

May 22, 2006 – Subject: Ancient and Modern Necromancy, alias Mesmerism and Hypnotism, Denounced.

Dear Friends: Mary Baker Eddy gave her students 26 subjects for weekly Bible Lessons, to be covered twice yearly. Flowing through the year in her order of the subjects, we hereby present fresh views of each one by outstanding Christian Scientists. In this way, we hope to partake with you of new unfoldments of her infinite revelation.

Our selection this week is from: — THE FUNDAMENTAL SIMPLICITY of the DIVINE PLAN — by Margaret J. Jewson.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

In Mrs. Eddy's lifetime there were many spectacular instantaneous healings, which drew the attention of the public to Christian Science and accounted for much of the rapid growth of the Movement. Why does one hear so little of such healings today? We pay lip service to the idea of the oneness and allness of God, but how many of us have the absolute conviction of this oneness that characterized the best of Mrs. Eddy's students in those early days? We accept these statements intellectually as true, but do we not at the same time believe we are mortals, living in a material universe, each with our own human personality? Yet we read on page 14 of Science and Health. "Entirely separate from the belief and dream of material living, is the Life divine", and "Become conscious for a single moment that Life and intelligence are purely spiritual, – neither in nor of matter, – and the body will then utter no complaints. If suffering from a belief in sickness, you will find yourself suddenly well". A single moment of absolute conviction can therefore produce an instantaneous healing!

How can we reach this absolute conviction? The same passage goes on, quoting Jesus, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; ...because I go unto my Father," – [because the Ego is absent from the body, and present with Truth and Love]". Jesus knew that he came from the Father and returned to the Father, but in so doing he never left the Father. He knew that there was nothing outside God; that Being (with a big B) includes all being; that Life includes all life; Truth includes all truth; Love all love; Mind all

mind. It is the all-inclusive I AM THAT I AM. These are simply different ways of saying that because God is All-in-all and all-in-ALL, there is nothing outside God, that heaven and earth are one, perfect, eternal, ever present and omnipotent infinite good. God is the great I AM, the one Mind which knows Itself and is forever expressing Itself by saying I AM. The one and only true creation is God saying I AM to Himself and expressing Himself as I AM, the I AM THAT I AM, saying "I AM you, I AM the-world, I AM the universe, I AM all, and all that really is, is ME". In Genesis this is expressed as "And God said, Let there be..., and it was so".

A Christian Science Sunday School class was once asked what it meant to "take the name of the Lord your God in vain". A small boy promptly replied, "God's name is I AM. So every time 'you say 'I am ill', or 'I am tired', or 'I am cross' you are taking the name of the Lord in vain". That boy had grasped something of the meaning of the I AM THAT I AM. All there is to the real you or me or anyone is God saying I AM, and therefore we must be entirely Godlike.

If we can look upon ourselves in this way, looking out from God, seeing ourselves simply as I AM expressed, then we shall indeed be able to heal instantaneously because the Ego will have gone to the Father and will be "absent from the body, and present with Truth and Love".

But physical healing is by no means the most important part of Christian Science. On page 2 of Rudimental Divine Science Mrs. Eddy writes. "Healing physical sickness is the smallest part of Christian Science. It is only the bugle-call to thought and action, in the higher range of infinite goodness. The emphatic purpose of Christian Science is the healing of sin". Nevertheless the Christian Science organization has talked healing so much, sometimes without much proof, and has fanatically urged its members not to accept medical help, until large sections of the public only know of Christian Scientists as "the people who won't have a doctor". Yet Mrs. Eddy and Science and Health do not take such a fanatical stand. For instance, look up S&H 401:27, 444:7, and 464:13.

