

November 22, 2004 - 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 first selection this week is from — TALKS GIVEN BY JOHN DOORLY ON THE SCIENCE OF THE BIBLE — VOL. SEVEN. The other selection is from — THE GOSPEL OF MARK — A VERBATIM REPORT OF JOHN L. MORGAN'S FELIXSTOWE SUMMER SCHOOL — 1955. For a brief biography on our featured authors, click [here](#).

Controlling the Unconscious

Someone has asked me a most interesting question, the substance of which is this: Granted that the consciousness of Truth controls a fluttering or a racing heart during the day, what about the situation when one wakes up in the night in a state of nightmare, and one's heart is in a similar condition? Mrs. Eddy gives the perfect answer in the following statement: "Christian Science declares that sickness is a belief: a latent fear, made manifest on the body in different forms of fear or disease. This fear is formed unconsciously in the silent thought, as when you awaken from sleep and feel ill, experiencing the effect of a fear whose existence you do not realize; but if you fall asleep, actually conscious of the truth of Christian Science, — namely, that man's harmony is no more to be invaded than the rhythm of the universe, — you cannot awake in fear or suffering of any sort" (*Ret. 61:3-12*).

We need to know in connection with this question of fear that our consciousness of Truth is so searching that it goes to the bottom of mental action, and it searches and sifts what is commonly called the unconscious as certainly as it does the conscious. It has been said that the human being is rather like an iceberg. The iceberg shows about ten percent of its mass above the water and the rest is submerged. These days, when so much is talked about psychology and associated subjects, we hear constant references to the

unconscious; and undoubtedly, in the background of our own thought, there is a domain that is rightly spoken of as being unconscious. Mrs. Eddy speaks of it as involuntary error, and we took references yesterday to show that error is abstract as well as concrete, and that the lie is collective as well as individual. So we need to take account of these factors, and to know each day that Truth, in going to the bottom of mental action, penetrates every form and every phase of error at every depth. Mrs. Eddy writes: "Christian Science goes to the bottom of mental action, and reveals the theodicy which indicates the rightness of all divine action, as the emanation of divine Mind, and the consequent wrongness of the opposite so-called action, evil, occultism, necromancy, mesmerism, animal magnetism, hypnotism" (*S.&H. 104:13-18*); and notice the very definite and positive marginal heading, "Perfection of divine government." Evil, occultism, and so on, are the systems operating throughout the ages in the background of human thought.

You remember that when Mrs. Eddy quotes Paul's list of root errors in his Epistle to the Galatians (*S.&H. 6:20-29*), she italicizes the word witchcraft, which in modern terminology is just mental manipulation. As such, it would claim to be causative, it would claim to confer on one the power of manipulating the thoughts of another to a selfish, wicked, or destructive end, and certainly to no good purpose. I believe Mrs. Eddy italicized this term to bring it more to our notice as something to be taken seriously into account. Mass propaganda, the manipulation of the masses in different ways, is just a modern adaptation or extension of primitive witchcraft, and we need to watch every day that our thoughts are being led into closer union and communion with Principle, and not being dragged aside or pulled down through the operation of animal magnetism, whether as ancient esoteric belief and witchcraft or in its more modern refinements. It matters little whether it is regarded in its primitive or in its refined aspects — remember, it is still practiced primitively over considerable areas of the earth's surface, in Africa, the upper reaches of the Amazon forests, and other dark places of human thought. In the west, — that is to say, throughout western civilization, it has its modern refinements, which are to be found in the inoculation of consciousness unwittingly through suggestion and propaganda of all kinds. I think much of the psychological practice of today, including the practice of mesmerism on a medical basis, comes very close to

what is gathered in the term “witchcraft;” it is mental manipulation from the basis of the human mind, claiming to work in the interests of both good and evil. In the medical sphere, it would claim to operate in the interests of well-being and welfare; but when used as a destructive power, on the other hand, it would claim to operate in the interests of evil. In the picture of the sniper setting out to get his victim, we have an analogy with the method of animal magnetism marking its victim, setting out to destroy him by mental means. But we have nothing to fear there because of our understanding of divine Principle and of man’s life hid with Christ in God; we could go through darkest Africa, we could expose ourselves to medical and psychological theories of all kinds, and none of these things could touch us. The only basis on which witchcraft can operate is one of latent fear.....

