

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 128

**SUBJECT: Adam and Fallen Man –
November 11th, 2018**

Adam Dream

“Whatever indicates the fall of man or the opposite of God or God’s absence, is the Adam-dream, which is neither Mind nor man, for it is not begotten of the Father.” *Science and Health*, p. 282

Before coming to Plainfield, I had never heard the term Adam-dream used, although Mrs. Eddy references it several times. I see now my many misconceptions of God, law, religion, worship, etc. were indicating the absence of God. One of these traps was trying to make myself “perfect.” As brought out during Sunday’s Roundtable, Return and Live, trying to perfect ourselves is impossible because there is no God in it, just self. This perfecting has its basis in people pleasing, comparison, and competition with others, very much living in the Adam-dream.

Coming to this church is helping me lift myself out of this trap and “return and live” in very practical ways everyday. It is a relief to be letting go of the need to be humanly “perfect.” *****

These quotes have been very helpful and instructive for me:

“After people have studied Mrs. Eddy’s works, they are then ready to learn that Christian Science is not a religion in the sense of worshipping God, since Christian Science teaches man how to reflect God, which is certainly not the old conception of worship, where worship consists in adoring that which somebody else has. It is undeniable that such a notion is not the scientific process, whereby man avails himself of the divine power in a practical

way.” Mary Baker Eddy, *Her Spiritual Footsteps* by Carpenter, Chapter 114

“The entire purpose of our services is to lift from people their human thinking, and to give them in its place the thought of God. Everything in the service is designed to contribute to this end; but the entire service will be balanced on the right side only when students take up the ‘work of realizing scientifically that there is no human mind, that there is but one Mind, and that this Mind’ animates and permeates every individual present; that divine Mind is the only Mind they have ever had or ever could have or wish for, and that no such thing as animal magnetism exists to reverse this good work or to prevent it from accomplishing its mission. They must know that God indeed dwells in the church and that everyone can be, and is conscious of His presence; that they feel His love and nothing else.” by Carpenter, Precepts 5 *****

Reflection vs Artistic Temperament

I was impressed with the passages in *Science and Health* on reflection, like “Man is, and forever has been, God’s reflection” and “he reflects the creation of Mind, God.” It is so true that man is not an originator, not an originator of thoughts, nor an independent creator of anything, and the pride that would like to make the claim that he is, leads to many problems.

But the humble honesty that acknowledges the divine source of all that is good is safe ground. Error’s label of artistic temperament is very pernicious, subjecting one to extremes of emotions, even anger, and also makes it impossible to work with others. Whereas the humble submission to God’s guidance enables one to unite easily with

others that do the same. I am very thankful for Christian Science that clarifies all of this.

Thank you. There are many citations on reflection in the lesson this week, and coincidentally, I have been reading Martha Wilcox's *The Word Made Flesh*. In this address, she includes a section entitled "The Function of Man Is Reflection," which is also helpful to understand what reflection means.

"Man, as the idea of Mind, receives all that he is from the Mind that constitutes him, and gives back to that Mind the facts of Mind's own Being.

A reflection always does two things: it receives and it gives back what it receives. In this way, reflection establishes the Divine Mind to itself as a great fact or entity. Just as, humanly, your idea of yourself gives back to you the fact of your own being, and establishes you to yourself as an entity. If we could only remember that 'I can of mine own self do nothing,' then we could better understand that we are a living, constant reflection. We should know the tremendous importance of our function and our divine purpose – *that of being reflection.*"

Don't Be Foolish

"Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"

I just love this statement from this week's Lesson, My practitioner is consistently reminding me to identify correctly and here we have Paul reminding the Galatians that they were already made perfect in Spirit. The flesh cannot better it, so don't be foolish and get it twisted. Excellent lesson. *****

Thank you! This makes me think of so many things I have learned about and use after coming to Plainfield : The article "Body" accredited to Mrs. Eddy, The article "A Treatment for Every Day" also by Mrs. Eddy where the first line states,

"Every time you declare you are perfect in God, there goes through the body a health giving power." And that we are made perfect in Christ- Matthew 5:48 and II Corinthians 12:9. *****

The Dreamer

Several years ago, a CS friend shared this poem with me.

