to rest in the flowers. All other things, our desires, our food, are all really necessary for our existence in the first instance. But this rose is an extra. It’s smell and its colour are an embellishment of life, not a condition of it. It is only goodness which gives extras, and so again I say that we have much to hope from the flowers.”

Notes and Comments:

33. (NOBL) The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor

Dr. Watson narrates the following conversation in the last two paragraphs of the story:

Watson: “But with no very good result,” I remarked. “His conduct was not very gracious.”

Sherlock Holmes: “Ah, Watson,” said Holmes, smiling, “perhaps you would not be very gracious either, if, after all the trouble of wooing and wedding, you found yourself deprived in an instant of wife and of fortune. I think we may judge Lord St. Simon very mercifully and thank our stars that we are never likely to find ourselves in the same position.” ...

34. (NORW) The Adventure of the Norwood Builder

Watson describes the following conversation with Holmes in these three paragraphs:

Watson: “”Surely...the man’s appearance would go far with any jury.”

Holmes: “That’s a dangerous argument, my dear Watson. You remember that terrible murderer, Bert Stevens, who wanted us to get him off in ‘87? Was there ever a more mild-mannered Sunday-school young man?”

Watson: “It is true.”

Notes and Comments:

In another conversation, Holmes and Inspector Lestrade talk in this paragraph:

Holmes: “It strikes me, my good Lestrade, as being just a trifle too obvious...You do not add imagination to your other great qualities, but if you could for one moment put yourself in the place of this young man, would you choose the very night after the will had been read to commit your crime?”

Notes and Comments:

35. (PRIO) The Adventure of the Priory School

In the paragraph beginning, “Quite so...,” Watson mentions a few things that catch Holmes’ eye. In the next to last sentence of that paragraph, Holmes says: “There is a church there, you see, a few cottages, and an inn.”

Notes and Comments:

The one-sentence paragraph below is a statement that Sherlock Holmes made to “Thorneycroft Huxtable, M.A., Ph.D., etc.,” Headmaster of the Priory School:

“I must take the view, your Grace, that when a man embarks upon a crime, he is morally guilty of any other crime which may spring from it.”

Notes and Comments:

36. (REDC) The Adventure of the Red Circle

Holmes’ quote begins the following paragraph:

“Education never ends, Watson. It is a series of lessons with the greatest for the last.”

Notes and Comments:

37. (REDH) The Red-headed League

In the last four paragraphs of the story, Watson describes this closing conversation between himself and Holmes:

Watson: “You reasoned it out beautifully,” I exclaimed in unfeigned admiration. “It is so long a chain, and yet every link rings true.”

Holmes: “It saved me from ennui,” he answered, yawning. “Alas! I already feel it closing in upon me. My life is spent in one long effort to escape from the commonplaces of existence. These little problems help me to do so.”

Watson: “And you are a benefactor of the race, said I.”

“He (Holmes) shrugged his shoulders. ‘Well, perhaps, after all, it is of some little use,’ he remarked. ‘L’homme c’est rien—l’oeuvre c’est tout,’* as Gustave Flaubert wrote to George Sand.’ ”

*French: “The man is nothing; the work is everything.”

Notes and Comments:

38. (REIG) The Reigate Puzzle (“Squire” in some texts)

In this early one-sentence paragraph, Watson reports this comment from Holmes:

“ ‘The fates are against you, Watson,’ said he, laughing.”

In the following quote, Watson records the opening of the fourth to last paragraph of the story:

Sherlock Holmes: “I had a little talk with old Cunningham afterwards as to the motive of the crime. He was tractable enough, though his son was a perfect demon, ready to blow out his own or anybody else’s brains if he could have got to his revolver.”

Notes and Comments:

39. (RESI) The Resident Patient

In the next to last paragraph of the story, Watson quotes Holmes as telling Dr. Percy Trevelyan:

“Well, my dear sir, knowing the vindictive character of his old associates, he was trying to hide his own identity from everybody as long as he could. His secret was a shameful one, and he could not bring himself to divulge it. However, wretch as he was, he was still living under the shield of British law, and I have no doubt,

Inspector, that you will see that, though that shield may fail to guard, the sword of justice is still there to avenge.”

