

June 14th - Subject: Is The Universe Including Man Evolved By Atomic Force?

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.

The lesson this week comes from excerpts of a William Duncan Kilpatrick Association Address. Biographies on our contributing authors can be found [here](#).

**MORE ON THE CLAIM OF ELECTRICITY
AND THE NATURE OF MATTER**

And this brings us again into the subject of electricity upon which we have dealt before, but there are a few things which might be enlightening, which we did not touch on. The main point is, that you understand the importance of handling this claim of electricity constantly. If this is done, I am sure you will find many things will be eliminated as problems which have heretofore appeared adamant.

In the first place we should recognize the fact that all material life is claimed to be the product of electricity. Years and years ago Mrs. Eddy saw and recognized this, and was ridiculed and criticized by the world of natural science and medicine for it. Today the natural scientist has resolved all matter into positive and negative electrical forces; and asserts electricity to be the ultimate or remote cause of matter. On page 450 of "Science and Health" Mrs. Eddy says, "Knowing the claim of animal magnetism, that all evil combines in the belief of life, substance, and intelligence in matter, electricity, animal nature, and organic life, who will deny that these are the errors which Truth must and will annihilate?"

Here Mrs. Eddy uses "electricity," "matter" and "organic life" synonymously. Thus we find that organic life, or the belief of life, truth, intelligence and substance as existing in matter, is synonymous with electricity. And what does she say about electricity? That is, what is it? On page 293 of "Science and Health" she tells us that, "Electricity is not a vital fluid, but the least material form of illusive consciousness,—the material mindlessness, which forms no link between matter and Mind, and which destroys itself." And, "Electricity is the sharp surplus of materiality which counterfeits the true essence of spirituality or Truth,—the great difference being that electricity is not intelligent, while spiritual truth is Mind." Here she refers to electricity as "material mindlessness," thus taking away from electricity even the claim of a mortal mind which does not exist.

One of the best things Mrs. Eddy ever penned in regard to this subject of electricity is to be found in the Third Edition of "Science and Health," where she says, "One of the material forces counterfeiting Truth is electricity." Is it not significant that despite an extensive and practical working knowledge of electricity, physical science remains ignorant of what that force actually is? Christian Science discloses, that since electricity is material, its essence must be mortal mind, because matter is the expression of mortal mind, and Christian Science further declares, that whatever the employment of electricity has done to advance the human race, is but the counterfeit of the genuine unfoldment of spiritual truth in consciousness. Thus considered, all material progress, in reversal, reveals spiritual unfoldment.

So in human consciousness, electricity, radioactivity, and the more recent theories and developments and prospects of interatomic force, are typical of the evolution of human thought out itself. The more matter is displaced in favor of its essence mortal mind, the thinner mortal mind's mask becomes, for remember—mortal mind cannot express itself, save as matter.

“Electricity is not a vital fluid, but an element of mortal mind, the least material thought that forms the link between what is termed matter and mortal mind; but recollect that both are strata of belief, the one called mind and the other called matter; the grosser substratum, name matter, is the poorest counterfeit of Mind; the more ethereal substratum of mortal belief, named mind, is the nearer counterfeit of immortal Mind or Truth or Love; but both are false presentations, for immortal Mind and mortal belief never touch. The electricity of mortal mind, its gases and forces are the counterfeits of the unerring and eternal Mind's omnipotence as Truth, its attraction as Love, and its adhesion and cohesion as Life, producing the eternal identities. Electricity is the essence of mortal and erring mind, that counterfeits that essence of the unerring and eternal Mind, termed Holy Ghost, the great difference being that one is divine and Holy, and the other human and unholy.”

Electricity, we thus find to be a manifestation of mortal mind. And how is mortal mind manifested to you and me? Why, as matter. Does mortal mind operate to create matter outside your and my individual consciousness? We have learned that it does not. Whence then does matter come from? It comes from the carnal or mortal mind, which you and I admit into our individual consciousness, and which, in turn, is projected or objectified as matter. Electricity being, then, a material manifestation of the carnal mind and mortal thought, whence comes electricity? Why, from individual thought. And as we begin to endow thought with spiritual intuitions and concepts, do you not see, we can begin to control and regulate our concepts of electricity to the extent of taking away from it the belief of harm and injury, and making it a useful and helpful part of our experience?

We have seen that through the right understanding of Truth, we should be able to regulate and control the weather, the clouds, the climate, etc. In like manner we should be able to control and regulate the belief of electricity, as electricity is just as certainly a manifestation of individual, material thinking as any other form of materiality. Recognizing that electricity, like any other form of matter, is the product of individual thought, we can begin to overcome the arguments of electricity by watching thought. Electricity is brought into action materially by friction. Therefore that which tends to mental friction, irritation, etc., might be considered as the foundation of electrical phenomena. We should handle static or electric magnetism.

