

June 17, 2002—Subject: Is the Universe, Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force?

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 selection this week consists of excerpts from Jules Cern’s lecture - **Christian Science Dominion over the Atom.**

**Christian Science
Dominion over the Atom**

by Jules Cern

There is a story of a small boy who never spoke a word if he could possibly avoid doing so. He was happy and quite normal, but he just seemed to prefer remaining silent, even with his own parents. Then one evening at dinner they served him some turnips. He pushed his plate aside, then declared, “I don’t want any turnips. I don’t like turnips. I never have liked turnips, and I never will like turnips. I’ll be glad to eat anything except turnips.” When his torrent of words had subsided, his mother joyfully exclaimed, “Why, Junior, it’s wonderful to hear you say so much at one time. Why haven’t you done so before?” Junior calmly replied, “Well, up to now, everything was going just fine.”

Now this is not a dissertation against turnips. But for the purpose of the point, the human race seems to have been somewhat like Junior. With few exceptions, it has silently accepted material good and material bad, material life and material death, as part of its daily dish. But now a dish has been placed upon the table of the world, which the human race has found to be even more distasteful than turnips were to Junior.

It seems that one concept of matter, called atomic fusion, is threatening to destroy another concept of matter, called a human race. Atomic fusion has resulted in human confusion. Human thought is obviously frightened.

We can all thank God that the solution exists right now, right here, and that we can use that solution right now, right here. Human plight, or human fright, is completely dispelled by divine light. Dominion over the atom, and dominion over the fear of the atom, is fully achieved through the spiritual understanding of what God really is, and of what actually constitutes His creation. Christian Science provides this complete understanding and complete dominion.

Truly Understanding God

With the inspired Word of the Scriptures as its foundation, Christian Science reveals that God is infinite Spirit, the only Mind, boundless Soul, everpresent Love, perfect Life, unrivaled Truth, omnipotent Principle. Each of these seven synonyms for God helps to define the other six. For example, infinite Spirit is the only Mind, the only Soul, the only Love, the only Life, the only Truth, and only Principle, the one All-in-all. That which is All must be all right now, right here, everywhere, always. Thus we see that God is not in the process of becoming all. God is All. That which is All just does not have an opposite, visible or invisible. Accordingly, infinite Spirit never had a visible opposite, called matter nor an invisible opposite, called an atom.

Infinite Mind never had a visible opposite, called a human brain, nor an invisible opposite, called mortal mind. Infinite Soul never had a visible opposite, called a mortal body, nor an invisible opposite, called a mortal soul. Infinite Love never had a visible opposite, called evil, nor an invisible opposite, called a devil. Infinite Truth never had a visible opposite, called material reality, nor an invisible opposite, called a false belief. Infinite Principle never had a visible opposite, called physical power, nor an invisible opposite, called physical law. Infinite Life never had a visible opposite, called uncertain life, nor an invisible opposite, called certain death. Consequently, the thought that there is something unlike or besides God should be rejected with the same finality with which those turnips were rejected.

The Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, perceived the true import of God's allness as no one else has since Christ Jesus. In the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mrs. Eddy writes, "Spirit, God, has created all in and of Himself. Spirit never created matter." And she continues, "Spirit is the only substance, the invisible and indivisible infinite God." The more we understand the unqualified allness of Spirit, the more we understand the unqualified nothingness of matter.

Solidity of Matter an illusion to Physical Scientists

Right here one might say, "Wait a minute! If you're trying to tell me that matter is nothing, I can't accept that! For instance, suppose I were sitting at a table. I could pound it with my fist. That would be solid matter. The chair I would be sitting in would be solid matter. The food at the table would be matter. Even my physical body is matter. And you're telling me that it is all nothing?"

To help pave the way to the answer to this question, let us first consider the statement of a leading physical scientist, Dr. Warren Weaver, who has served as Chairman of the Board of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It appears that he anticipated the question just presented. He has written in *Can a Scientist Believe in God?*, "A table, viewed with the precise tools of the atomic physicist, is a shadowy, swirling set of electric charges" (in other words, atomic particles), "these electrical charges themselves being vague and elusive." And Dr. Weaver continues, "So viewed, the table loses its large-scale illusion of solidity."

Dr. Weaver proceeds to explain that all material objects, including the physical body, regardless of size and appearance of solidity, are but swirling sets of electric charges, vague and elusive; thereby losing their large-scale illusion of solidity. This shows that, even according to physical science, we might think we are inviting a friend to have a seat at the table, but in atomic language, we are literally saying, "Pull up that swirling set of electric charges, and seat your large-scale illusion of solidity."

Let us make one point very clear. Christian Science does not belittle physical scientists. It has utmost respect, admiration, and appreciation for the intelligence, integrity, and achievements of physical scientists. Christian Science encourages the advancement of human thought and invention, because human progress indicates the possibility of throwing off all the limitations based on human concepts.

Since physical science affirms that visible matter is a "Large-scale illusion" of the material senses, why should this exempt atoms, or invisible matter, from being an illusion of the material senses? Matter, visible or invisible, is nothing but an illusion, or false thought, that there is something besides God, infinite Spirit. Therefore, matter is seen as a quality of mentality, instead of as a condition of mortality.

Christian Science shows that matter, reduced to its basic element, is not some “vague and elusive” phase of mortality, but a delusive phase of mortal mentality. In other words, the thought that there is mortality is all there is to there being mortality. The thought that creation is atomic is all there is to its being atomic. The thought that there is something besides God is all there is to there being something besides God, infinite Spirit. In *Unity of Good*, Mrs. Eddy writes, “A molecule, as matter, is not formed by Spirit; for Spirit is spiritual consciousness alone.” She also states, “The material atom is an outlined falsity of consciousness, which can gather additional evidence of consciousness and life only as it adds lie to lie.” And she continues, “From the beginning this lie was the false witness against the fact that Spirit is All, beside which there is no other existence.”

Thus we see that mortality, visible or invisible, atomic or anatomic, is only a false thought that there is something or someone besides or unlike God, infinite Spirit. This false thought that there is mortality, Christian Science calls “mortal mind.” Therefore, mortal mind is simply a false thought that there is anyone or anything mortal. Hence, matter in any form is but mortal thought. And mortal thought cannot be traced; it can only be erased. Mrs. Eddy makes this very clear in *Unity of Good*, where she writes, “Reduced to its proper denomination, matter is mortal mind; yet, strictly speaking, there is no mortal mind, for Mind is immortal, and is not matter, but Spirit.”

Physical Science has reduced matter to the invisible, called atoms. Whereas Christian Science reduces matter to the impossible, called nothingness.

Man’s True Identity

Now the nothingness of matter or physicality does not imply that man is nothing. It implies that man is nothing physical. The Bible tells us that God made man in His own image. Since God is infinite Spirit, All, this means that man, the image of infinite Spirit, is all-spiritual, not physical at all. The Apostle Paul surely implies this when he writes, “If a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.” Now God made man, and whatever God makes cannot be classified as nothing. So Paul’s words plainly indicate that, “If a man think himself to be something” physical, “when he is nothing” physical, “he deceiveth himself.” Actually, then, physicality is a false state of thought, not a true state of man. One’s thought that he is physical or mortal is all there is to his being physical or mortal. A physical body only exists in one’s thought. Thought does not exist in a physical body.

God is the only Life. Then man, Life’s image, is not a separate, mortal life, but an inseparable, spiritual likeness of the one and only Life. God is the only Mind. Then man, Mind’s image is not a separate mortal mind, but an inseparable, spiritual idea of the one and only Mind.

Defense Against Nuclear Attacks

But here one might say, “Those are nice-sounding words, but what good will they do if we are faced with a nuclear attack? How can we be saved from certain death?” This question brings us to the heart of our subject, that is, the complete dominion which Christian Science gives over every belief that we live under the threat of atomic annihilation instead of divine preservation.

So-called nuclear attacks are not limited to bombs and missiles. Since all that seems to be matter is supposed to be composed of the nuclei of atoms, then every time one believes that there is matter in any form, he is subjecting himself to a nuclear attack. He is believing that man and the universe are atomic instead of spiritual. What is called an atom is but another name for a false belief that there is something besides God, infinite Spirit. A nuclear bomb is just as much a false belief that there is something unlike God as a nuclear man. Regardless of how frightening a false belief may seem to be, it never attains reality. A nightmare is never any more real than a pleasant dream. A belief in destructive matter is never any more real than a belief in harmless matter. What is thought to be certain death in matter is never any more real than what is thought to be uncertain life in matter.

The Bible has many inspiring accounts of those who disproved human concepts of life and nullified human laws of certain death.

Moses and his followers faced the certainty of being slaughtered by an army at the Red Sea, but they weren't. Daniel faced the certainty of being eaten alive in a den of hungry lions, but he wasn't. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego faced the certainty of being consumed in a roaring furnace, but they weren't. Jesus faced the certainty of having his life end at the cross, but it didn't.

Another army did not come to the rescue of Moses and his followers. Daniel was not rescued by the timely arrival of a lion-tamer with a load of meat. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were not saved by the local fire department. And Jesus certainly received no human aid, no blood transfusion or surgical operation.

How clearly the Apostle Paul explains such nullifications of mortal or atomic laws of life. He writes, "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." It may be noted that Paul did not say to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Jesus, but to the obedience of Christ. Let us see what this means.

Jesus was called Jesus Christ, or Christ Jesus, but he was not christened Jesus Christ, or Christ Jesus. The name Christ does not identify his physicality, it defines the quality of his mentality. The body of Jesus was humanlike, but the thought, or mentality of Jesus, was Christlike; that is, Godlike. All that is like God is the Christ, the truth of being. Man is like God, completely spiritual. This is the truth regarding man's identity. Creation is like God, completely spiritual. This is the truth concerning creation. Therefore, the Christ is all that is true about man and creation. It is all that is like God; it is all that reflects God. The Christ is identity, and the spiritual condition of man and the universe. Accordingly, to bring "into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ," is to vanquish every thought that is unlike Christ, Truth.

Thus we may appreciate how those in ancient Bible times, and above all, Christ Jesus, subdued and vanquished every thought of mortality or physicality with the Christ, or truth of being. They refused to panic before the suggestion that there is any life but divine Life, any mind but divine Mind, any place but omnipresent Spirit, any atmosphere but all-encompassing Love, or any identity but eternal, indestructible, spiritual identity. They were assailed just as much in those days by the stigma of the world's belief in domination, slavery, and destruction. But they were not fair-weather worshipers of God: believing in God's allness as long as matter appeared to be harmonious, but doubting His ailness if matter appeared to be frightening. Not for one moment did they accept the suggestion that there is any such thing as a godless place or a godless man.

Even though we seem to be confronted with a new model of destruction, it is still the same old belief that there is a power apart from God. But there is no power apart from God. The same law of God's allness, omnipresence, and love exists and prevails today. Let us not lose sight of the fact that we are never confronted with matter, mortal mind, or another power, in any form, but only with a false belief that there is matter, mortal mind, or another power. All that dispels a false belief is the truth, or divine reality of being.

It is therefore our blessed privilege to rejoice in this truth of being. How grateful we can be that God is infinite Spirit, All, right now. Thank God that infinite Spirit constitutes the only universe there is, and it has no material opposite or counterfeit. Thank God that He is infinite Mind, the only Mind, and therefore there is no other mind or intelligence to act or react. Right where we may believe there is a belligerent mind or a diabolical system trying to rule the world, that very place and all space is already filled with the ever-presence of divine Mind. Divine Mind does not encompass mortal mind, or minds many; it exists instead of mortal mind or minds many.

Thank God that divine Principle is the only government, the only lawmaker, so there cannot be a lesser principle or lawbreaker. The atmosphere of divine Love is the only atmosphere there is, and nothing unlike or foreign to Love exists to contaminate it. How comforting is the truth of being that man is forever in the shelter of omnipresent Soul, and there is nothing physical, visible, or invisible to menace him. Man is the spiritual reflection of divine Love, not a human target or perpetrator of hatred and fear. God's kingdom is the only kingdom there is, unrivaled and undivided. Thank God that the only place is infinite Spirit, the only condition is infinite perfection. God has complete control over His ailness, and nothing exists to deny it. All identity exists forever in His ailness, because all identity is like God, completely spiritual, completely perfect, right now, right here, everywhere, and forever.

Mrs. Eddy saw this blessed Truth so clearly, and she has summarized it beautifully in these words from Science and Health, "The relations of God and man, divine Principle and idea, are indestructible in Science; and Science knows no lapse from nor return to harmony, but holds the divine order or spiritual law, in which God and all that He creates are perfect and eternal, to have remained unchanged in its eternal history."

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