

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 29

SUBJECT- MATTER - 09/21/14

## "They That Make Them Are Like Unto Them"

"Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not:

They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not:

They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat.

**They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them" (Ps. 115).**

Imagine that! All the bustling nothingness of uninspired, human sense-driven activity trying to solve problems that only God can solve; all the uninspired words pouring out of uninspired mouths and throats trying to answer questions that only God can answer, to win arguments that only God can win; uninspired tongues trying to put out fires that they themselves started, or those started by other uninspired tongues, for "the [uninspired] tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell" (James 3:6); uninspired eyes, ears, noses detecting problems, magnifying predicaments, mulling over dilemmas arising from previous uninspired words and activities; uninspired hands trying to lift weights and remove obstacles that only God can handle; uninspired hands fashioning weapons to fight in battles that are not theirs to fight, "for the battle not yours, but God's" (2 Chron. 20:15); uninspired hands compounding medicines to heal diseases that only God can heal; uninspired feet taking uninspired action trying to escape from some blunderingly imagined misfortune; uninspired footsteps on uninspired pathways unpaved by prayer, leading treacherously nowhere.

Yet think of Mrs. Eddy, speechless and (to human sense) apparently inactive, at the bedside of the hopelessly sick; sitting at the feet of Christ like Mary Magdalene, not daring to take the least human action or speak the least human word or think the least human thought, but allowing Infinite Intelligence alone to pour through her -- all her attention, love, and appreciation focused only on the omni-action of God, the ever-active Hand that formed the galaxies and stretched them across unfathomable immensity, shaped the planets and hurled them into orbit, all in perfect harmony with one another, holding to the Love that regards the sparrow's fall and numbers the hairs of every head, knowing that "I of myself can do nothing," nothing at all except to allow the Presence of that Power and Intelligence to speak in Its own way and to take action in Its own way:

"When I have most clearly seen and most sensibly felt that the infinite recognizes no disease, this has not separated me from God, but has so bound me to Him as to enable me instantaneously to heal a cancer which had eaten its way to the jugular vein. In the same spiritual condition I have been able to replace dislocated joints and raise the dying to instantaneous health" (Un. 7:12-17).

God help me to follow her example, always!

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The ones that make the idol, become the idol. The carnal, mortal thought-world makes its own discords and dis-eases, and constitutes the realm of chaos and confusion. The only way out is a spiritual journey into God's thought-world, where there is only harmony and perfection.

Then we will no longer look up to the stars, but we will look out from them upon the universe; ..... Love's thought-universe, the infinity of the one Mind, from which "emanate all form, color, quality, and quantity, and these are mental, both primarily and secondarily."\*\*\*\*\*

It makes this section from *Science and Health* ring louder: p. 205: 7-13 When will the error of believing that there is life in matter, and that sin, sickness, and death are creations of God, be unmasked? When will it be understood that matter has neither intelligence, life, nor sensation, and that the opposite belief is the prolific source of all suffering? God created all through Mind, and made all perfect and eternal. \*\*\*\*\*

## **A New Motivation To Do It And Not Just**

### **Talk It**

"Only by understanding that there is but one power, — not two powers, matter and Mind, — are scientific and logical conclusions reached."

(*Science and Health*, p. 270)

So what might be designated as matter? Anything that is not the one Mind. Personality is a tricky one, perhaps not regarded as matter, and yet... mankind is entering an era of a new challenge - robotics - some predict that robots will eventually rule mankind. If mankind continues to rely on that which is programmable, the prediction seems quite reasonable.

Personality is definitely programmable, predictable - therefore coming under the matter designation. So if we would rather not be ruled by robots, we ought to cultivate relying on Mind more and more, relying on that which is not programmable, predictable in matter.

We need not fear this for "The design of Love is to reform the sinner." (*Science and Health*, p. 35) Personality is a sinner. Human predictability shuts out reflection. How wonderful that "now is the time!" Our God is universal Love, and we can embrace the challenge rather than put it off for later "when I have more understanding". There is no such time! \*\*\*\*\*

Incidentally, the CS culture, as we call it, is totally predictable and is why the one expressing it is so vulnerable. Animal magnetism can only reach (in belief) the predictable, material thought. And the CS culture is gross materialism professing Spirit! Incidentally - I am quite eager to have my car do the tedious job of driving, while I can do other things, especially on long trips! \*\*\*\*\*

I think that robots, mortals, and idols are basically the same thing.

