

December 15, 2003—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.

Our selection this week is from — THE INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST — by Joyellen Reaves.

THE INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST
“IN SCIENCE ALL BEING IS INDIVIDUAL”
 — Mary Baker Eddy

GOD THE ONLY POWER

Joyellen Reaves

ALMOST everything in our house and life today is electrified. How many homes and businesses come to a complete stop when the power (flow of electricity) ceases? Electricity was not an integral part of the lives of people when Mrs. Eddy discovered Christian Science. Their homes, shops, and streets were lit by lanterns. Heating and cooking were done with burnable fuel or steam heat. But our Leader learned mortal mind’s claim that electricity was power. She tells us in her writings that before her discovery of Christian Science she had investigated electricity as a remedial agent. Today it is used often in medical practice. Quimby told her that the manipulation of his patients conveyed electricity. Although she never used this method herself, in her earliest teachings Mrs. Eddy instructed her students when treating to rub the head of their patient. (EOF 197) As she became aware of the true nature of this manipulation she had her loyal students delete this instruction from their lesson notes and required them to cease that practice.

Resistance

In the April 1887 Journal appeared an item explaining its late appearance. “...a peculiar hindrance arose. This was in the electricity developed in the paper on which the Journal is printed. None of the printers... had ever known a case of such strong electric attraction. It seriously retarded the work, by causing the sheets to adhere tenaciously and annoyingly to each other.” (Dis 352) This explains why in later years she constantly directed the members of her household to handle electricity, especially in relation to the electrical storms which occurred frequently around Pleasant View.

When James Gilman was having a very difficult time getting decent plates for the pictures for *Christ and Christmas*, Mrs. Eddy told him of the problems encountered in the publication of *Science and Health*. She told him, “I know the source from which it comes. It is theosophy... It works in the form of electricity, but it has no power.” (Found 147-8)

Electrical Poison

No wonder Mrs. Eddy frequently instructed her household to know that there is no theosophy, and to handle electricity. When Lewis Strang was interviewing a prospective maid, she told him to ask her how she handled electricity. What is the claim of electricity and electro-magnetism that Mrs. Eddy knew must be handled constantly?

She includes electromagnetism in the list of errors of animal magnetism with which she said she started her handling of error. (DCC 255) She tells us that electricity or electro-magnetism claims to attack the nerve centers and to emit poison— arsenical poison. She asked a student, “Do you understand the handling of electrical poisoning? It is mental thought transference with malice behind it— with an intent to harm. Mortal mind sends its messages without wires. It is aggressive mental suggestion maliciously directed.” (DCC xiii) We can understand why she was persistent in requesting that her students constantly handle theosophy and electricity. We must ask ourselves Are we doing our work in this area? Are we arresting the aggressive mental suggestions that bombard our consciousness. “Watch, and pray daily that evil suggestions, in whatever guise, take no root in your thought nor bear fruit.” (My 128:30) This is a command.

Basis of Matter

One definition of electricity is “a fundamental property of matter.” Webster defines fundamental as “basis, principle, law or article which serves as the groundwork of a system; essential part.” His definition of property is “a characteristic quality of a thing.” Electricity then is a basic characteristic of matter. Electro-magnetism is defined as “magnetism developed by electricity.”

Today we see the evidence of electricity or electro-magnetism operating with and without wires, with tremendous force, and not always for good. In our textbook it states that the table-tipping produced by mortal mind was believed to come from electricity, a far cry from what electricity claims it can do today. (280:24) What is this but the belief of mortal mind mimicking the power and presence of divine Mind.

Ripe for Destruction

Science and Health tells us that the more closely error simulates truth the riper it is for destruction. It is interesting to note that this paragraph follows immediately the one in which our Leader points out what wicked minds will try to do “during this final conflict.” She tells us here what our responsibilities are as Christian Scientists— “to hold crime in check... aid in the ejection of error... maintain law and order and cheerfully await the certainty of ultimate perfection.” (p. 97) Obviously as sincere students of our Leader we have a job to do in handling this “basic characteristic of matter.” This belief of all-powerful electricity is ripe for destruction.

How do we go about handling this claim? Is electricity power or is God the only power? When the electricity ceases to flow, it is said that we are without power. Yes, the belief in power other than the one omnipotence has ceased. But divine power is omnipresent. In what Mrs. Eddy called the second scientific statement of being we are told that the starting point in divine Science is the aliveness of God. If God fills all space, where is matter? It is no where, no thing! If electricity serves as the groundwork of the system of matter, it is our job to see what the real power is and strike at the root or basis, the belief that there is matter— operating as electricity. “There is no power apart from God. Omnipotence has all-power, and to acknowledge any other power is to dishonor God.” (S&H 228:25)

Translation

Our Leader tells us in *Miscellaneous Writings*, “Matter is a misstatement of Mind.” Also, that Jesus’ “earthly mission was to translate substance into its original meaning, Mind.” (pp. 174, 74) Everything means something, so we do not eliminate, we translate. It is the belief that matter exists and that there is a power other than God that needs to be seen through. We must translate power back to Mind. Then it can never be destructive and can never cease. It is Mind manifested. Therefore it can never be interfered with or be less than infinite good. God is all. There is none beside Him. As we realize this fact we see it expressed.

Daniel did not eliminate the lions. He saw them as the perfect idea of God, the true lion that will lie down with the lamb. The only power is God, and is omnipresent, omnipotent good.

In *Miscellaneous Writings* our Leader tells us that electricity is governed by the law of mortal mind. Then to handle properly the claim of electricity or electro-magnetism we must eliminate from our consciousness the belief in a law or power or mind apart from God. “Either there is no omnipotence, or omnipotence is the only power. (S&H 249:13)

No Other gods

When we “insist vehemently” that God, good, is the only law, the only power, the only presence we are striking at the root or basis of matter— electricity. The first statement of the Christian Scientist’s Prayer is “There is no matter.” If we are *knowing* this we are laying the axe at the root of the belief of electricity or electro-magnetism. Remember it is defined as “the fundamental property of matter.” There is no matter. “All is infinite Mind.”

“Mind is the only source of power. Thought is the only force. Therefore those who have turned to the fountainhead of being for the solution of any problem, have brought such titanic force into intelligent activity that the results may seem incredible.” (DCC 217)

An anyone wishing to subscribe to THE INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST may do so by contacting the publisher Doris Grekel at TICS, Box 128, Ahwahnee, California 93601, U.S.A.

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