Is physical healing taking place in Christian Science today? Yes, though not as much as there should be, and much of it is

unspectacular, being preventative rather than curative. Students, on the whole, enjoy better health than they would without Christian Science. But what of the healing of sin which Mrs. Eddy said was the emphatic purpose of Christian Science? What is “sin” in this context? Surely it is the world-wide belief in an evil power apart from God, that we were born into matter, live in matter and must eventually die out of matter. In other words, it is belief in a material world outside the I AM THAT I AM. This material, sinful world often seems more real to us than God’s spiritual creation. Yet Christian Science teaches us that it is only a dream world, a misconception of God’s world, a lie about God and man. To free ourselves from this belief is true healing. How it is done? Not by trying to improve ourselves by working spiritually upwards from a material basis. This only leads to disappointments and frustration. It is the curse on Adam, which condemned him to till the soil, to try so to “improve material beliefs by thought tending spiritually upward as to destroy materiality,” (S&H 545). It never works. Poor Adam found it brought forth “thorns and thistles” (Genesis 3), and poor mankind has worked hard through countless ages to try to improve the world spiritually with only limited success.

What alternative have we? A glorious one! We can look out from God instead of trying to climb up to Him. If we begin by seeing ourselves and all others as included in the I AM THAT I AM, as having no being and no body except God expressing Himself, we really begin to get somewhere, because we realize that we are already there! The material belief is like darkness. You can’t make darkness less dark by doing anything to the darkness itself. You can’t pack it up and throw it away. But turn on the light, and the darkness is gone, because it has no reality of its own. It is only the absence of light. In the same way, as we turn the light of Truth and Love onto the darkness of the error of all that is unlike God, it melts into nothingness.

However, the false beliefs of mortals run very deep, and have been built up through the ages in the subconscious mind of mankind. Mrs. Eddy calls it “elementary, latent error, the source of all error’s visible forms” (S&H 559). Often we are completely unaware of these latent beliefs, though they claim to influence and control our lives and the

whole world. These deep roots of error are symbolized throughout the Bible as the serpent which is introduced in Genesis, and which grows into the great red dragon in Revelation. From beginning to end it makes war upon the spiritual idea, trying to destroy good, and to hamper the development of spiritual understanding. These forces of evil seem more aggressive than ever in the world today, but we should not be dismayed that the dragon is being forced out into the open, showing itself in “visible error and audible sin” (ibid.) for today we have in our hands the weapon that can dissolve the dragon once and for all, namely, the divine Science of all being, a new understanding of I AM THAT I AM.

The complete answer to how we can use this weapon to destroy the dragon in our everyday lives is given in “The Apocalypse” chapter in Science and Health. But before looking at this, there are a few points to be considered.

Mrs. Eddy named the dragon “animal magnetism” – a name that has frightened many people. “Don’t mention it”, they say. “It is enough to declare evil to be unreal, and then leave Truth to deal with it”. They are afraid to bring it out into the open and face it. This is just sweeping error under the carpet. and is exactly what the dragon wants. It leaves him free to work underground in his own subtle way. Mrs. Eddy is recorded as saying to some of her students, “Keep declaring that Principle, Life, Truth and Love, are omnipotent. It is Love that uncovers and overcomes. To know the what, when, and why of error, is to destroy error. Students love to talk about God but they will not handle the serpent. They take up all sorts of arguments and claims, but they will not handle serpents. Yet the Scriptures tell us, ‘The shall handle serpents’. We don’t talk and uncover error enough. Error says Don’t talk about me – talk about God”. (Essays and Other Footsteps, p.70 And she says in Miscellany p.211, “All that error asks is to be let alone”

What is this animal magnetism, serpent or dragon that we must handle? It is an “animal” belief because it claims that life is in matter, that we live and move and have an “animal” being in matter, – an existence separate from and cut off from God. It is “magnetic” because it claims to draw everything and everyone into that belief, and mesmerize us all into believing it is true. This is the “elementary,

latent error” which is “the source of all error visible forms”, and which must be tackled if the dragon is to be destroyed. It shows itself as “visible error and audible sin” (S&H 559) in what are called natural disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones, extremes of weather of all sorts, floods, droughts, famines. In the political world it appears as wars terrorism, communism, dictatorships, trade union militancy, inflation unemployment, corruption in high places (including the Christian Science Movement!). In private life it is sin, disease and death, poverty, bad relationships, etc., etc. Do you see how impersonal it all is? It is not our sin our disaster, our disease. Nor do our troubles originate with ourselves, or our politicians, or terrorists, or any person. It is always the work of the dragon “which deceiveth the whole world” (Rev. 12:9). Those that seem to be acting wrongly (and we who see them as acting wrongly!) are dupes of the dragon. They often feel they are upholding their highest ideals, and do not realize that it is the old serpent that has deceived them, and established: stranglehold over them. We should not hate not condemn them. Rather we should look upon them and ourselves with compassion as the victims of sin to be healed by Love reflected in love. The sinner every time is the dragon, the one impersonal sin, animal magnetism, evil claiming to be the exact opposite of God, good, and fighting hard trying to destroy all that is good.