A friend of mine, who is a Christian Scientist, was discussing this question with a medical therapist, — he is really a hypnotist,— an Englishman employed as a psychologist in one of California’s state prisons. My friend asked this man to what extent he thought he (the psychologist) could interfere with him mentally if he was giving a Christian Science lecture to the men in the goal. The psychologist replied, “I could only interfere mentally with your lecture if you were afraid of me and you knew that I was there in the audience for that purpose. But if you loved your work, if it was so permeated with a love for God and your fellow man that you were getting on with it fearlessly, I couldn’t touch you.” There was a professional psychologist’s own admission that he could only operate or interfere from the basis of fear. And so it is in all walks of life; mental malpractice, psychiatry, or mental interference of any kind can only operate adversely if one is afraid of it. But if we have the consciousness of God as one infinite all-inclusive Mind, and of ourselves as idea possessing the Mind of Christ, then no adverse mental manipulation has any power of admission or adhesion or lodgment. From that standpoint it is vacuous, void, nonexistent, and we have no cause to fear it in any form, whether primitive or derivative. Thus the proof of the nothingness of the negative returns us to the somethingness of the positive,— that is, to the all-inclusiveness of the one infinite Mind or divine Principle.

ISAIAH: 52

“Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.” Soul will exchange for you the objects of sense for the ideas of Soul, and it will do it perfectly. “How beautiful upon the mountains” — the exalted sense of things —” are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem” (*Isa. 52:1, 7, 9*). From everlasting to everlasting the divine Principle, Life, Truth, and Love, is forever translating itself to the point of infinite ideas, the truth about all mankind, and all we have to do is to understand it and be willing to let it use us, because it is of the nature of omnipotence. As I have said to you time and time again, the chaos and the mist and the mud and the slime of the material universe have melted into the civilization which we know today because of the infinite Christ translation forever going on. The lie of mortality, the lie which believes in itself and supports itself, is irresistibly translated out of itself by the Christ-idea. The Christ reflecting Christianity shows us that when men listen, when they understand, they are able to use the Christ-idea in reflection — in true demonstration.

“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted” (*Isa. 53: 4*). Jesus had the incomparable joy, the holy joy, of overcoming sin, disease, and death, and yet the world has always regarded him as a crucified Saviour. Men have lost sight of the fact that he overcame sin, disease, and death, metaphysically and scientifically, and that he did it so that men might learn the way, and instead of that they have esteemed him “stricken of God;” because they haven’t understood the Science of Jesus’ demonstration, they have fooled themselves into thinking that God could have been cruel enough to allow what they call His only begotten Son to be crucified. It is a hideous doctrine. Jesus was the master Metaphysician. He demonstrated the Christ translation. He identified himself with it, and that translation

used him. He said, “the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.”

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isa. 53: 5). Mrs. Eddy describes his stripes as “the rejection of error” (S.&H. 20:15); and it is true that as you are consecrated and intelligent enough to reject error scientifically and metaphysically, the Christ translation uses you and you are healed. Jesus willingly undertook the proof that man is spiritual and not material; he said, in effect, “You think that man is material; well, crucify me, and I will prove to you that man is God’s idea and that he can never be touched,” and he did that to perfection. There is nothing miraculous in Science. Jesus’ demonstration was a natural, ordered, scientific demonstration of reality. If anybody tells me that something of the nature of good happened once but won’t happen again, I don’t believe it, because if it ever happened then it can happen again and it can happen infinitely, because it is a part of law, If it can’t happen again, then it isn’t true that it ever happened.

“He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities” (Isa. 53:11). As you understand the Christ translation operating as Christianity, and you identify yourself with the definite translation of Soul, which brings salvation, then you will be able to bear the afflictions of many, you will be able to translate suffering out of itself, and bring mankind into the realm of reality. Moreover, there will be nothing extraordinary or miraculous about it; in fact, it will be entirely natural, because the abnormal things are sin, disease, and death, just as in mathematics the abnormal things are mistakes. The disappearance of sin, disease, and death before the forever translation of the Christ-idea — before divine Principle, Life, Truth, and Love, forever translating itself as infinite individual spiritual ideas — is an entirely normal thing. Men have been accustomed to regard the spiritual as the abnormal, but thank God they are getting over that.

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