

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Man — September 5th, 2021

Man: Translation from the Icelandic

“The following are some of the equivalents of the term *man* in different languages. In the Saxon, *mankind, a woman, any one*; in the Welsh, *that which rises up*, — the primary sense being *image, form*; in the Hebrew, *image, similitude*; in the Icelandic, *mind*. The following translation is from the Icelandic: —

And God said, Let us make man after our mind and our likeness; and God shaped man after His mind; after God’s mind shaped He Him; and He shaped them male and female.” (*Science and Health*, p. 525). This reminded me of a Bible quote I was given to work with from my practitioner here at Plainfield, that I kept for a long time near me on a card to remind me and to pray with all the time from 2 Timothy 1:7, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

I came across the follow article titled, “A Sound Mind” by Doris White Evans that went well with this week’s Lesson on dwelling together in unity. “That power must be used with love. It must be the Christ love that doesn’t go up and down, doesn’t waver when approached by a problem, but keeps on loving. It doesn’t react and hate, but loves. It isn’t always easy to love when, perhaps, someone has done something that is not kind. But if we really love the truth and love God, we won’t fall to the level of hating. ...”

“In the early days, when the workers were so very busy seeing Christian Science grow and doing the work that had to be done, and Mrs. Eddy was still here, many of them would pray, ‘Dear God, keep me sweet.’ And that means loving, kind, and strong; but let us never become embittered by what error we may seem to experience or believe. Let

me cast it into the trash bin as fast as we know how, and get on with doing the good that God has for us to do. ... I’ve watched as good has come to some folks, and when they got to that last thing, the sound mind, they forgot about it and lost the good that they had demonstrated, because they didn’t keep themselves in the mind of Christ. That steady, consistent, humble — not prideful — but humble sense of God.” [Click here to read full article.](#)

Repudiation of Human Theories

The last few months I have been working on lifting myself above the constant discord of human debate. The following passage in this week’s lesson in Ephesians Chapter 4 crystallised my thinking. “That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.” What a powerful statement this is. A divine repudiation of getting caught up in human theories and conspiracies.

We are bombarded daily with negativity through social media and news, designed to scare us and destabilise the world, and designed to make us take sides in a human argument that in fact, has no reality. It is animal magnetism suggesting another power other than God.

As adherents to the Truth, we cannot be “tossed to and fro” or “carried about”. Divine Science, the Christ, is our steadfast anchor that keeps us firmly attached to the Truth. The Truth that there is only one Mind. There is no room for human opinions. Again, from this week’s lesson (*Science and Health*, p. 205) “When we realize that there is one Mind, the divine law of loving our neighbor as ourselves is unfolded; whereas a belief in many ruling minds hinders man’s normal drift towards

the one Mind, one God, and leads human thought into opposite channels where selfishness reigns.” Shine the bright light of Christianly Scientific thought on the “sleight of men and cunning craftiness” and we will see clearly the dark deception of human theories and conspiracies for what they really are: mortal mind’s false attempt to divide us and make us believe there are many minds, separate from God. Once we see this unreality, the deception is destroyed forever and the one Mind, God, reigns supreme.

The Parable of the Vine

Jesus’ parable of the vine really stood out to me for the first time. Especially, “If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.” What a stark reminder, that if one pushes through life without seeing the utmost need for always focusing on God (because well, I’m doing great, yippee! and I can always pull C.S. down from the shelf when needed) then, one day, one may find oneself being withered and gathered up and burned! I’ve “been there, done that” because that was the case for me before joining the fold at Plainfield.

When we are truly grounded in the Christ, and follow in the steps of Jesus, our Wayshower, the best we can, seeking spiritual nourishment (instead of worldly gain), we will bear fruit, often in ways we never thought possible. When beset with difficulties, we may be “pruned” to make us more fruitful. But we will always need the Master Gardener every moment, every day, to guide us along the way. I’m loving this parable! And reflecting on what it truly means to be rooted in Christ, Truth, the “true vine”: Am I being a true disciple?

The Great Spiritual Fact

‘The great spiritual fact must be brought out that man *is*, not *shall be*, perfect and immortal...The evidence of man’s immortality will become more apparent, as material beliefs are given up and the immortal facts of being are admitted.’ [S&H p.428]

Contemplation of the great works of Moses, Elijah, Isaiah and Jesus reveals they had awareness of ‘something’ more than human existence. This something was Divine Mind or God ‘within’ them, (which is also in you). Jesus of Nazareth refers to this something as the Father. When Jesus said, ‘I and my Father are one,’ he was not referring to a human sense of body or mind.

Jesus’ words and works give evidence of this something as Christ Awareness. When Jesus quotes Psalms 82:6 confirming ‘ye are gods’ [John 10:31-38], he signifies that ‘ye’ are the pure image and likeness of God. So to me, consideration of the meaning of man (and woman) without appreciation of God is impossible since in Truth, Man and God are ONE, inseparable.

That said, man as a material identity is isolated within the limitations of so-called ‘mortal mind’. This man exists as the prodigal son. The prodigal is separated from his Father only because he believes he is. It is all a matter of awareness. And Divine Science tackles awareness head on.

Now this lesson’s essence: Mary Baker Eddy had True Vision of Man. She understood why Jesus as Christ Awareness dismissed prodigal existence as illusion; and why He dismissed beliefs of sin, sickness and death as NOT included in God Awareness. Mrs. Eddy practised and taught this. This lesson of MAN reveals that as Christ is brought to Glorious Light within, the mortal idea of man fades, revealing True Vision – vision free of physical beings who live in delusion, far from Truth.