Notes and Comments:

40. (RETI) the Adventure of the Retired Colourman

Dr. Watson introduces this story with a brief note about Holmes’ mood, then describes their conversation:

Watson: “Sherlock Holmes was in a melancholy and philosophic mood that morning. His alert practical nature was subject to such reactions.”

Holmes: “Did you see him?” he asked.

Watson: “You mean the old fellow who has just gone out?”

Holmes: “Precisely.”

Watson: “Yes, I met him at the door.”

Holmes: “What did you think of him?”

Watson: “A pathetic, futile, broken creature.”

Holmes: “Exactly, Watson. Pathetic and futile. But is not all life pathetic and futile? Is not his story a microcosm of the whole? We reach. We grasp. And what is left in our hands at the end? A shadow. Or worse than a shadow—misery.”

Their conversation continues a few pages later:

Watson: “Where lies the difficulty?”

Holmes: “In my imagination, perhaps. Well, leave it there, Watson. Let us escape from this weary workaday world by the side door of music.” Carina sings tonight at the Albert Hall, and we still have time to dress, dine, and enjoy.”

Notes and Comments:

In the last couple of pages of the story, Watson quotes Holmes as he speaks to Inspector MacKinnon at the beginning of this paragraph:

“I’ll show you a grim little bit of evidence,” said Holmes, “and I am sure Amberley never observed it. You’ll get results, Inspector, by always putting yourself in the other fellow’s place, and thinking what you would do yourself. It takes some imagination, but it pays.”

Notes and Comments:

41. (SCAN) A Scandal in Bohemia

Readers will decide if the opening paragraph and a half from the beginning of this story holds any clues to the religious or non-religious identity of Sherlock Holmes:

“To Sherlock Holmes she is always the woman. I have seldom heard him mention her under any other name. In his eyes she eclipses and predominates the whole of her sex. It was not that he felt any emotion akin to love for Irene Adler. All emotions, and that one particularly, were abhorrent to his cold, precise but admirably balanced mind. He was, I take it, the most perfect reasoning and observing machine that the world has seen, but as a lover he would have placed himself in a false position. He never spoke of the softer passions, save with a gibe and a sneer. They were admirable things for the observer—excellent for drawing the veil from men’s motives and actions. But for the trained reasoner to admit such intrusions into his own delicate

and finely adjusted temperament was to introduce a distracting factor which might throw a doubt upon all his mental results. Grit in a sensitive instrument, or a crack in one of his high-power lenses, would not be more disturbing than a strong emotion in such a nature as his. And yet there was but one woman to him, and that woman was the late Irene Adler, of dubious and questionable memory.”

Notes and Comments:

“I had seen little of Holmes lately. My marriage had drifted us away from each other. My own complete happiness, and the home-centered interests which rise up around the man who first finds himself master of his own establishment, were sufficient to absorb all my attention, while Holmes, who loathed every form of society with his whole Bohemian soul, remained in our lodgings in Baker Street, buried among his old books, and alternating from week to week between cocaine and ambition, the drowsiness of the drug, and the fierce energy of his own nature.”

Notes and Comments:

Dr. Watson reports the following conversation with Holmes in the paragraph beginning:

Watson: “I could not help laughing at the ease with which he explained his process of deduction.

“When I hear you give your reasons,” I remarked, “the thing always appears to me to be so ridiculously simple that I could easily do it myself, though at each successive instance of your reasoning I am baffled until you explain your process. And yet I believe that my eyes are as good as yours.”

Holmes: “Quite so,” he answered, lighting a cigarette, and throwing himself down into an armchair. “You see, but you do not observe. The distinction is clear. For

example, you have frequently seen the steps which lead up from the hall to this room.”

Watson: “Frequently.”

Holmes: “How often?”

Watson: “Some hundreds of times.”

Holmes: “Then how many are there?”

Watson: “How many? I don’t know.”

Holmes “Quite so! You have not observed. And yet you have seen. That is just my point. Now, I know that there are seventeen steps, because I have both seen and observed.”

Notes and Comments:

Watson begins this paragraph with a description of Holmes in disguise:

“He disappeared into his bedroom and returned in a few minutes in the character of an amiable and simple-minded Nonconformist clergyman. His broad black hat, his baggy trousers, his white tie, his sympathetic smile, and his general look of peering and benevolent curiosity were such as Mr. John Hare alone could have equaled. It was not merely that Holmes changed his costume. His expression, his manner, his very soul seemed to vary with every fresh part that he assumed. The stage lost a fine actor, even as science lost an acute reasoner, when he became a specialist in crime.”

