

Sherlock and the Rose

Sherlock Holmes is a fictional detective created by Scottish author and physician Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. A brilliant, London-based “consulting detective,” Holmes is famous for his astute logical reasoning, his ability to take almost any disguise, and his use of forensic science skills to solve difficult cases. All but four of the four novels and 56 short stories about him are narrated by Dr. John H. Watson, his faithful friend and biographer.

Woven into accounts about him is the revelation that Holmes’ thought deduction and observation were even more necessary to religion.

For example, tucked away in *The Adventure of the Naval Treaty*, Holmes is found studying a rose. Watson narrates: “He walked past the couch to an 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 an interest in natural objects.

“There is nothing in which deduction is so necessary as in religion,’ said he, leaning with his back against the shutters. ‘Our highest assurance of the goodness of Providence seems to me to rest in the flowers. All other things, our powers, our desires, our food, are really necessary for our existence in the first instance. But this rose is an extra. Its smell and its color are an embellishment of life, not a condition of it. It is only goodness which gives extras, and so I say again that we have much to hope from the flowers.’”

God created the world, and He put man and woman in the Garden of Eden, a place of peace and beauty. As with Adam and Eve, he wants us to enjoy our journey through life – to find joy and fulfillment.

But Holmes’ observation raises a related question: What other “extras” should we be observing and thanking God for today, this year, for our lifetimes?

– Beecher Hunter