

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 45

## SUBJECT: ANCIENT AND MODERN

5/31/15

### Subtle and Secret....

*Science and Health 102: 16-2* Mild forms of animal magnetism are disappearing, and its aggressive features are coming to the front. The looms of crime, hidden in the dark recesses of mortal thought, are weaving webs more complicated and subtle every hour. So secret are the present methods of animal magnetism that they ensnare the age into indolence, and produce the very apathy on the subject which the criminal desires.

The words **subtle and secret** are so appropriate in describing evil! It comes so justifiable, reasonable, and so benign to make us think it is our thinking, and reasonable enough to be accepted and its falsity and nothingness escape detection. Who cannot be fooled by these, if not watching? :

"Oh, I feel so tired!

The suggestion to refuse a task or postpone it.

A little disturbance with the phone.

Self-criticism for not doing something you "should" have done.

Forgetting to say thank you, etc.

Look at your bills and declare, "I lack,"

I have a little cold."

I have learned to pay more attention NOT to account these true; since once accepted, the more aggressive suggestions follow to pull thought down.

At all times and under all circumstances, Divine Love governs and God is an ever-present help; these Truths, if trusted, are always victorious over error's subtle ways. And as in *Ways That Are Vain* "Animal magnetism, in its ascending steps of evil, cannot entice me by unseen, silent arguments because the divine Mind is eternally present as my

thinking." Thank you Mrs. Eddy for Christian Science!!\*\*\*\*\*

### Take Heed

The words "take heed" are used a couple of times in this lesson. The Proverbs 2 and Deuteronomy 11 helped me this morning when the holiday sense of letting down and drifting into party mode was trying to kick in. Memorial Day is remembrance of a good day, which includes those who unselfishly serve, but not a glorification of death or drifting into self-satisfaction. Watching point 261 from the book *500 Watching Points* takes up Memorial Day and is worth taking a look at. So the reminder to watch my heart, that it be not deceived and lose the path of judgment, is very helpful. \*\*\*\*

Thank you. Yes, Memorial Day is a tribute to those who served in the cause of freedom, and their families, but I dislike when someone says, "Happy Memorial Day!" It is not just another holiday, nor is it a glorification of death.

### Good Reminder

The story of Samson and Delilah is a great reminder to be constantly watching and learning from our trials. Evil loves to dupe us so we fall again and again into its trap like Sampson with our eyes put out.

Mrs. Eddy's definition of eyes: "Spiritual discernment, -not material but mental." *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* p 586. \*\*\*\*\*

Good reminder. This is exactly what I was thinking. Delilah represents all in the world that would blind us from our spiritual selves and serving God. The persistence of Delilah reminds me of the constant bombardment of thoughts NOT from God that we

must dismiss—promptly. Samson had to know what was going on and he just gave in. Rise up ye warriors for God. "Truth is always the victor."

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God brought each of us here to do His work. We're all capable. Error never stops trying to distract us. Keep your thoughts filled with joy and gratitude for all the good God has done and is doing. "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust." Psalm 71:1 "Be watchful, sober, and vigilant." *Science and Health*

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### **To Be Simple Concerning Evil**

"I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil."

A Bible commentary states that: The second refers rather to the confirmed habit of one who has come in contact with evil, and is still uncontaminated by it; who has resisted all the plots and schemes that have been laid for him; and whose love for what is good and hatred of evil, has only been strengthened and disciplined. The word "simple" here means unmixed, uncontaminated, pure and clear.

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Thank you for this explanation. Had Samson remained pure and clear concerning evil, he would not have fallen for Delilah's seduction/entrapment.

### **Stand Porter**

*Science and Health* states: We should become more familiar with good than with evil, and guard against false beliefs watchfully as we bar our doors against the approach of thieves and murderers.

We are often reminded to "stand porter at the door of thought" and not to allow ourselves to be convinced, influenced, overcome, or to become friendly with evil and mesmeric thoughts and suggestions by welcoming them in. I was once told the following story which has been most helpful for me when considering this rule.

There was once a doorman in New York named Sam. He took his job very seriously, was pleasant

with all of the building residents, and never allowed those who didn't belong, to sneak in. Once, when asked how he performed his job so well, he explained that it was easy, he put so much time and effort into learning who belonged, that it was easy for him to quickly identify who didn't, and by doing so, he could turn them away without hesitation.