Notes and Comments:

42. (SECO) The Adventure of the Second Stain

This comment by Holmes is embedded in the paragraph beginning: “The man’s death is a mere incident—”. He continues:

“It is a case, my dear Watson, where the law is as dangerous to us as the criminals are.”

Notes and Comments:

43. (SHOS) The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place

This is a brief paragraph where Holmes says:

“My name is Sherlock Holmes,” said my companion. “Possibly it is familiar to you. In any case, my business is that of every other good citizen—to uphold the law. It seems to me that you have much to account for.”

Notes and Comments:

44. (The Sign of (the) Four

This is the second “long story.” Quote identification will still be by story headings first, then by paragraphs within the story heading that contain the quote then by the quote.

The first story heading has a very lengthy introduction. Readers will look for religious and/or non-religious aspects of the following Watson-Holmes:

In “CHAPTER 1: THE SCIENCE OF DEDUCTION,” Dr. Watson opens with a several-paragraph description of Sherlock Holmes’ cocaine use and his conversation with him about it:

Watson: “Sherlock Holmes took his bottle from the corner of the mantelpiece, and his hypodermic syringe from its neat Morocco case. With his long, white, nervous fingers he adjusted the delicate needle and rolled back his left sleeve cuffs. For some little time his eyes rested thoughtfully upon the sinewy forearm and wrist, all dotted and scarred with innumerable puncture-marks. Finally, he thrust the sharp point home, pressed down the tiny piston, and sank back into the velvet-lined armchair with a long sigh of satisfaction.

“Three times a day for many months I had witnessed this performance, but custom had not reconciled my mind to it. On the contrary, from day to day I had become more irritable at the sight, and my conscience swelled nightly within me at the thought that I had lacked the courage to protest. Again and again I had registered a vow that I should deliver my soul upon the subject; but there was that in the cool, nonchalant air of my companion which made him the last man with whom one would care to take anything approaching to a liberty. His great powers, his masterly manner, and the experience which I had had of his many extraordinary qualities, all made me diffident and backward in crossing him.

“Yet upon that afternoon, whether it was the Beaune which I had taken with my lunch or the additional exasperation produced by the extreme deliberation of his manner, I suddenly felt that I could hold out no longer.

“Which is it today?,” I asked, “morphine or cocaine?”

“He raised his eyes languidly from the old black-letter volume which he had opened:

Holmes: “It is cocaine,” he said, “a seven-percent solution. Would you care to try it?”

Watson: “No, indeed,” I answered brusquely. “My constitution has not got over the Afghan campaign yet. I can’t afford to throw any extra strain upon it.

Holmes: “He smiled at my vehemence. “Perhaps you are right, Watson,” he said. “I suppose that its influence is physically a bad one. I find it, however, so transcendently stimulating and clarifying to the mind that its secondary action is a matter of small moment.

Watson: “But consider!” I said earnestly. “Count the cost! Your brain may, as you say, be roused and excited, but it is a pathological and morbid process which involves increased tissue-damage and may at least leave a permanent weakness. You know, too, what a black reaction comes upon you. Surely the game is hardly worth the candle. Why should you, for a mere passing pleasure, risk the loss of those great powers with which you have been endowed? Remember that I speak not only as one comrad to another but as a medical man to one for whose constitution he is to some extent answerable.

Watson: “He did not seem offended. On the contrary, he put his finger-tips together, and leaned his elbows on the arms of his chair, like one who has a relish for conversation.

Holmes: “My mind,” he said, “rebels at stagnation. Give me problems, give me work, give me the most abstruse cryptogram, or the most intricate analysis, and I am in my own proper atmosphere. I can dispense with artificial stimulants. But I abhor the dull routine of existence. I crave for mental exaltation. That is why I have chosen my own particular profession, or rather created it, for I am the only in the world.”

Watson: “The only unofficial detective?” I said.

