

# Weekly Lesson Citations

**DEAR FRIENDS:** We plan to use this spot on our web page to bring you a different set of citations each week—expanding on specific citations from the “Weekly Lesson.” A paraphrase can so often open thought to new insights of familiar statements. In this way we hope to share with you some of the wonderful work that has been done in Christian Science over the past fifty years and in to the present by authors you may or may not have yet met.

Our selections this week correspond to the Lesson as a whole. The first is an article by Doris Grekel from her book **PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE**.

Our other selection is from an article by Wentworth Byron Winslow from his book **GOD WILL DO IT**.

**October 1st — Subject: Unreality**

## **CHAPTER XI FACT AND FANTASY WHAT IS REAL?**

**ONCE** upon a time there was a handsome young prince who was the son of a great and glorious king. Now this king was exceedingly great and good, and he had the gift of eternal life. He wanted his son to grow up to rule with him, but to do that he must be as great and good as his father, so the king told his son the secret of eternal life: you may do anything you want freely with but one exception; if you touch the knowledge of good and evil, you will die.

A wicked hypnotist tried to usurp the king’s throne, but he could not begin to unseat the king. In fact, he could not even get anywhere near him, because the king’s great goodness repelled evil automatically as a magnet repels the wrong pole, and this surrounded him with an impenetrable armor of light. So the pretender started whispering to the young prince and his young wife.

Once he had their ear, the rest was easy. He told them that the prince was already as great as his father, and that a taste of the knowledge of good and evil would prove it. The young couple thought they might just examine it to see for themselves, but the minute they touched it they were in the power of the wicked one who was a master hypnotist. They began to see the suggestions he planted and thought they were real. Not only they, but their children after them became servants of this wicked usurper, and, under his enchantment, they all saw wickedness and sickness and evil and death which did not exist in all the king’s domain.

Now the king had a second son who saw what the usurper had done to his brethren, and he said to his father, “I will go to save our people” This second prince came to the king’s children who were completely hypnotized and told them that the usurper was a liar and that all he said and did was a lie. He said to them, “Just believe my words and you will know the truth. The truth will break the trance and set you free.”

But the people were still hypnotized and under the power of the wicked one, so they took the king’s son and killed him. But this second son had not lost eternal life, because he had obeyed his Father and had not partaken of the knowledge of good and evil, so, even though they thought they had killed his body, he had the power to resurrect it. When he did this, the spell was broken, and the king’s children began to remember the everlasting kingdom of righteousness.

They began to believe again in eternal life and in the kingdom and power and glory of the king. And they began seeking to regain this lost kingdom. But all this time the usurper kept whispering to them, and they didn’t know it because he was invisible. He kept feeding them the knowledge of both good and evil, and, because he was invisible, they thought his suggestions were their own thoughts. So they went on seeing the things the hypnotist suggested to them, and because they thought these illusions were real, the glorious king and the everlasting kingdom seemed like a myth.

## CHAPTER XI - FACT AND FANTASY - WHAT IS REAL? (cont.)

The truth seemed almost too good to believe, but they loved to tell the story. They told one another that the king's son came that they might have life and have it more abundantly, even eternally, so they would no more see death. Then the usurper whispered, "That is right, but that is not this life. That is another life in the hereafter. This life is mortal."

So the king's immortal children talked about eternal life, but they still believed they had to die before they could find it; and they talked about the king, but they still did not remember that they were his family.

Now the king's youngest child was a beautiful daughter, and she said, "Father, let me go to teach our people the truth. Let me tell them again the great secret, that they may choose the tree of life and refuse to touch the knowledge of good and evil. I will tell them who they are. I will tell them about the usurper and his lies, and the hypnotic trance they have been in. I will tell them what is illusion and what is real. And, Father, let me take them the sword of the kingdom."

So the king's daughter came to her brethren and said, "This is Life eternal. There is no other life some place else. This is my father's kingdom. He will not come back to retake it, because he has never lost it. You have been hypnotized by a lie and have been seeing illusions. But I bring you the great sword of the kingdom which is the Spirit of Truth. Take this weapon and keep it with you, always, for it will bring all things to your remembrance, and with it you can dispell all illusions. You need but touch its point to any appearance and instantly you will know whether it is real or illusion. And as you use this sword, you will begin to remember. You will remember that life is eternal and stop counting the number of times this planet circles its sun. You will remember who you are; you will remember that you are the royal family on this planet and the rightful heirs to the kingdom.

