

March 29 — SUBJECT: Unreality

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: **MARY BAKER EDDY'S—GOD'S GREAT SCIENTIST — Vol 111—** by Helen Wright. [Click here for a brief biography on our contributing authors.](#)

THE PARABLE OF THE PSYCHOLOGIST AND THE MAGICIAN

In his book, *Christian Science, Its Clear Correct Teaching*, Herbert Eustace includes an account by Ernest C. Rodwick, called *The Psychologist and The Magician*, which illustrates that hypnotic suggestion cannot deceive a mind which has fortified itself with the truth about any fact or circumstance. The fortified mind cannot be deceived by facts that present themselves negatively. -Godlessly.

In 1910 the Regents of Heidelberg University elected one of their ablest scientists, Professor Herman von Scholtz, a psychologist, “to study, to unravel, to explode or explain, scientifically if possible, the extraordinary performances of India’s [hypnotists] magicians.”

Von Scholtz journeyed to India.

After meeting Marbado, who as a magician or hypnotist had no peer in India, von Scholtz agreed to go through a three mile long cave—in which the magician would practice his art on him—to see if von Scholtz could overcome the hypnotist’s influence on his thinking.

Von Scholtz immediately went through the cave and saw nothing unusual in it. This was important.

The two men then began the test.

Almost immediately von Scholtz stood “transfixed, horrified, yes, petrified with fear,” as he saw the magician’s prostrate body covered with poisonous cobras. But after taking time to reason, he decided the hypnotist’s work had already begun.

Next “a wall of rock” stretched across the cave. Von Scholtz tried physically to knock it down, but saw his mistake and reasoned.

“To try to knock it down is to admit it is there and only adds to its solidity by hammering away at it. The truth is, the wall does not exist as an objective fact. (In Christian Science we learn that evil, discord, sin, sickness, death, do not exist as an objective reality or fact.) I should have walked on and not slapped, kicked and hammered at it; I should have looked upon it as a form of thought which the magician would have me accept as an objective reality, but which I deny.” So saying, von Scholtz closed his eyes and walked straight ahead and passed the apparent obstruction without hindrance, the wall disappearing as mist before the sun.

After von Scholtz surmounted several terrifying ordeals which followed the wall episode, he

became inclined to give way to a feeling of drowsiness, hunger and thirst. In the interest of scientific research, von Scholtz decided, with mental reservations, to submit to the suggestions of the hypnotist's influence. This decision put von Scholtz through more harrowing "experiences."

But before partaking of the water and food, which magically appeared, von Scholtz charged his subconscious mind with the truth that:

Even though he submitted to a suggestion unacceptable to reason so that the objective mind of the subject is set adrift in an abnormal direction, the subjective mind will nevertheless not cease to carry out its own normal purposes during the time the contrary influence is at work.

Von Scholtz was correct, and in spite of all the hypnotist's suggestions, he conquered illusion and made it back to the mouth of the cave. He proved that all the hypnotic suggestions of the Magician were unreal.

Mortal mind constantly presents pictures of discord, sin, sickness, and death. Ignorance of the truth of being causes mortals to accept these pictures as real instead of realizing they are misconceptions, mistranslations of God's actual creation. It was not until Christian Science came to the world that humanity began to see that its instant reaction to a negative picture should definitely be: "This is illusion, it is no more real than the flat earth or two railroad tracks coming together in the distance."

Von Scholtz had fortified his mind with the truth about the cave and about the entire experience. Therefore hypnotic suggestion could not, for long, deceive him.

The "savior" or "Christ" for von Scholtz was that before he began the test of the hypnotist's influence, he went through the cave, and saw there was nothing in it that could harm him — much as when we begin a Christian Science treatment with "God is All," we find there is no evil or error in all God's kingdom to harm us.

**BE FORTIFIED WITH THE TRUTH:
FREQUENTLY RECALL WHAT YOU KNOW**

In a similar way, we, as a Christian Scientists, upon arising in the morning, should immediately make scientific declarations, such as: "All is infinite Mind infinitely manifested," or "this is the day the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it," since all that God has is mine. Or "when will mankind awake to know their present ownership of all good?" (*My. 356:1*). Such statements, understandingly declared, become a savior, an underlying conviction of the unreality, the illusive nature, of the negative appearances that usually immediately begin to present themselves.

Additionally, no matter how busy we are during the rest of the day, it is most essential that we at intervals take time to declare some divine truth. This understandingly-declared Truth connects us with the kingdom of God within; it helps to break the dream of the material senses. More and more we are able to see evil and error as illusion, hypnotic suggestion.

These declarations can be made while we are hard at work on some mundane project. Mrs. Eddy was hard at work when the lady (*Un. 7:8*) with the death-dealing cancer entered. Mrs. Eddy did not have time to talk much with her, but she instantly realized that the cancer was

an illusion. She clearly saw “and sensibly *felt* that the infinite recognizes no disease.” Her instant, clear realization healed the cancerous condition.

Each time we declare statements such as: “the kingdom of God is within [me]... I and my Father are one” we make contact with our God-being. Such declarations help to set at naught the illusions, the universal hypnotic suggestions that continually confront us.

THE “WALL” IS ALWAYS ILLUSION

When von Scholtz realized there had been no wall in the middle of the cave during his first inspection of it — when he was not influenced by the hypnotic suggestions of the Magician — he saw his mistake in trying to batter down that which was merely illusion.

Mary Baker Eddy’s great discovery was the unreality of evil — “The cardinal point in Christian Science [is] that matter and evil are *unreal*” (*Mis.* 27:10). She proved evil and the belief of life in matter to be hypnotic suggestion, pure illusion.

“By knowing the unreality of disease, sin, and death, you demonstrate the allness of God. This difference wholly separates my system from all others” (*Un.* 9:28).

Mrs. Eddy made it clear that evil, any negative appearance, has only as much power as we give it. In a letter she wrote:

Did you but know the sublimity of your hope; the infinite capacity of your being; the grandeur of your outlook, you would let error kill itself. Error comes to you for life [just as hypnotic suggestion, came to von Scholtz for life] and you give it all the life it has. (Preserved in the Carpenter Mary Baker Eddy Collection.)



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