Holmes: “The only unofficial consulting detective,” he answered. I am the last and highest court of appeal in detection. When Gregson, or Lestrade, or Anthony (note alternate spellings) Jones, are out of their depths—which, by the way, is their normal state—the matter is laid before me. I examine the data, as an expert, and pronounce a specialist’s opinion. I claim no credit in such cases. My name figures in no newspaper. The work itself, the pleasure of finding a field for my peculiar powers, is my highest reward.”

Because of the length, extra space is given below for notes and comments.

Notes and Comments:

The next story heading is: “CHAPTER 2: THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE.” Under that heading is a paragraph that begins: “Look at his long letters, he said.”

Within that paragraph, in the last sentence, Holmes recommends a book to Watson while he leaves for a while. He says:

“Let me recommend this book—one of the most remarkable ever penned. It is Winwood Read’s (spelled differently in some texts) Martyrdom of Man. I shall be back in an hour.”

Notes and Comments:

In CHAPTER 6: SHERLOCK HOLMES GIVES A DEMONSTRATION, in the paragraph beginning “You will apply my precept,” Sherlock shares that precept as:

“...when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth?”

Notes and Comments:

In CHAPTER 7: THE EPISODE OF THE BARREL, the paragraph beginning: “Ah, well, there is no great mystery in that,” Sherlock says:

“How small we feel with our petty ambitions and striving in the presence of the great elemental forces of Nature! Are you well up in your Jean Paul?”

Notes and Comments:

In the paragraph heading, “CHAPTER 10, THE END OF THE ISLANDER,” the first sentence begins the paragraph where the quote is located. The first sentence is “Our meal was a merry one” and continues into the quote as Watson describes Sherlock this way:

“Holmes could talk exceedingly well when he chose, and that night he did choose. He appeared to be in a state of nervous exultation. I have never known him so brilliant. He spoke on a quick succession of subjects—on miracle plays, on medieval pottery, on Stradivarius violins, on the Buddhism of Ceylon, and on the warships of the future—handling each as though he had made a special study of it.”

Notes and Comments:

Under the same story heading, the next quote begins the paragraph and extends almost all the way through the paragraph. Watson quotes Sherlock as saying;

“Winwood Reade (spelled differently in some texts) is good upon the subject,” said Holmes. “He remarks that, while the individual man is an insoluble puzzle, in the aggregate he becomes a mathematical certainty. You can, for example, never foretell what any one man will do, but you can say with precision what an average number will be up to. Individuals vary, but percentages remain constant. So says the statistician.”

Notes and Comments:

Under the story heading, “CHAPTER 12, THE STRANGE STORY OF JONATHAN SMALL, Dr. Watson begins to wrap up the ending of the story and conclude his association with Sherlock Holmes. It, too, is lengthy and extra space is provided for reader response to their conversation.

Watson: “Well, and there is the end of our little drama,” I remarked, after we had sat some time smoking in silence. “I fear that it may be the last investigation in which I shall have the chance of studying your methods. Miss Morstan has done me the honour to accept me as a husband in prospective.”

“He gave a most dismal groan.

Holmes: “I feared as much,” said he. “ I really can’t congratulate you.”

Watson: “I was a little hurt. Have you any reason to be dissatisfied with my choice?” I asked.

Holmes: “Not at all. “I think she is one of the most charming young ladies I ever met and might have been most useful in such work as we have been doing. She had a decided genius that way; witness the way in which she preserved that Agra plan from all the other papers of her father. But life is an emotional thing, and whatever is emotional is opposed to that true cold reason which I place above all things. I should never marry myself, lest I bias my judgment.”

Watson: “I trust,” said I, laughing “that my judgment may survive the ordeal. But you look weary.”

Holmes: “Yes, the reaction is already upon me. I shall be as limp as a rag for a week.”

Watson: “Strange,” said I, “how terms of what in another man I should call laziness alternate with your fits of splendid energy and vigor.”

Holmes: “Yes,” he answered, “there are in me the makings of a very fine loafer, and also of a petty sort of fellow. I often think of lines of old Goethe:

“Schade dass die Natur nur einen Mensch
Denn zum würdigen Mann war und zum
Schelmen der Stoff.*

By the way, apropos of this Norwood business, you see that they had, as I surmised, a confederate in the house, who could be none other than Lak Rao, the butler: so Jones actually has the undivided honour of having caught one fish in his great haul.”

Watson: “The division seems rather unfair., I remarked. You have done all the work in this business. I get a wife out of it, Jones gets the credit, pray what remains for you?