This is where we come into the story. Does this sound like a fairy tale? It is, but it comes closer to world history than can be found in history books. When we touch history with the sword of truth, it is seen to be a recitation of the lies of the usurper to the throne of God together with stories of what hypnotized people have done. It is the story of the knowledge of good and evil, the belief of material life which begins with a lie and ends in death.

Though a lie has no substance nor reality, it is perpetuated as long as someone believes it. As long as we continue to believe in material death, we are Perpetuating the lie of material life.

If we touch the Spirit of Truth to occultism and witchcraft, we come closer to the supposed throne of the usurper, The founder of theosophy wrote: "There would be no life possible (in our world of illusions) without death, nor regeneration and reconstruction without destruction." This is a succinct statement of all that opposes God: first, it is a world of illusion; secondly, it has no possibility of life; thirdly, it is based upon death and destruction. Evil has nothing of its own, so it preys upon the structures of good, first to destroy them, then to reconstruct from the rubble its own perversions.

The children of God who have been hypnotized into believing in death and destruction have given their life which is eternal to the usurper, thus giving a semblance of life to the world of illusions. When these children waken to their identity, denounce death, and reclaim their eternal life here and now as a present reality, the world of illusions will collapse.

In the light of the foregoing fairy tale, let us consider the following questions:

1. Who is the usurper? On page 16 of our textbook we read, "In the phrase, 'Deliver us from evil,' the original properly reads, 'Deliver us from the evil one.' This reading strengthens our scientific apprehension of the petition, for Christian Science teaches us that 'the evil one,' or one evil, is but another name for the first lie and all liars."
2. Is the evil one a hypnotist? Mrs. Eddy tells us in Prose Works that the name of all evil is malicious animal magnetism, which she reiterates in Science and Health: "Animal magnetism is the voluntary or involuntary action of error in all its forms." In the chapter, Animal Magnetism Unmasked, we find this phrase: animal magnetism, recently called hypnotism."

Weekly Lesson Citations courtesy of the Mary Baker Eddy Institute ([www.mbeinstitute.org](http://www.mbeinstitute.org))

## CHAPTER XI - FACT AND FANTASY - WHAT IS REAL? (cont.)

3. How do we combat hypnotism? Mrs. Eddy has given us the first step in a lesson sermon read twice each year by Scientists around the globe: "Ancient and Modern Necromancy alias Mesmerism and Hypnotism Denounced." Our second step is to start differentiating between what is real and what is illusion. "In no instance is the effect of animal magnetism, recently called hypnotism, other than the effect of illusion." We have two lesson sermon topics which specifically help us with this step; namely, "Reality," and "Unreality."

4. Is death real? We have all read the lesson sermon, "Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real?" and I am sure that we have answered in the negative. But do we always believe the correct answer? In considering the question Is death real? let us start with the fact of eternal life as in the fairy tale. Anyone who is hypnotized sees, and acts upon, the suggestions of the hypnotist, although the audience knows there is nothing there. If the immortal children of the immortal king are hypnotized into believing that they are mortals, they will see death, because the word mortal means destined to die. But here Christian Science states the fact that mortal existence is a dream. "Life is real, and death is the illusion."

This leads us to the question, What is real? The student of the science of mathematics who commits arithmetical facts to memory and practises them regularly, applying his knowledge earnestly and consistently, solves problems with ease and seeks higher knowledge with which to solve greater problems. The more he learns and practises, the more glaring and obvious all errors become.

The Science of being is no different. Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures contains the complete answer to the question, What is real?, and, as we commit the facts to memory and apply them earnestly and consistently, we solve problems with greater and greater ease. Errors become increasingly glaring, and as in the practice of mathematics, just as obviously illusion, —nothing more than a miscalculation with no substance nor reality.

As we earnestly study to learn what is real, we must learn the great fact "that man is, not *shall be*, 'perfect and immortal.'"