All Plainfield readings, teachings, and discussions are helping me to become more familiar with good and to overcome evil with less hesitation than ever before. \*\*\*\*\*

What a great story. Thank you! And that is so true—when you know what the genuine article is, the counterfeit can never deceive you. That is why it is so essential to be familiar with The Bible and the works of Mrs. Eddy. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Clad In The Panoply of Love**

"At all times and under all circumstances overcome evil with good. Know thyself, and God will supply the wisdom and the occasion for a victory over evil. Clad in the Panoply of Love, human hatred cannot reach you." *Science and Health*, p 571:18

This is one of my favorite text in *Science and Health*. This reminds me of an article I read on Moral Idiocy where the author unknown states, "We forget that maintaining our own true, spiritual, infinite selfhood is all we have to do, that this is all there is of our universe, our affairs, our friends. This is Christian Science practice, seeing our own selfhood as one with God and seeing our own selfhood everywhere, divinely embracing humanity and 'none else beside'."

We turn to God, he lovingly responds and we see our true selfhood and through this we embrace humanity, "Clad in the panoply Love." How wonderful and inspiring this is! \*\*\*\*\*

The great sense of Oneness is so important! I read this somewhere and I am paraphrasing: Don't say God is All and think of yourself, your loved one (or anyone) as outside this ALLNESS.

## SUBJECT – GOD THE ONLY CAUSE AND CREATOR 6/07/15

### Turning Our Captivity

Job 42: 10 And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Unselfed Love... *Science and Health*, p 192:30-31  
Whatever holds human thought in line with unselfed love, receives directly the divine power.

Christ Jesus loved God and all mankind including His enemies; what an example he gave of unselfed love, which *Science and Health* tells us receives the divine power. It's no wonder he healed, even raised the dead.

Job put into practice the same unselfed love, when he prayed for his friends; and thus the turning of his captivity! This is a great reminder for us, since it appears that when we are in trouble we tend to get focused on self, with a goal of seeking relief for our suffering. To pause and lift thought off the appearance (of whatever may be the claim) with expanding embrace of love for God and all mankind, does bring more blessings than we can imagine. \*\*\*\*\*

This is so true! I have done this! Focusing on the problem does not get me anywhere. It keeps me from God, delays the healing and I forget about the blessings I have already received. When I attempt to help others, this keeps me focused on God and I become filled with love for God and my brother, completely forgetting self! "What blesses one blesses all." \*\*\*\*\*

Gilbert Carpenter relates something he learned his first days at Pleasant View in chapter 79 of *Footsteps to Truth*:  
"Mrs. Eddy expresses it in *Science and Health*, page 261, 'We should forget our bodies in remembering good and the human race.' This reasoning throws light on Job 42:10, where we can deduce that Job's troubles were due to an in-turned thought, since it reads, 'And the Lord turned the

captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends.' As man attains a knowledge of Truth, he becomes a channel through which the unbroken power of infinite good flows out to the universe. Mrs. Eddy employs the illustration of mortals as windowpanes, being the channels through which the light passes. This divine essence not only blesses humanity, but it sustains the channel through which it flows. I will relate the circumstances connected with the first time I fell ill, while at Pleasant View. Remembering the above revelation, I resolved to test it out. I sat down by the window, and let my thought go out in prayer to all the sufferers in the world in hospitals; in sick rooms; those condemned under the classification, incurable; those without knowledge of the presence of God to care for them; to bring them the truth, that there is no incurable disease and that, even though they did not know it, they do have a heavenly Father who is the great Physician, who "healeth all thy diseases." I let my thought issue forth to all who needed God, with the true realization of the God that is all-presence, all-power and Love. When I returned from this mental journey, I found myself well." \*\*\*\*\*

*Gilbert Carpenter: "I let my thought issue forth to all who needed God, with the true realization of the God that is all-presence, all-power and Love. When I returned from this mental journey, I found myself well."*

Thank you for sharing this beautiful reminder that I need to get out of myself and to embrace the world in my thought. What a simple yet powerful concept this is, one of the Laws of the Universe in action! \*\*\*\*\*

I have loved that story about Gilbert Carpenter! And certainly the one small line in the story of Job: "And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends" is by far one of the most significant. In Isaiah 58:10, we also read, "And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday." Expression is the antidote for depression. We find our own burdens made lighter when we reach out to help a brother. \*\*\*\*\*

Thanks very much for all these valuable reminders that unselfed love frees us from focusing on our own physical and emotional problems. \*\*\*\*\*

## Job's Repentance

The story of Job is such an interesting one and has so much we can learn from. Job was a very good man, but he was humanly good. He thought he was good, he prided himself on being good—and so his great want was he very much needed to know God as the only Good as the Master said. A humanly "good" person can be one of the hardest to heal because they cling to that false sense of self which appears as good. Job had to go through the purifying process Mrs. Eddy speaks about in her article, "Pond and Purpose": "The baptism of repentance is indeed a stricken state of human consciousness, wherein mortals gain severe views of themselves; a state of mind which rends the veil that hides mental deformity. Tears flood the eyes, agony struggles, pride rebels, and a mortal seems a monster, a dark impenetrable cloud of error; and falling on the bended knee of prayer, humble before God, he cries, 'Save, or I perish.' Thus Truth searching the heart neutralizes and destroys error." Someone once said and rightly so—we stand the tallest on our knees before God!