Holmes: “For me,” said Sherlock Holmes, “there still remains the cocaine bottle.” And he stretched his long white hand up for it.

45. (SILV) Silver Blaze

In the next to last sentence of the paragraph beginning “He tried to bluster out of it...”, Sherlock tells Watson how he solved the mystery of the missing horse:

“Then I described how his first impulse had been to lead him back to King’s Pyland, and how the devil had shown him how he could hide the horse until the race was over, and how he had led it back and concealed it at Mapleton.”

Notes and Comments:

46. (SIXN) The Adventure of the Six Napoleons

In a brief paragraph that contains the quote, Sherlock speaks to Watson:

“I fear that you'll have a long wait,” Holmes whispered. “We may thank our stars that it is not raining.”

Notes and Comments:

47. (SOLI) The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist

The second sentence of the story begins “On referring to my notebook for the year 1895,...” and includes Watson’s description of Holmes:

“My friend, who loved above all things precision and concentration of thought, resented anything which distracted his attention from the matter in hand.”

Notes and Comments:

In the one-sentence paragraph just before the paragraph with the quote, Watson says of Holmes:

“My friend took the lady’s unloved hand, and examined it with as close an attention and as little sentiment as any scientist would show to a specimen.

“You will excuse me, I am sure. It is my business,” said he as he dropped it. I nearly fell into the error of supposing that you were typewriting. Of course, it is obvious that it is music. You observe the spatulate finger-ends, Watson, which is common to both professions? There is a spirituality about the face, however”—she gently turned it toward the light—which the typewriter does not generate. This lady is a musician.”

Notes and Comments:

This brief comment from Sherlock is the beginning of a paragraph:

“It is a part of the settled order of Nature that such a girl should have followers...”

Notes and Comments:

In the paragraph beginning: “I found that country pub...,” Sherlock says:

“There is some rumour that he is or has been a clergyman, but one or two incidents of his short residence at the Hall struck me as particularly unecclesiastical.”

Notes and Comments:

48. (SPEC) The Adventure of the Speckled Band

This quote is embedded in the paragraph beginning: “Alas,” replied our visitor, ...”

.

Sherlock’s client says:

“But I have heard, Mr. Holmes, that you can see deeply into the manifold wickedness of the human heart. You may advise me how to walk amid the dangers which encompass me.”

Notes and Comments;

In the paragraph beginning: “And so do I.,” Sherlock says:

“But what in the name of the devil!”

Notes and Comments:

The next quote is within the brief paragraph which continues into it. Sherlock says:

“Ah, me! It’s a wicked world, and when a clever man turns his brain to crime it is the worst of all.”

Notes and Comments:

This next Sherlockian quote is within the brief paragraph beginning: “It’s a swamp adder!” Holmes continues:

“Violence does, in truth, recoil upon the violent, and the schemer falls into the pit which he digs for another.”

Notes and Comments:

49. (STOC) The Stock-Broker’s Clerk

This is the of Holmes cases where no religious or non-religious quotes were found. Readers may agree or disagree below:

Notes and Comments:

50. (STUD) A Study in Scarlet

As in other “long stories,” quotes will be identified first by story divisions, then by the opening paragraph containing the quote, then the quote.

The following paragraph is found under the section: CHAPTER 2, THE SCIENCE OF DEDUCTION.

Under that story division is this brief paragraph which is the quote. Sherlock Holmes says to Watson:

“What the deuce is it to me?” he interrupted impatiently: “you say that we go round the sun. If we went round the moon it would not make a pennyworth of difference to me or to my work.”

Notes and Comments:

From the same story division the following quote from Sherlock comes within the paragraph beginning:

“From a drop of water,” said the writer (Holmes) a logician could infer the possibility of an Atlantic or a Niagara without having seen or heard of one or the other. So all of life is a great chain, the nature of which is known wherever we are shown a single link of it. Like all other arts, the Science of Deduction and Analysis is one which can only be acquired by long and patient study, nor is life long enough to allow any mortal to attain the highest possible perfection in it.”

Notes and Comments;

From the story division: CHAPTER 3, THE LAURISTON GARDEN MYSTERY, Sherlock’s quote is a brief, three sentence paragraph spoken to detectives Lestrade and Gregson:

“Read it up—you really should. There is nothing new under the sun. It has all been done before.”