The Dreamer
by J. Woodruff Smith

Where did it begin
This idea called you?
In Genesis 1,
Or Genesis 2?
Which one of these concepts
Will prove to be true?
If you know what is what
Do you know who is who?
In Genesis 1 in the 26th verse
There's a man with never a taint of a curse.
But in Genesis 2 in verse number seven
There's a dust man conceived...
He'll never see heaven.
So it really comes down
To which one you will claim,
What thou see'st thou be'st...
So what's in your name?
There they both stand.
Which one is you?
Is it immortal man one,
Or mortal man two?
If you're immortal man
You know what you're worth.
For according to law
You'll inherit the earth.
But if you're just a mortal
And made out of dust...
Is there anything to you
That's worthy of trust?
No, the thing they call man
In Genesis 2
Is the dream of the dreamer.
It never was you.

So know what you are.
Take your place in the sun,
You're the immortal man
Of Genesis 1.

SUBJECT: Mortals and Immortals – November 18th, 2018

Influence For Good

In *Science and Health*, we have the passage “Your influence for good depends upon the weight you throw into the right scale. The good you do and embody gives you the only power obtainable.” This is very helpful at a time when it appears that there are many influences very busy, especially around this approaching holiday time. The discussion we had about poise last Roundtable is very appropriate. The intent of error is to disturb, but it can't happen if the weight of conviction is scaled more heavily on God, His goodness, and our poised confidence in it.

Reflect and Radiate

I'm very grateful for the discussions on 'radiating' during various class sessions recently. Due to this, the following item in “The Healer” by David Keyston page 139 caught my attention:

Paraphrasing the situation: Mrs. Eddy had to help a family with several sick members and remained for some days, leaving a pot with a beautiful flower on the window sill. Upon returning, the soil was dried out and the plant withered; a friend with her saw it, also. Mrs. Eddy went to other rooms opening windows and heard the friend exclaim. Returning to the room, Mrs. Eddy saw the plant completely restored to its previous beauty, without being watered!! Quote from book: “This was the result of the truth she had been realizing. (the truth that God, and all of God's ideas reflect infinite Life, never subject to mortal law, decay or death.) Mrs. Eddy made the divine law of the Kingdom of

Heaven practical in her continual radiating of God's love.” *****

This is a beautiful story about Mrs. Eddy.....thank you! In “Finance,” By Bicknell Young, he writes, “If you are under Spirit, you are no longer under the curse of law (God-power is entirely outside thought-taking.)” *****

...Like a Tree Planted by The Rivers of Water

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 1

3. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

I am very grateful for Parthens' post from last week (November 11th, 2018), “There Is A River,” for giving this preceding verse more clarity this week.

Using those definitions from the Glossary in *Science and Health*, he mentioned, I feel that to “be like a tree planted by the rivers of water” means having “the true idea of God” (Euphrates) reign within me, while thoroughly acknowledging the rights of women (Gihon), understanding Divine Science (Hiddekel), and possessing “The love of the good and beautiful, and their immortality” (Pison).

Plainfield is showing me both the necessity and the joy of taking in only those channels of thought (rivers) that come from God. How liberating!

It is such a blessing how each Lesson builds on the previous, and the Forum posts, Bible Studies, and Roundtables have been a big part of gaining new insights and understanding steadily. Thank you very much to the Lesson writers, and all who contribute each week! *****

Thanks for this post. “It is such a blessing how each Lesson builds on the previous” applies to the Bible also. Reading this Lesson daily, I didn't recognize how close the wording in Psalm 1 is to Revelation

22!! In the past, I loved these items ‘separately’, but now can see them as the same Truth!!