Another point to be noted is illustrated in Exodus chapter 4, after God had revealed Himself to Moses as I AM THAT I AM, and had instructed him to go and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt (material beliefs) Moses doubted his ability to do this, just as we doubt our ability to handle the universal beliefs of evil. He had a rod or staff in his hand, and God told him to throw it down. Immediately it became a serpent, and “Moses fled from before it”. But God told him to catch it by the tail and pick it up, and as soon as he had it in his hand, it was a rod again. Our rod upon which we can lean is some understanding of I AM THAT I AM. If we cast this down, separate ourselves from it, it becomes to us the serpent of animal magnetism, and evil seems to us a terrifying reality. But if we handle it by reuniting ourselves with the I AM THAT I AM, – there is no longer any serpent, for the serpent, evil, is nothing but a wrong concept or distorted image of God and man, a lie, and when we claim again our oneness with God, there just isn’t a serpent there

any more! We have nothing to fear, for when we claim our at-onement with God, no evil can touch us, and we are helping to destroy the belief in evil for the whole world.

Let us then take a quick look at the chapter, “The Apocalypse”, and see how the dragon can be completely nullified, remembering always that we of our own selves can do nothing. But, by identifying ourselves with God, the light of divine Truth and Love shines through us on to the whole problem of evil, and proves it to be non-existent. This is done, as mentioned in the Introduction, in sixteen stages.

WORD

1. (S&H 558:1-559:31) First we read of the mighty angel coming down from heaven with the little book, Science and Health. in his hand, and his right foot (Love) upon the sea of “elementary, latent error”, and his left foot (Truth) on the earth, “visible error and audible sin”. The right foot, Love, squeezes the invisible latent error, the hidden dragon, out into the open so that in conjunction with the left foot, Truth, it can be seen, and seen through, until it is destroyed. We are told to take the little book and eat it up, take Science and Health and read, study, and ponder it from beginning to end. Its taste is sweet when it heals us, but its digestion seems bitter when it demands that we face and tackle the belief in the dragon, in an evil power opposed to God.

2. (S&H 560:6-562:21) A second wonder is revealed, – a woman clothed with the sun who represents generic man, man made in God’s image and likeness, male and female one. In this “woman” we begin to see the true identity of ourselves and all mankind, who “through much tribulation” will “yield to the activities of the divine Principle of man in the harmony of Science”.

3. (S&H 562:22-28) The “woman” (ourselves) is in travail, and the “child we are travailing to bring to birth is the recognition by each one of us of our true Christ-selfhood.

4. (S&H 562:29-563:22) This is the truth that the dragon (who is the exact opposite of the synonyms) is trying to destroy by making us believe that discord is as real (or even more real!) than harmony. “But why should we stand aghast at nothingness? The great red

dragon symbolizes a lie, ...the sum total of human error”, whereas “the offspring of the spiritual idea... is prolific in health, holiness, and immortality”.

CHRIST

5. (S&H 563:23-565:5) The dragon’s sting is referred to as “spiritual wickedness in high places”, showing itself today in the militancy and/or corruption of leaders of terrorists, trade unions, political and religion! leaders, etc., etc., who incite “mortals to kill morally and physically even their fellow-mortals, and worse still, to charge the innocent with the crime” The dragon is “full of lust and hate, loathing the brightness of divine glory”

6. (S&H 565:6-28) But our “child”, the spiritual idea, when it is born, is safe, “caught up unto God, and to His throne”. Though “the material lie made war upon the spiritual idea, ...this only impelled the idea to rise to the zenith of demonstration, destroying sin, sickness, and death, ...to be found in its divine Principle”.