Notes and Comments:

Under the story division: CHAPTER 5, OUR ADVERTIZEMENT BRINGS A VISIOR, the fourth paragraph begins a conversation between Holmes and Watson regarding Charles Darwin:

“It was magnificent,” he said, as he took his seat. “Do you remember what Darwin says about music? He claims that the power of producing and appreciating it existed among the human race long before the power of speech was arrived at. Perhaps that is why we are so subtly influenced by it. There are vague memories in our souls of those misty centuries when the world was in its childhood.”

Watson: “ ‘That’s a rather broad idea,’ I remarked.’ ”

Holmes: “ ‘One’s ideas must be as broad as Nature if one is to interpret Nature,’ he answered.”

Notes and Comments:

From the story division: CHAPTER 6: “TOBIAS GREGSON SHOWS WHAT HE CAN DO,” Holmes says in a one-sentence paragraph:

“To a great mind, nothing is little.” ‘remarked Holmes, sententiously.’

Notes and Comments:

In CHAPTE 7, LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS, the paragraph beginning “Sherlock Holmes drew a long breath, ...” contains this quote:

“I should have more faith,” ‘he said’; “I ought to know by this time that when a fact appears to be opposed to a long train of deductions, it invariably proves to be capable of bearing some other interpretation.”

Notes and Comments:

In PART 2, The COUNTRY OF THE SAINTS, CHAPTER 7: THE CONCLUSION, the second sentence of the opening paragraph (“We had all been warned...”, Dr. Watson tells readers:

“A higher Judge had taken the matter in hand, and Jefferson Hope had been summoned before a tribunal where strict justice would be meted out to him.”

Notes and Comments:

In the same section, the fourth paragraph contains Holmes’ advice to Watson:

“What you do in this world is a matter of no consequence,” remarked my companion, bitterly. “The question is .what can you make people believe you have done?”

Notes and Comments:

51. (SUSS) The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire

For two and a half paragraphs, Holmes and Watson discuss walking corpses, vampires, and any interested “ghosts.”

Holmes: “Rubbish. Watson, rubbish! What have we to do with walking corpses who can only be held in their graves by stakes driven through their hearts? It’s pure lunacy.”

Watson: “But surely,” said I, “the vampire was not necessarily a dead man? A living person might have the habit. I have read, for example, of the old sucking the blood of the young in order to retain their youth.”

Holmes: “You are right, Watson. It mentions the legend in one of those references. But are we to give serious attention to such things? This agency stands flat-footed upon the ground, and there it must remain. The world is big enough for us. No ghosts need apply.”...

Notes and Comments:

The following quote begins a paragraph with: “Possibly not.” Holmes is talking to a client:

“Possibly not. One forms provisional theories and waits for time or fuller knowledge to explode them. A bad habit, Mr. Ferguson, but human nature is weak.”

Notes and Comments:

52. (THOR) The Problem of Thor Bridge

This paragraph is Holmes’ comment to one client concerning his defense of another one.

“It is only for the young lady’s sake that I touch your case at all,” said Holmes sternly. “I don’t know that anything she is accused of is really worse than what you yourself have admitted, that you have tried to ruin a defenseless girl who was under

your roof. Some of you rich men have to be taught that all the world cannot be bribed into condoning your offenses.”

Notes and Comments:

Holmes makes this comment at the beginning of the paragraph that begins:

“Well, we shall set about explaining it. When once your point of view is changed, the very thing which was so damning becomes a clue to the truth.”

Notes and Comments:

Holmes begins this paragraph with;

“Never mind, my dear lady. You will hear from me, Mr. Cummings. With the help of the god of justice I will give you a case which will make England ring.”

Notes and Comments:

Holmes begins this paragraph spoken to Watson:

“Yes,” he said in answer to my remark, “you have seen me miss my mark before, Watson. I have an instinct for such things, and yet it has sometimes played me false.”

Notes and Comments:

The last two sentences of the story is this comment from Sherlock Holmes:

“Well, Watson, we have helped a remarkable woman, and also a formidable man. Should they in the future join their forces, as seems not unlikely, the financial world may find that Mr. Neil Gibson has learned something in that schoolroom of sorrow where our earthly lessons are taught.”