Mortals, myself included, are programmed through upbringing, hormones, culture, the whole environment and atmosphere of mortal mind, which seems to constitute our world. Mankind is being manipulated.....by no other than its own misconceptions and error. In Retrospection and Introspection, Mrs. Eddy wrote: "Sin constitutes the human or physical concept. Sin is the lying supposition that life, substance, and intelligence are both material and spiritual, and yet are separate from God." \*\*\*\*\*

### **If We Love Person...**

"If divine Love is becoming nearer, dearer, and more real to us, matter is then submitting to Spirit." (*Science and Health*, p.13)

It occurred to me this morning, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus rebuked those who love only those that love them. This is personal love, matter, because limited - and as this citation in the lesson states, divine Love becomes nearer and dearer as we love universally, not personally, because Spirit is surely universal, infinite. Personal love shuts out divine Love. This is why family, and even church can be so dangerous - it tends towards personal love, and Spirit is second, and divine Love lost.

Especially the love of a mother for her children can be very personal, even if the child has grown up. Not all manifestations of human "love" have anything to do with Love. \*\*\*\*\*

## **This Is Not A Material World And I Am Not A Material Girl**

This is not a material world and I am not a material girl. This lesson really points this out. From building idols that cannot speak, see, hear, smell, handle, or walk as in the responsive reading to laws of matter and physics that are not laws and show that "God is the lawmaker" (*Science and Health*, p.381) In (*Science and Health*, p.479) it says, "Take away so-called mortal mind, which constitutes matter's supposed selfhood, and matter

can take no cognizance of matter." The illusion calling itself real. "There is no material truth." and "God never ordained a material law to annul the spiritual law." (*Science and Health*, 273). This means that man made in God's image and likeness (spiritual) really does have dominion over the whole earth. And the earth had better tremble "at the presence of the Lord" \*\*\*\*\*

Sticking to my right identity (as Science declares it) is the way to salvation!

From BY's 1937 College, this gives me strength just pondering it: Man is power expressed; not man expressing power. Man is life expressed, and the expression of Life never dies. God is all there is to man. Man is the consciousness, the evidence of the possession of every eternal quality of God! It goes well with Mrs. Eddy's answer to what is in (*Science and Health*, p. 475)

## **SUBJECT -REALITY- 9/24/14**

### **Awareness**

Take the self out of self-awareness and you have consecration.

Eustace writes: "The man of God has just one designation, ONE ONLY, - "I consciously am". That is all there is to him. It is simply awareness, I consciously am, without beginning or end.

"It must be wholly from a spiritual standpoint without one atom of animal magnetism or sense testimony admitted, or it is not consecration."

Finding God as All-in-all. Man reflecting all that his maker is and does, originates nothing of himself.

Jesus said, " Before Abraham was, I am." This "amness," being simply awareness, effect.

"I can of mine own self do nothing." MBE \*\*\*\*\*

### **"Ye...that bear the vessels of the Lord"**

Regarding "ye...that bear the vessels of the LORD" (Is. 52:11) -- since a vessel is both recipient and

container of whatever is poured into it, the "vessel of the Lord" signifies my ability to receive, contain, and pour out God's Life, Truth, and Love. This receptivity to God is in proportion to how much I have silenced personal sense, which enables me to un-muzzle, unbridge, and liberate all the inner cries that self is ever-seeking to gag, smother, and strangle: the "immortal cravings" (*Science and Health*, p. 501) for more and more of God ("As the deer panteth after the water brooks" - Ps. 42). It makes no difference how near or how far away from God I may be, for even the person to whom God is near is commanded to "Seek the Lord while He is near" (Is. 55:6).