7. (S&H 565:29-566:24) The “child” is safe, but the “woman” as our dawning human realization of our true being as generic man, still suffer from “loneliness; doubt; darkness”. This is the wilderness experience, but this also brings us “spontaneity of thought and idea”, angel thoughts which cause the “material sense of things” to disappear in proportion as “spiritual sense unfolds the great facts of existence” (S&H 597).

8. (S&H 566:25-13) There seemed to be “war in heaven”, but Michael and Gabriel come to our rescue. The dragon had claimed a place in heaven, but Michael (Truth) casts him to the earth, while Gabriel (Love) can overcome him without a fight, for “to infinite, everpresent Love, all is Love, and there is no error, no sin, sickness, nor death”.

CHRISTIANITY

9. (S&H 567:14-568:12) But as long as we think heaven and earth are separate, we have then to tackle the dragon on earth, and through Science prove him to be powerless, pure delusion, nothingness.

10. (S&H 568:13-569:28) To do this every one of us has to “grapple with and overcome the mortal belief in a power opposed to God”

with all the evils stemming from it. If we can do this, then “is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ”.

11. (S&H 569:29-7) But until utterly destroyed, the dragon will use all his dying hidden and occult powers to persecute the “woman” until this forces us to awake fully from our apathy.

12. (S&H 570:8-572:18) While we are unwilling “to point out the evil in human thought, and expose evil’s hidden mental ways of accomplishing iniquity”, the dragon will still send out a flood to try to drown the “woman”. But there are “millions of unprejudiced minds” seeking Truth. Are we willing to “give them a cup of cold water in Christ’s name, and never fear the consequences?” If we are living and proving the truth by overcoming evil with good, we find that the earth is the manifestation, the out picturing, of heaven, for heaven and earth are inseparably one. With this realization, earth opens her mouth and swallows the flood. We, as the “woman”, are safely “clad in the panoply of Love [where] human hatred cannot reach [us]. The cement of a higher humanity will unite all interests in the one divinity”. Surely the understanding of this unity and brotherhood of man will deal effectively with our belief in strikes, disruptions, corruption, and divisions of all sorts. We begin really to see and to prove that the dragon is nothing but a lie. He is nothing!

SCIENCE

13. (S&H 572:19-574:2) As this becomes absolute conviction, we see the new heaven and the new earth where there is no more sea, no more “elementary, latent error”, no more dragon. “This is indeed a foretaste of absolute Christian Science. Take heart, dear sufferer, for this reality of being will surely appear sometime and in some way. There will be no more pain, and all tears will be wiped away.

When you read this, remember Jesus’ words, “the kingdom of God is within you.” This spiritual consciousness is therefore a present possibility.”

14. (S&H 574:3-576:7) “The very circumstance, which your suffering sense deems wrathful and afflictive, Love can make an angel entertained unawares”, for it forces us to face up to the problem

and see through it. This leads us to the realization of “Love wedded to its own spiritual idea” in the city foursquare, the New Jerusalem, where there is no “night” of darkness, doubt and fear, but the four sides of the Word, Christ, Christianity and divine Science reveal “the Golden Shore of Love, and the Peaceful Sea of Harmony.”

15. (S&H 576:8-577:31) This is also “The city of our God” with no temple [body] therein”, where male and female are one, and “there is no impediment to eternal bliss”. “This spiritual, holy habitation has no boundary nor limit”. It includes everyone and everything real. There is nothing outside it, and nothing which “defileth, ...or maketh a lie”

16. (S&H 577:32-18) All is fulfilled, and we no longer have any “wants” Why? Because we have reached the understanding of LOVE capitalized and we all “dwell in the house [the consciousness] of [LOVE] for ever”. We have been given the “Key to the Scriptures”, the key mentioned in the verse quoted on page 499 of Science and Health which was given to Philadelphia the city of brotherly love, which enables us to dwell in brotherly LOVE (capitalized) where there are no divisions or conflicts. Indeed we find that “the Gabriel of His presence has no contests”, because “to infinite everpresent Love, all is Love”, (S&H 567) and there is no longer any dragon to fight against. It has been completely dissolved by “the universal solvent of Love” (S&H 242).

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