Notes and Comments:

53. (3GAB) The Adventure of the Three Gables

This paragraph is Holmes’ commitment to a client:

“I cannot promise to reciprocate, madame. I am not the law, but I represent justice so far as my feeble powers go. I am ready to listen, then I will tell you how I will act.”

Notes and Comments:

In a very short paragraph, Sherlock says:

“The original sin was yours.”

Notes and Comments;

This comment by Holmes begins a paragraph:

“Well, well,” said he, “I suppose I shall have to compound a felony, as usual.”

Notes and Comments:

54. (3GAR) The Adventure of the Three Garridebs

In the paragraph beginning: “Well, there are alternative explanations,” the last sentence has Sherlock saying;

“Tomorrow, Watson—well, tomorrow will speak for itself.”

Notes and Comments:

The paragraph that begins: “Well, that is what we are here to find out,” quotes Holmes in the last sentence as saying:

“Well, Watson, we can but possess our souls in patience and see what the hour may bring.”

Notes and Comments:

The following conversation occurs between Holmes and Watson when Watson is shot by Killer Evans:

Holmes: “You’re not hurt, Watson? For God’s sake, say that you are not hurt!”

Watson’s commentary: “It was worth a wound—it was worth many wounds—to know the depth of loyalty and love which lay behind that cold mask. The clear, hard eyes were dimmed for a moment, and the firm lips were shaking. For the one and only time I caught a glimpse of a great heart as well as of a great brain. All my years of humble but single-minded service culminated in that moment of revelation.”

Watson: “It's nothing, Holmes. It's a mere scratch.”

Watson's commentary: “He (Holmes) had ripped up my trousers with his pocket-knife.”

Holmes: “You are right,” he cried with an immense cry of relief. “It is quite superficial.” His face set like flint as he glared at our prisoner, who was sitting up with a glazed face.”By the Lord, it is as well. If you had killed Watson, you would not have got out of this room alive. ...”

Notes and Comments:

55. (3STU) The Adventure of the Three Students

The following paragraphs demonstrate how Sherlock Holmes brings a guilty student to confession, then offers him hope:

“Just close the door,” Holmes said. “Now Mr. Gilchrist, we are all quite alone here, and no one need ever know one word of what passes between us. We can be perfectly frank with one another. We want to know, Mr. Gilchrist, how you, an honorable man, ever came to commit such an action as that of yesterday.

“The unfortunate young man staggered back, and cast a look full of horror and reproach at Bannister.

“No, no, Mr. Gilchrist, sir. I never said a word—never one word!” cried the servant.

“No, but you have now,” said Holmes. “Now, sir, you must see that after Bannister's words your position is hopeless, and that your only chance lies in a frank confession.”

“For a moment Gilchrist, with upraised hand, tried to control his writhing features. The next, he had thrown himself on his knees beside the table, burying his face in his hands, he had burst into a storm of passionate sobbing,

“Come, come,” said Holmes kindly, it is human to err, and at least no one can accuse you of being a callous criminal. Perhaps it would be easier for you if I were to tell Mr. Soams what occurred, and you can check me where I am wrong. Shall I do so? Well, well, don’t trouble to answer. Listen, and see that I do you no injustice.”

Notes and Comments:

In the last two sentences of the last paragraph of the story, Holmes says to Gilchrist:

“As to you, sir, I trust that a bright future awaits you in Rhodesia. For once you have fallen low. Let us see, in the future, how high you can rise.”

Notes and Comments:

56. (TWIS) The man with the Twisted Lip

The paragraph that begins: “The name you see, is in perfectly black ink ...” has Sherlock discussing “trifles.” He says:

“It is, of course, a trifle. But nothing is so important as trifles.”

Notes and Comments:

This paragraph notes that Sherlock said:

“I want to test a little theory of mine,” said he, pulling on his boots. “I think, Watson, that you are now standing in the presence of one of the most absolute fools in Europe. I deserve to be kicked from here to Charing Cross.”...

Notes and Comments:

In the paragraph beginning: “It has been in some points a singular case,” Sherlock Holmes says:

“I confess that I have been as blind as a mole, but it is better to learn wisdom late than never to have learned it at all.”