On a practical level, the Lord's vessel must eventually be emptied of its contents to fulfill an important purpose, as in the case of the "Water of Life" poured out as "a cup of cold water;" or, oil consumed as a flame fit for service outside the confines of its vessel -- whenever and wherever each is needed to fulfill the 2nd great commandment.

Think of Mrs. Eddy's persistence, her uninterrupted battle with error, continually dispelling darkness wherever she was, wherever her thought took her: her single-minded out-pouring of Life, Truth, and Love affirming Reality as Substance, the true condition of everyone and everything around her, even stray animals, as described in her article, "Demonstration" (<http://www.plainfieldcs.com/index.php/Practical-Metaphysics/demonstration-by-mary-baker-eddy.html>).

So, while walking along a street or riding in a car or bus, my mind and heart are ever to occupy themselves according to Mrs. Eddy's clear, practical instructions in her article. In actively, wakefully, silently broadcasting powerful, inspired, Reality-affirming intentions and Reality-substantiating benedictions to the world around me, my vessel will be replenished again and again with even greater portions of Life, Truth and Love to accomplish even more. On the other hand, neglecting to follow these intimate instructions only emboldens error, increases the flow of the currents of malpractice to which this world has

been already unnecessarily subjected, making me an accessory to this malpractice through my passive sin of omission.

The morality-tale-parable of the ten virgins bearing their vessels (Lk. 12) is also important here: The foolish virgins "heeded not their sloth, their fading warmth of action; hence the steady decline of spiritual light, until, the midnight gloom upon them, they must borrow the better-tended lamps of the faithful" (Mis. 342:5-8). \*\*\*\*\*

## Touch No Unclean Thing

"Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD." (Isa. 52:11)

Wash your hands before entering church?  
Don't touch a filthy prostitute before entering church?

Accept that the human mind, personal sense is itself an abomination, which cannot enter into the presence of the Lord!

Christ Jesus was only interested in the last of these three. As we spoke briefly at last Roundtable, we ought to ask ourselves, would we accept him as he tore apart our misconceptions in order to free us!! Misconceptions of good, our materialism which smother real, operative Christian Science, our tightly held to misconceptions of what makes a good person, etc. etc,

He would be hated by those who prefer to hold on to what they already are.

Materialism, even in its most pleasant form, can never enter into the presence of the Lord. It cannot discern matter from spirit, good from evil. It is unclean. And was the downfall of the CS movement.

We can all do better in overcoming our materialism, step by step as it is revealed to us - and never more than what we can certainly do. "The design of Love is to reform the sinner." (*Science and Health*, p 35 )- NOT to condemn man! \*\*\*\*\*

## Establish truth

Jesus taught the kingdom of heaven was "within

us" and that we should repent or change our thinking - our consciousness. How practical this wisdom is! Truth has been revealed. Our homework assignment this week asks - are we prepared to establish this truth.

1828 dictionary: establish

5. To make firm; to confirm; to ratify what has been previously set or made.

It starts in my consciousness "within me". It is not out there out of my control. We can establish CS here on earth and it starts "within us". \*\*\*\*\*

## States and Stages of Consciousness

If spiritual reality can be realized while here on earth, then my desire to put into practice what I am understanding through Science is most important. Thus, I can expect to glean the Truth more and more as my consciousness moves through these states and stages upward no matter how long the "journey." \*\*\*\*\*

Yes, this is indeed an uplifting and joyous lesson! St. John's revelation while "on our plane of existence, while yet beholding what the eye cannot see, -- that which is invisible to the uninspired thought" urges us on to advance in the truth, step by step, so, as Mrs. Eddy says, " we can become conscious, here and now, of a cessation of death, sorrow, and pain. ... a foretaste of absolute Christian Science."

The responsive reading begins: "Shake thyself from the dust..."

To actually progress through these states and stages requires shaking ourselves from the dust of old beliefs that hold us back. I used to hate the "tough" experiences until it was explained to me by a practitioner in Plainfield that problems are really stepping stones for growth, and I should welcome them for that reason.

It's never really easy to go through a tough time, but they seem to be required for most of us. And when they cause us to "shake thyself from the dust" of pride and human ambition, they become a blessing.