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Beautifully explained! I was always trying to be the good girl...and now here I am on my knees. Dear Job, he figured it out and thank goodness for his true friend, Elihu. And our true friends at Plainfield. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you Mary for addressing the issue of human good. This is what has come to me to be handled in my thought and my work. Job's story teaches me that there is a wide divide between the spiritual and the human sense of good which, in the end, turns against us. \*\*\*\*\*

## Letting Go of Error

From the May 24th, 2015 weekly lesson:

### 3. II Corinthians 3

**12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:**

**13 And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:**

**14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.**

From the May 31st, 2015 weekly lesson:

### 11. Romans 16

**17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.**

**18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.**

**19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.**

From this week's lesson:

### 12. Job 42

**1 Then Job answered the LORD, and said,**

**2 I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.**

**3 Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.**

Job shows us the inevitable end of self-justification and self-pity, as well as enabling bad behaviors in family and friends: Increased suffering. All those long speeches did no good at all; they only brought the veil up in his thoughts. God didn't cause the suffering, nor did He make a deal with the devil to punish Job. Job's punishment was brought on by Job alone. Once he finally saw his fault, he was able to atone for it quickly. Once he was right with God, his suffering ended.

### 3. 262 : 27-32

**The foundation of mortal discord is a false sense of man's origin. To begin rightly is to end rightly.**

Before coming to this church I was guilty of enabling, self-justification, self-pity, hiding behind words, and a host of other sins. It ended in suffering—of course!—yet once I let go of those errors, God brought me out of that suffering and here to Plainfield. How quickly it turned once I gave that behavior up! So much better now to do my best to be “wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.” Christian Science makes that completely possible and this church brings it within reach every day through these lessons and practitioner support.

I am so grateful how each lesson builds on the previous to make these points clear. Thank you to the lesson writers, and also for the Daily Watch this week for being so pertinent to this lesson.

(Include it here for future reference.)

**466—WATCH that you put God at the head of your procession. If you had some rare plants for which you did not know how to care, you might lose them if you did not call for the help of an expert. Job fancied that he could care for his family, money, friends, and health, with the result that he temporarily lost them. When he made God the Head of his procession, the Gardener over his possessions, they were restored to him.**

**It is a small price to pay, to put God in charge of all we have and are. Each morning we should realize that God is the Head of our home, and earnestly seek to know what He would have us do. There is never any freedom resulting from neglecting God. Mrs. Eddy once defined hell as a state of neglecting or forgetting God. \*\*\*\*\***

Amen. As I was thinking along these same lines I asked myself, am I really letting God run my work or am I thinking somehow that I am doing it? I didn't like my answer. It isn't enough to pray and go. Listening and checking when I am babysitting

needs to be stepped up. When there was a squabble today, I stopped and thought—God is right here, I will know what to do. It did get settled. I also love the way the Lesson Sermons build on one another. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Stay on your own side of the street and get to spiritual work. \*\*\*\*\*

*Science and Health 262: 27-32 The foundation of mortal discord is a false sense of man's origin. To begin rightly is to end rightly.*

Our foundation IS Spirit; unless we are beginning there, we are not doing much. Hence the repeated admonitions to gain the Christ mind, to know that is our Mind. Human mind cannot acknowledge the things of Spirit. The renewal takes place in consciousness...as in Eph. 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

The discipline of reading the Lesson first thing, keeping thought on God at work, at home etc., all help in this necessary change in thought base which helps us see the spiritual good already there as our birthright.

### **Like A Treatment**

Today's (Saturday June 6) Bible Study was like a treatment from a practitioner. I was having issues regarding why I was not moving forward in life and under the belief that people were labeling (malpracticing) me (it came up in my thinking during the discussion on Job). When one of the practitioners impersonally addressed these issues during the Bible Study (no, I had not called them) I was, and now am, on my way to healing. God bless the Bible Studies and the Round Tables.