57. (VALL) The Valley of Fear

In the Valley of Fear, the fourth “long story,” the quotes will be referenced as in the other three. The story or Chapter division will come first, then the first lines of the paragraph containing the quote, then the quote within that paragraph.

Very early In PART 1, THE TRAGEDY OF BIRLSTONE, CHAPTER 1: THE WARNING, and the paragraph beginning: “Exactly, my dear Watson!,” contains Sherlock's principle of

“—that highest value which anticipates and prevents rather than avenges crime.”

Notes and Comments:

In this same section Holmes’ comment begins the paragraph:

“Hum! That’s a large question. When you have one of the first brains of Europe up against you, and all the powers of darkness at his back, there are infinite possibilities.”

Notes and Comments:

In the same section, after Watson begins a paragraph with: “The Bible,” I cried triumphantly,” Sherlock Holmes responds:

“Good, Watson, good! But not, if I may say so, not good enough! Even if I accepted the compliment for myself, I could hardly name any volume which would be less likely to lie at the elbow of one of Moriarty’s associates. Besides, the editions of Holy Writ are so numerous that he could hardly suppose two copies would have the same pagination. ... He knows for certain that his page 534 will exactly agree with my page 534.”

Notes and Comments:

In the same story division, and in CHAPTER 2, SHERLOCK HOLMES DISCOURSES, in the paragraph beginning: “Mr. Mac, the most practical thing that...” has this Holmesian comment:

“Everything comes in circles—even Professor Moriarty...The old wheel turns, and the same spoke comes up. It’s all been done before, and will be again.”...

Notes and Comments:

In the same story division, then in Chapter 7, THE SOLUTION, is this one-sentence paragraph from Sherlock Holmes:

“Possess our souls in patience, and make as little noise as possible,” Holmes answered.

Notes and Comments:

In the same story division, CHAPTER 7, THE SOLUTION, in the paragraph beginning: “The clothes are commonplace,” Holmes says:

“I have spent an instructive afternoon in the rector’s library...”

Notes and Comments:

In PART 2, in the fourth paragraph of the EPILOGUE of the story, Holmes says:

“Deviltry, Watson!” ...

Notes and Comments:

58. (VEIL) The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger

In the second paragraph of the story, Dr. Watson describes Sherlock Holmes this way:

“It is not reasonable to suppose that every one of these cases gave Holmes the opportunity of showing those curious gifts of instinct and observation and which I have endeavored to set forth in these memoirs. Sometimes he had with much effort to pick the fruit, sometimes it fell easily into his lap. But the most terrible human

tragedies were often involved in those cases which brought him the fewest personal opportunities, and it is one of these which I now desire to record.”

Notes and Comments:

In the paragraph beginning: “Our visitor had no sooner waddled out of the room—...—than Sherlock Holmes threw himself with fierce energy upon the pile of common-place books in the corner. For a few minutes there was a constant swish of the leaves, and then with a grunt of satisfaction he came upon what he sought. So excited was he that he did not rise, but sat upon the floor like some strange Buddha, with crossed legs, the huge books all around him, and one open upon his knees.”

Notes and Comments:

This quote from Holmes to Watson comes very near the end of the story and is a short paragraph:

“Poor girl!” he said.”Poor girl! The ways of fate are indeed hard to understand. If there is not some compensation in the hereafter, then the world is a cruel jest.”

Notes and Comments:

Watson describes the drama at the end of this case:

“Yes,” said the woman, “the case is closed.”

We had risen to go, but there was something in the woman’s voice which arrested Holmes’s attention. He turned swiftly upon her.”

“Your life is not your own,” he said. “Keep your hands off it

“What use is it to anyone?”

“How can you tell? The example of patient suffering is in itself the most precious of all lessons in an impatient world.”

Notes and Comments;

59 (WIST) The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge

Midway in the story, in the paragraph beginning: “Good, Watson, very good—“, Watson quotes Holmes as saying,

“Well, we can only possess our souls in patience until this excellent inspector comes back for us.”

Notes and Comments:

60. (YELL) The Yellow Face

In the paragraph beginning: “If you wish to preserve your incognito...”, Watson quotes Holmes as saying:

“I was about to say that my friend and I have listened to a good many strange secrets in this room and we have had the good fortune to bring peace to many troubled souls. I trust that we may do as much for you.”

Notes and Comments:
