

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 8

**SUBJECT: ANCIENT AND MODERN
NECROMANCY, ALIAS MESMERISM AND
HYPNOTISM DENOUNCED 12/1/13**

Necromancy

I find it interesting that in Sunday school we never really discussed the meaning of the word necromancy. And in my general experience I never really hear people use this word. Here is how Webster defines it: "The art of revealing future events by means of a pretended communication with the dead. This imposture is prohibited. Deuteronomy 18 "I find it interesting that Webster includes his values in his definition. Something that I think is almost prohibited today. Webster directly says, "it is prohibited." Is there any doubt about what Webster thought about this? The word "imposture" is defined as "Deception practiced under a false or assumed character; fraud or imposition practiced by a false pretender." ***

When temptation comes

I found it significant this morning that Jesus' three temptations occurred right after He had fasted forty days and forty nights and was hungry. And the first temptation was with bread! What an example of how error comes to us; it comes tailor made just when we are most vulnerable. What a great warning to be always on guard! Thanks for these lessons that give the inspiration to stay awake! *****

"Evil thoughts, lusts, and malicious purposes cannot go forth, like wandering pollen, from one human mind to another, finding unsuspected lodgment, if virtue and truth build a strong defence." *Science and Health* 234: 31-3

VIRTUE? In 1828 Webster Dictionary, I was surprised to find: The radical sense is strength, from straining, stretching, and extending. This is the primary sense of L. vir, a man.

1. Strength; ...
2. Bravery, valor: This was the predominant signification of virtue among the Romans.
3. Moral goodness; the practice of moral duties and the abstaining from vice, or a conformity of life and conversation to the moral law. In this sense, virtue may be, and in many instances must be, distinguished from religion. The practice of moral duties merely from motives of convenience, or from compulsion, or from regard to reputation, is virtue, as distinct from religion. The practice of moral duties from sincere love to God and his laws is virtue and religion.

Surely this final sentence is the meaning Mrs. Eddy is using as "a strong defence." *****

This is why Christian Science is a way of life. It is not something you can suddenly "put on" when in distress. It is always line upon line, precept upon precept. If you are not practicing moral duties from a sincere love of God and His laws - you WILL be subject to "evil thoughts, lusts, and malicious purposes." You are never a victim - our dominion lies in our obedience to God, it comes from within. *****

Thank you for putting that out there. i really needed to hear that *****

What happened to the man of God?

What happened to the man of God? He had just delivered an important message from God, even healed the king who was out to get him, and now he was on his way home, when he

stopped to rest under the oak and got "shloomed" by the "old" prophet of Bethel.

Sounds a little like Eve, sitting under the apple tree, waiting for the serpent to come along and strike up a conversation.

If I ever think I need a rest, to take a break from all this work; that is a sign I am seeing it as my work, not God's work. In that state I am a sitting duck. The accuser is just waiting for that open door. This is why gratitude to God for what He is doing is the only safe place to be. It is the only way to stay alert. Great lesson!

Mrs. Evans taught this story in one of our two week class sessions. I certainly had never heard it before! I remember it being such a solemn time and such solemn instruction. She enthused to the fact the prophet took some time off to rest, to let his guard down. And also that it was another "prophet" that deceived him. Mrs. Eddy has counseled us to "never be off guard" and also to "trust in Truth and have no other trust." It doesn't matter how alert you have been in the past..."Never absent from your post, never off guard, never ill-humored, never unready to work for God, - is obedience; 'being faithful over a few things'." (Misc.) - That word "never" is very important! Obedience to God puts us in a place where it becomes impossible to make foolish mistakes. *****

This is clearly another case of looking back -- when one knows better not to -- and turning into a pillar of salt. There is certainly plenty of mercy and compassion for those in error who do not know their right hand from their left, but in the case of this particular man of God, he did know. "To whom much is given, much is required." This man had been walking in Truth, not error, and Light that is not acted upon, not walked in, becomes not merely darkness, but gross darkness.

The man of God had entered into an idolatry-infested place with a single, swift purpose: to deliver God's warning, work God's work, and

withdraw, not to tarry there a moment longer for any other reason whatsoever, as Mrs. Eddy admonishes: "Never breathe an immoral atmosphere except to purify it." Science and Health p 452:14-15 As the man of God withdrew from the tainted environment, he seemed to be doing a good job at shaking the dust off his feet until, in stupefied sleepiness he allowed the "old prophet" to interrupt, to encourage him to reverse his course, to re-coat his feet with the same dust, and to breathe, just for a harmless little while longer, the noxious atmosphere.

This story is also a compelling example of error insinuating itself in its most disarming guise: not as an aggressive enemy, but as an insistent friend, admirer, ingratiatingly calling God's servant -- any one of us, that is -- to "look back" while God is calling us to march determinedly in exactly the opposite direction. To march to God's beat is always to march to the beat of "a different drummer," letting nothing distract our footsteps from following that rhythm. *****

What an example!

Superb lesson! What an example - the prophet had faithfully delivered the message from God to Jeroboam, but let his guard down later and disobeyed clear instructions (he got from God), listened to a fellow prophet who gave him the old "God told me" story which included some enticing comfort, and stepped outside of God's protection. A couple of lessons here:

1. NEVER trust the "God told me" line, especially when it involves somebody trying to change your mind, even from a prophet - when it is intended to undermine the individual's own trust in what he is getting from God.
2. NEVER assume those of your own group, family, church, profession have your best interest in mind. The old prophet in this story so much wanted to please the "successful" prophet - he obviously lacked in moral fiber,

oblivious of Principle, was personal! Who suffered? Not the weak-minded old prophet, but the good prophet who yielded his highest sense. What a warning!

Does this apply when working with a Christian Science practitioner? Yes and no. You are responsible for choosing a practitioner to work with - someone to help breakdown blockages (in belief) between you and your God. If you do not trust the practitioner morally, you should not be working with him/her. At the same time it is incumbent upon you not to simply have blind faith, but to strive to make your own what you have been given by the practitioner. Assuming not allowed :) *****

The nature of the beast!

“And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, **he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD**” 1 Kings 13:26 (emphasis added)

I was struck by the deceitful and callous comment by "old prophet" when he heard of the man of God's demise! He refers to what happened as "his disobedience to God," after he intentionally deceived the man of God.

It tells me error/evil is never a friend, after it deceives it leaves you on your own to suffer. Its intention is to kill body and soul; hence the admonition to kill it when I sense it. Mrs. Eddy cautions not to use mild manners/methods with the old devil and I have suffered enough (from false beliefs/error) to heed that caution!

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; **reprove, rebuke**, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." 11 Timothy 4:2. This is one of the Bible verses on the wall in the Mother Church; it has strong words, and meaning; no niceness with error! *****

"Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom. For the son

dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house." Micah 7:5-6 I find it thrilling to find what Jesus taught from the Old Testament - over and over - here is another case - it reinforces the message - and this story of the "man of God" and the old prophet illustrates it!

There is not one thing in the universe more important, more valuable than my relationship with God. If I cannot trust that voice within, if I am more comfortable relying on others, I will never be of much use to God, and I do not come under His protection. Sure we listen to what others may say in terms of guidance, etc., but ultimately, what do we feel within, honestly? Better pay attention. *****

"For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction..." Matt. 7 13-14 This is the nature of disobedience. It is easily distracted from the mission; wants to please people; easily influenced. And it always leads to destruction. It is useful to ask yourself, is there anyone in the world who could easily influence me; a spouse, relative, boss, politician, movie star, old friend, teacher, etc? An honest answer to this question will indicate who and what we are putting in the way of our relationship with God.

This is especially important in family situations. Mrs. Eddy warns that in any relationship, one will be more spiritually alert than the other at any point in time, and should help the other to rise spiritually, not allow the lower thought to drag the higher down. I find it helpful to examine all my relationships and see if there are any weak spots in my relationship with God.

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." Psalms 118:8 *****

***SUBJECT: GOD THE ONLY CAUSE
AND CREATOR 12/8/13***

Ye are witnesses

Witnesses testify to the truth of things. To think that our lives are, or should be, proof that God is good and He created all, may seem like a tall order, but it is correct identification. This is something to rejoice in and have a solemn respect for. *****

I realized how we humans always start out with ourselves, and then work up to God. I saw that we have to start out with God, and understand that we are but a phenomenon of the infinite All-in-all. Then we may find our true individuality; a reflection of Soul, the activity of Love, the expression of Mind. Not a mortal at all. Then we may see perfection where mortal mind sees imperfection, then we may be enabled to love our neighbor. *****

"The infinite Principle is reflected by the infinite idea and spiritual individuality, but the material so-called senses have no cognizance of either Principle or its idea." *Science and Health* p 258 19-21

Where do I fit in? Little old me is hardly an infinite idea, and all I have got are my material senses... We have to start with God, not little old me! "The human capacities are enlarged and perfected in proportion as humanity gains the true conception of man and God." *Science and Health* p 258 21-24

Dwelling on perfect Principle and perfect idea, perfect God and perfect man, we get out of little old me and into God, and then we are able to begin to identify with infinite idea and spiritual individuality. *****

The unexpressed belief

"Remember that the unexpressed belief often-times affects a sensitive patient more strongly than the expressed thought." A sensitive person can feel your "beliefs" about him or her - this is what malpractice is all about. A person can also feel your right

understanding toward them. They can feel your God-inspired loving thoughts and be blessed by this. "Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Saviour saw God's own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick." *Science and Health* p 476 32-4 We have a responsibility to hold this right concept of man in our thought as well as to be wise and alert to handle the belief that someone else might be holding a false concept about ourself or someone we love. Error banks on "Christian Scientists" to be really duped by its subtle and deceiving ways. Mrs. Eddy's chapter on animal magnetism is entitled "Animal Magnetism Unmasked!" Unmask it we must!!*****

It is also wise to be aware that one's correct view of you can cause discomfort to an entrenched error in you. My last music teacher was sought after by people around the world, although he intimidated many. But I saw something in him I had never seen before. He absolutely refused to accept my limitations/personality, and showed me through his tenacity, a beautiful sound concept I never knew I had. I have no doubt that Jesus, while he "beheld in Science the perfect man..." caused discomfort to many. Only those who wanted healing more than protecting their error, or sin, experienced healing. *****

Mortal mind should be made uncomfortable! For many years I have suffered from ignorant malpractice by my wife, who seemed only able to perceive negative qualities in me. I finally faced it, and let her know that these roots of bitterness and negative feelings prevented the Christ to dwell in our house/relation. God sees us as great, magnificent, wonderful, because He is. So we must see each other. Now the spirit in our home is different. Without God, I could not have done it, Christian Science IS God speaking to us. *****