The facts we make our own lead to greater understanding, and the question, What is real? becomes Who is real? The king's children are waking to their identity. Mrs. Eddy tells us that the chief cornerstone is "that Christian Science...casts out error, heals the sick, and restores the lost Israel."

"The purpose of the Hebrew Allegory ,representing evil as assuming a divine character, is to teach mortals never to believe a lie." (S.&H. 1411:29. 2, Ibid. 428:3. 3, Ibid. 428:22, S&H 540:21)

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE EMPEROR

There was born into the world a little baby who was an Emperor. He grew until he could creep just like any other little child. One day when the nurse was bathing him outside in the sunshine on a hot summer day, she turned away for a moment. When she turned back again this little Eastern Emperor had disappeared—vanished into thin air. The whole country was searched, north, east, south and west, but to no avail. Everything possible was done to find him, but finally the boy was given up for dead.

The thing which had happened, however, was most simple. When the nurse turned away from the child, he crept out of his little tub, crawled through an opening in the hedge which surrounded that part of the Imperial grounds, and in another moment he was outside. Just then there passed a slave, who seeing the little naked baby picked him up and took him not to his home, for he had none, but to his wife, and they brought the boy up as a slave.

The poor little chap underwent the most terrible vicissitudes. The life of any slave is bad enough but that of an Eastern slave is worst of all. He never knew what it was to have a roof over him, to have clothes or decent food. He slept out in the cold and heat, in the rain, snow and sleet; his covering, if he had one at all, was an old piece of bagging, but usually he went about naked. He was beaten, overworked and underfed and generally eked out a most wretched existence; yet at eighteen years of age he was a fine, strong, stalwart, healthy boy, tall and handsome.

Weekly Lesson Citations courtesy of the Mary Baker Eddy Institute ([www.mbeinstitute.org](http://www.mbeinstitute.org))

## THE EMPEROR (cont.)

Then he was discovered.

A man came to him and told him that he was the Emperor, that he was in his own Empire, that everything he saw about him, and vastly more, was his; all the people were his subjects, and moreover he was entitled to all the rights, privileges and prerogatives of an Emperor in his own Empire. The boy could not believe it and said so, but the man assured him that this was a fact and added, "If you do not believe me for the words, 'believe me for the very works' sake'" (John 14:11). The boy replied to this, "What do you mean by that?" The man answered, "I mean just what I say, Sire. If you cannot believe me when I tell you the truth in so many plain words, that you are the Emperor, then see if it will not work, because if what I say is true and you are the Emperor in your own Empire and have all the rights, privileges and prerogatives as such, then it will work." The Emperor asked then what he should do in order to see if it would work, and the other answered: "What do you want to do?" Whereupon the boy said: "I want money, clothes, food and such like." And to this the man said: "Order those things to be brought to you, and if the command is fulfilled you will surely know that you are the Emperor and that it is true." The boy then issued the order, and immediately the things asked for were brought to him in abundance and he felt within himself that what had been told him was the truth. Shortly after that he was able to take his place on the throne and govern his people.

Now suppose you had been called on to "treat" or pray for this boy, suppose you were as great a metaphysician as Jesus was, and that the boy himself requested you to help him; how many treatments would be necessary for you to give him in order to make this boy into the Emperor? Think it over a bit before reading on. How many? Ponder it a bit. The answer is none at all. He does not need a single prayer or treatment because he is and was and always will be the Emperor. What is needed is that he be TAUGHT the truth, to wit: —that he IS the Emperor and is in his own Empire with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives of an Emperor and that he can act accordingly.

This story, as a matter of fact, is to be found in the very first chapters of the Bible, but under a different terminology. Instead of there being born into the world an Eastern Emperor, we have born into consciousness the real man, the Son of God, the Christman, the Emperor of the Empire of Spirit, or the Prince of the Kingdom of God. There he is, made in the image and likeness of God, having dominion over all things, dwelling in the midst of this wonderful Kingdom of Spirit wherein "God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). This man is spiritual, perfect, bountifully supplied and has everything he can possibly require. That is the first picture.

The next picture we have presented to us shows him as lost, not out of a tub, but in a mist; and the third picture shows him, not as a slave in an Eastern Empire stripped of all he is entitled to, but as a slave to matter stripped of everything good that he is entitled to as the Son of God, absolutely naked and bereft of everything good. There he is in the Kingdom of God, now called the Garden of Eden, surrounded by everything that is needful to him such as vegetation, trees, rivers, streams, hills and valleys, gold, silver, precious stones, everything and anything that one could wish for his benefit; and yet, there he stands stripped, naked, deprived of everything that is his to make him happy.

Then God finds him and asks: "Where are you?" The man answers and says: "I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself" (Genesis 3:10). Whereupon God speaks in astonishment saying: "Who told you that you were naked? Where did you get such foolish ideas? Who told you you were naked? Who told you that you were deprived of all the good things of Life?" The man answered: "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she told me." God then causes him to bring her out from her hiding place and asks her: "Who told you all this foolishness about being naked, stripped of everything that is good? Where did you get this knowledge?" And she said in effect that it was the serpent that told her, or the carnal mind. Whereupon God said: "That is wholly nonsense, and there is not a bit of truth in it. Man is the Son of God and lives in the Empire of God; he has dominion and everything therein is his." Or as the Bible says, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But" God adds: "of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:16, 17). Or, in other words, "Everything in the garden is freely given to you. It is all good. Man is the Son of God, he has dominion, and all is his, but do not let yourself believe, that materiality is real or that evil exists, for the moment that you do so you die or forfeit your rights, privileges and prerogatives of the Kingdom of God and so believe yourself to be stripped of everything that is good and is rightfully yours."

Jesus knew all about this. He knew that man is the image and likeness of God, and that he has everything that is good—good health, good sense, good humor, good taste, good nature, life, love, abundance and such like.

Weekly Lesson Citations courtesy of the Mary Baker Eddy Institute ([www.mbeinstitute.org](http://www.mbeinstitute.org))

## THE EMPEROR (cont.)

One day a man was brought to him who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years who said he wanted' help. Jesus said: "Why, man, you are the Son of God in the Kingdom of God, and have all the rights, privileges and prerogatives of the' Son of God." .The man answered: "I cannot believe it." Jesus said: "Well, son, if you cannot believe me for the words, 'believe me for the very works' sake.

The man answered: "What do you mean by that?" Jesus answered: "I mean just what I say—that if you cannot believe me when I tell you plainly, in so many words that this is the Kingdom of God and that you are the Son of God, enjoying all the rights, privileges and prerogatives to which that Son is entitled, then, if you cannot believe me when I say this, try it out and see if it will not work, because if it really be true then it must work." The man asked: "What shall I do?" Jesus looked at him and said: "Why, man, what did you come to me for?" He replied: "I want to walk; I have been paralyzed for thirty-eight years; I want to walk and be able to go about like others. Help me to do so." Then Jesus said: "Well, then, my son, exercise the rights, privileges and prerogatives of the Son of God in the Kingdom of God and take up your bed and walk. Try it." The man obediently tried to do so and immediately he was healed.

A blind man came to him. He asked for help. Jesus said: "Why, my son, you are the Son of God in the Kingdom of God and right at this moment you enjoy the rights, privileges and prerogatives of the Son of God." The man answered him: "Sir, I cannot believe it." Said Jesus again: "My boy, if you cannot believe me for the words, 'believe me for the very works' sake." "What do you mean by that?" asked the boy; and Jesus said: "I mean just what I say to you, that if you cannot believe me when I tell you in so many plain words that you are the Son of God, perfect, harmonious, spiritual, having dominion, and enjoying all the good things of the Kingdom of God, then try it out or see if it will not work, for if this be so then it WILL work." The boy said: "What shall I do?" Jesus said: "What do you wish to do?" The boy answered and said: "Sir, I want to be healed. I have been blind ever since I was born. I have never seen the trees and flowers of which I hear others speak; I have never seen the green grass, the blue sky, the rivers and streams as others do; I want to see; Lord, open my eyes that I may see."

Then Jesus said to him: "My young friend, use the rights, privileges and prerogatives which are yours as the Son of God and open your eyes and see. Try it." The boy tried to do as he was told and went away SEEING.

Try it yourself. If it be true that the Kingdom of God IS here—and it IS here— then it will certainly work.