The material theory is, that electricity exists in what might be termed solution throughout space without material manifestation, but that through certain material conditions or activities (friction), this element is brought into action. This inactive electricity is called static. This might be termed unconscious mind or thought. Electric or static magnetism expresses itself through the medium of friction, and is influenced in material theories by the state of atmosphere or climatic conditions. You will find that by handling the claim of electricity, static or electric magnetism, in cases of skin disease, eczema, deafness, irritation, etc., you will meet with much more success than ordinarily. On page 100 of “Science and Health” Mrs. Eddy quotes Mesmer as follows: “There exists a mutual influence between the celestial

bodies, the earth, and animated things. Animal bodies are susceptible to the influence of this agent, disseminating itself through the substance of the nerves." Now, if this is so in a material sense, you and I are in a position to determine just where this power or influence arises, because we know that there is nothing in material phenomena but what comes from individual thought. Therefore our remedy is knowing the truth and denying the error in our consciousness, thereby handling the claim where it originates—in individual thought. We must deny that the earth's magnetic currents, so-called, can control or govern man or regulate his life and prospects. Deny animal attraction and material substance. The argument of sex, and all pertaining thereto, has its foundation in the belief of electricity, friction, etc.

On page 124 of "Science and Health" Mrs. Eddy tells us, "Adhesion, cohesion and attraction are properties of Mind." I have seen a quotation purporting to come from the pen of our Leader as follows, "Electricity is the thought essence which forms the link between matter and mortal mind. God, the divine Mind, self-existent, self-perpetuating and self-energizing, is the great universal reservoir or dynamo, and the thoughts which flow from such a fountain, constituting a complete expression of the infinite Mind, Spirit, are thus shown to be inseparably linked with the Principle of Life, and action to be the manifestation of force or power."

In the tenth Chapter of Luke we read, "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

And in "Science and Health," on page 252, we read, "A knowledge of error and of its operations must precede that understanding of Truth which destroys error, until the entire mortal, material error finally disappears, and the eternal verity, man created by and of Spirit, is understood and recognized as the true likeness of his Maker."

And are we not now beginning to gain some understanding of that which has heretofore appeared to mankind as a mystery thereby gaining a victory over what has appeared to be the inevitable and unavoidable? It is mysticism which has given mesmerism and hypnotism and spiritualism the power over mortals, which they seem to have had. And now the guise is being stripped from the face of all these seeming unexplainable things by the truth of spiritual perception and understanding. "False systems resort to mysticism in their activities in order to hold the awed respect of otherwise sane and normal men and women, and it is the universal sense of awe and fear of what is not understood, which constitutes and maintains the supposed power possessed by them with which to work mischief. When the mysticism is gone their power is gone and your work is done."

Jesus said: "I beheld Satan as lightning." He could have said, and undoubtedly meant: "I beheld Satan as electricity for that was about the only form of electricity the world was familiar with in those days. From what Mrs. Eddy has written on page 293 in "Science and Health" above quoted, or referred to, it is evident that our Leader knew the true import of this saying of Jesus, and she evidently recognized that to successfully meet its claims to power, it is of vital importance to comprehend the modus operandi and the natural laws of this so-called force.

Physicians and physical scientists have quite generally adopted the theory which explains away matter, declaring it to be merely a condition of electric magnetism. Now we know in truth that the creations of God are positive. The only positive, eternal and vital force in the realm of the real is God and His creation, man and the universe. Therefore man is the positive of creation. Mortal mind, its material theories, in its attempted counterfeit of the spiritual or real, creates matter, including man, as the negative pole of electrical force. The opposite of the positive of Spirit must be the negative of matter. All matter then, under the law of reversal, becomes negative electricity. This condition, being the outcome of a mind which does not exist, becomes mindless. Therefore to take away from matter or electricity the destructive and creative force with which error would endow it, we must recognize it as mindless, godless and Christless, as to quality or quantity. Electricity cannot show itself without magnetism. Electricity is the reaction or reflection on a lower plane of the agency called magnetism. Electricity is magnetism, and magnetism is the so-called life of matter. Magnetism is the mindless counterfeit of Life-God. In mindless subservience to intelligence, this so-called natural law of magnetism or electricity renders possible our modern telephone, electric light, radio, and so on. Under proper control, this tremendous so-called power, available to man through this agency, becomes as "harmless as a dove."

... Now with the added theory of cells of the human bodies as constituting myriads of little electrical batteries, all under the influence of electricity which is generated by our emotions, may we not confidently replace the argument of negative or destructive electrification of man by the positive Spirit, and know that man, existing in the image and likeness of God, is ever in his eternal state of spiritual wholeness and perfection, and that he can never be influenced or controlled by the claim of electricity superimposed through emotions which God did not create and with which, therefore, man is not familiar? There is no surplus of mortal mind out of which electricity could be produced. Therefore there is no electricity that can influence or control the body of man.

Man partakes of the body of the Christ, the members of which are ideas of Mind which are fitly joined together under the regimentation and control of one infinite, loving and omnipotent Intelligence. Every member of man, every faculty of man, is an idea of Mind, and these ideas are all coordinated and synchronized under one infinite and all-knowing Intelligence. Man is not sequestered or forgotten. He is the eternal expression of an all-knowing Intelligence, which fills all space, and never for an instant loses sight of every least idea of His vast system of ideas. There is no electrical force to cause a cell riot in man. Man is not made up of cells. He is constituted of ideas. There is no rebellious thought. Cell riot is a form of rebellion. There is no rebellious thought, no resentment, repulsion or hatred in Mind.

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