Rev. 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4. And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

5. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. *****

Moral Courage

“There is too much animal courage in society and not sufficient moral courage.” (*Science and Health*, p. 28) I am grateful for this Lesson on moral courage and the many posts on the Forum this week. It again got me to think deeper why human do-goody is dangerous. On top of that, I realized the motives driving my “do-goody” were not based on reflecting God, but instead in the First Degree (see below) and is likely what Mrs. Eddy called, “evil at work in the name of good.” (Misc. p 335) The ironic thing is that it took moral courage to break out of this pattern. I also had to hit the wall where my “do-goody” was failing to bring peace, healing, joy, and health. The most difficult part of being a “do-goody” was my strong belief in evil as a power which needs to be overcome in order to demonstrate this Science of Christ. It took the strength of a practitioner here to break through this stubborn sense that I was “good,” so I could see the many errors holding me, and begin to live in the way God wanted, not what Lynda prescribed and He sure did not need my interference. Once I

started to break down this wall of resistance to the Christ, true healing started taking place in my life in profound ways. I am sure many of us can come up with many examples of a person with an evil character, seeming pleasant and “doing good,” and people with trustworthy character traits that are very rough on the edges. Jesus and others have warned that evil will attempt to hide under the mask of good. Having seen the necessity of doing things contrary to the human mind reasoning in order to bring healing, I now want to get away from human “do-goody” as fast as possible and to cultivate spiritual sense, because only God knows the true motive of the heart.

“First Degree: Depravity. Unreality PHYSICAL. Evil beliefs, passions and appetites, fear, depraved will, self-justification, pride, envy, deceit, hatred, revenge, sin, sickness, disease, death.

Second Degree: Evil beliefs disappearing. Transitional qualities MORAL. Humanity, honesty, affection, compassion, hope, faith, meekness, temperance.

Third Degree: Understanding. Reality. SPIRITUAL. Wisdom, purity, spiritual understanding, spiritual power, love, health, holiness.” (*Science and Health*, p.115)

Nor Be Afraid of Them

Deuteronomy 31: 6 – Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, **nor be afraid of them**: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (Emphasis added)

When I used to be so fearful, because I was allowing things unlike God, Good, to mesmerize and dominate me, while denying God’s Omnipotence and Omnipresence; this is one of the Bible promises to each one of us, that came to my rescue and one that will remain a present help forever!! Examining what may be causing any unrest in my thought (heart); no matter what the source of fear may claim to be, I take the simple

meaning of what this citation is saying and **KNOW** “The Lord Thy God” is with me, never to fail or leave. *****

Individualized Vs. Animal Magnetism Collectivized

“WATCH lest you accept the common notion that the small power represented by David’s little stone, overthrew a great power, called Goliath. David, as the visible representative and manifestation of the omnipotence of divine Mind, was the invincible giant, equipped with infinite power that overthrew Goliath, whose power lay wholly in deception through size.” “The trick of the mesmerism of sense testimony, is to reverse everything, magnifying the nothingness of error so that it seems like a giant, and belittling the power and presence of Spirit.” (Carpenter, WP 153)

The name “Goliath” means “passage, revolution, heap.” As he stepped onto the battlefield every morning and evening, Goliath presented himself as a mountainous heap of intimidation. Like an animal in Darwinian struggle for dominance, Goliath was totally dependent upon how he appeared to sense, not Soul. Morning and evening, morning and evening, day after day, Israel listened to Goliath proclaiming himself as the way, the truth, and the life of Israel, as the supreme leader of a revolution, not only against King Saul and his army, not only against the nation of Israel, but against the God of Israel Himself. Thus did Goliath pound his drum, insisting that surrendering to him was the only safe passage out of the conflict between Philistia and Israel. And Israel listened, very closely, to every drumbeat.

The picture of Israel’s king and army demoralized by fear demonstrates how an entire nation can fall under the collective, apathy-inducing spell of animal magnetism. David, on the other hand, had spent many hours, days, months set apart, alone in the wilderness, tending sheep, practicing the presence of God, learning to listen to the beat of a different drummer — the still, small voice of the

Spirit; learning that there is no presence or power apart from God; learning that the presence of anything unlike the Presence of Omnipresence, even the presence of a ferocious lion or bear, is not presence at all, but absence. “There is no vapid fury of mortal mind – expressed in - bestial ferocity - and this so-called mind is self-destroyed.” (*Science and Health*, p. 293)

So, when David, aligned with God, came out of the wilderness to Israel’s encampments in order to bring cornbread to his misaligned brothers, it was like the meeting of 2 opposing weather fronts. Yet David prevailed, in spite of his brothers’ chemicalized, jealous fury. Nor could the cringing collective consciousness of Israel’s army drag David into the bottomless foxhole of fear and apathy that they had dug for themselves.

“You must realize that harmony is the only reality, and that it has no opposite” — no Goliath. (Carpenter, WP 125)

“One with God is a majority.” *****

SUBJECT: Soul and Body – November 25th, 2018

Sense is Set Upon Disproving The Existence of Soul

“Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.” (Jer. 18:6.)

Mrs. Eddy, on the necessity of spending hours daily in uninterrupted meditation:

“In that hour of prayer, discard all your sense of self-hood – that is involved in the belief of birth, heredity, association, time, decay, death. By the grace and authority of God close your thought firmly against the interference of mortal beliefs. Hold yourself open to the plan of God and closed to the plots of satan. Rise into the spiritual forces of your own being and destiny” (from Judge Hanna’s

memoirs). Mrs. Eddy once told a little girl suffering with consumption: “Don’t you know, dear, that you haven’t any lungs to cough with, not to be consumed? You are God’s child’; and she talked the truth to her and told her what she was as God’s idea, and to know that she was well; and the child stopped coughing and was instantly healed” (from “Overwhelming Evidence” by Ralph Spencer).

Contrary to what Mrs. Eddy told the little girl, “old theology” asserts that God created lungs so that He might then un-create (i.e., destroy) them: lungs to cough with and finally be consumed after months and years of suffering — presumably so that the patient might achieve some kind of spiritual growth through putting up with misery in this “vale of tears.” By the same conflicted logic, we might as well say that God created eyes with which to go blind and ears with which to go deaf. The belief in the existence of mortal organs serving mortal ends is an unspoken dogma that Mrs. Eddy instructs Judge Hanna to dump unceremoniously in the “DISCARD” bin. Mortal mind hates being clay in the Potter’s hands and desires to take for itself some (if not all) of the glory of God by having a hand in its own shaping. Personal sense invented physicality to disprove the existence of God. All that mortal mind designates as the so-called “seasons of life” — from “birth” via physical procreation to the “demise” of the physical body — are mirages, hindrances, and distractions to keep me from following the first commandment, “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.” *****

Sets Free The Imprisoned Thought

“Christian Science explains all cause and effect as mental, not physical. It lifts the veil of mystery from Soul and body. It shows the scientific relation of man to God, disentangles the interlaced ambiguities of being, and sets free the imprisoned thought.” (*Science and Health*) This is what happened to me when I first began to work with a practitioner from this church. All my mixed-up thinking, all my anxieties and confusions began to

get straightened out. While nothing ever made any sense to me, everything began to make sense. While life had not any meaningful purpose, life had now become rich with a God-given purpose. This transformation is what I see happening to the many people who have found and are finding our Website. It is like watching poor caged and wounded birds find restoration, healing, and a way of escape from the bondage of mortal mind — and it is always a wonder to behold, for it is the amazing grace of God! *****

And to become aware that in Truth, no one is in bondage even now!! This is the gracious wonder that spurs the enthusiasm to share this Truth. I am grateful to learn along with that zeal not to cast pearls before swine, but to keep a selfless heart willing to help those who God leads my way to help... ever praying to not lose the Love for the Christ idea, which enriches the desire to do this work for the glory of God and to bless mankind! **

Daily Nearer God

“If on our daily course our mind
Be set to hallow much we find,
New treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.

The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask;
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God.” (by John Keble, 1822)

I found this hymn in the book *Spiritual Footsteps* by Gilbert Carpenter, Chapter 119. Carpenter goes on to quote Mrs. Eddy, “I am learning more and more everyday, to take God with me into every little thing I do.” My practitioner reminded me that as I prepare for Thanksgiving, that I must remember that all I do should bring me closer to God. I can use the instruction during our last Roundtable to ask myself, “Why am I doing this activity? Am I listening to God and having Him direct my activity?”