This post ends in gratitude to Plainfield CS for providing this broad yet demanding lesson of man/woman.

‘The great spiritual fact must be brought out that man *is*, not *shall be*, perfect and immortal...The evidence of man’s immortality will become more apparent, as material beliefs are given up and the immortal facts of being are admitted.’ [Science and Health, p.428]. This quote shows how present this Truth is, and while heeding it, we make our own the spiritual fact in the above; which in turn

strengthens our faith in Love's Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Omniscience and Omni-action. This article has been a help to make the Truth my own and will do the same for others....Immortality Brought to Light. We have an excerpt of it on our site...saying, "Know Who You Are."

Citizens of the World

(S&H 227:24) "Citizens of the world, accept the 'glorious liberty of the children of God,' and be free! This is your divine right." I was thinking how commendable and telling it is that the US currency has inscribed on it the words, "IN GOD WE TRUST".

The words "Novus Ordo Seclorum" (meaning: New World Order) "Annuit Coeptis" (meaning: favours our undertakings), and the all-seeing eye and pyramid are also shown on the Illuminati's logo, and they are not a promoter of individual and religious freedom. But there is one Mind that is all-seeing.

As a citizen of the Dominion of Canada, I wish that "In God we Trust" were so conspicuously inscribed on our coinage and hearts as a message to the world. I thought of several lines from the Canadian National Anthem:

God keep our land (consciousness)

Glorious and free! (all Glory to God)

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee. (Thee – God)

At least, God gets mentioned in Canada's National Anthem, and when singing this in our schools as school children, we promise to stand guard for freedom. We actually live and move and have our being in God (Acts 17:28).

I asked myself, what is the Universal Anthem of the Kingdom of God? I wrote a few lines, using the same Canadian Anthem tune that I am familiar with:

God keeps our consciousness

Glorious and free.

Angel legions stand on guard for Thee

O Love Divine, we stand on guard for Thee.

And perhaps the Scientific Statement of Being, written by Mary Baker Eddy, acts as an Anthem.

SUBJECT: Substance — September 12th, 2021

Substance = Essence

"In one dictionary this definition of 'substance' may be found: 'That which underlies all outward manifestation.' In the primary sense of this term, then, the substance of anything is the meaning or essence of it" (CSJ, August 1952, "Finding Substance in Spirit" by Anetta G. Schneider).

Webster's 1828 Dictionary: "Essence" – noun [Latin *essentia*, *esse*, to be.] – "that which makes any thing to be what it is; or rather, the peculiar nature of a thing"; "That which constitutes the particular nature of a being or substance, or of a genus, and which distinguishes it from all others." What is the meaning of "substance"? Examples given to Sunday School students: (1) What is more important – the wood, ivory, and metal that constitute the piano, or the great music which is played on it? (2) What is substantial – the paper, ink, and leather of a Bible, or the Ten Commandments, 23rd Psalm, Sermon on the Mount, and the great truths recorded therein? (from CSS, 4/28/1945, "What Does Substance Mean to You?" by Ethel Daniels Hubbard).

Mary Baker Eddy: "We must abandon pharmaceuticals, and take up ontology – 'the science of real being.' We must look deep into realism instead of accepting only the outward sense of things" (S&H, p.129:21-24).

"Jesus of Nazareth was the most scientific man that ever trod the globe. He plunged beneath the material surface of things, and found the spiritual cause. . . . To show that the substance of himself was Spirit and the body no more perfect because of death and no less material until the ascension (his further spiritual exaltation), Jesus waited until the mortal or fleshly sense had relinquished the belief of substance-matter, and spiritual sense had quenched all earthly yearnings" (S&H, pp.313:23-26 & – 313:30-314:5).

Substance Correcting a Sense of “Lack”

I love this week’s lesson! Such a wonderful reminder to give our first fruits to the Lord! I love this reference from Corinthians “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”

Being born into poverty, for decades I struggled with a belief in “lack”; lack of education, opportunities, lack of work, home, financial security etc. But I never lacked Love. I was always able to feel God’s Love protecting me, lifting me up and showing me how to move forward. God’s goodness led me to people who helped me, taught me and showed me how to pray to God; who is our supply and Substance. It was my belief in “lack” that needed correction, I had believed that “lack” was a thing, thus I was perpetuating it. I have since learned in Christian Science many times, that we lack nothing; in fact “lack” does not exist – all that keeps it alive is our own thought. God made infinite supply to one and all! Looking back over those years, I am so grateful to Christian Science, for God lifted me up and showed me how to worship Him rightly, so that my belief in “lack” could be removed and replaced with God’s beautiful government and unfailing supply of all Substance in my life. I continue to thank God and to learn the lesson that, in Mrs. Eddy’s words: “That which material sense calls intangible, is found to be substance. What to material sense seems substance, becomes nothingness, as the sense-dream vanishes and reality appears.”

Since my belief in “lack” changed to the proper sense of God’s government and supply, the scripture has been fulfilled in my life “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God”. The scriptures are correct; when we put God, good FIRST; when we turn from the worldly to fill our minds only with Him, our lives attest to no lack of any good thing. Giving our first fruits to the Lord and

seeing the results proves conclusively this law of Substance – the law of God. Thank you, Plainfield Independent, for another glorious lesson this week!

Thank you for sharing your experience and the way this verse spoke to you. I can see how the people who helped, taught and showed you how to pray played their parts in “planting the seeds” which resulted in God’s great blessings for you. Very beautiful.

Worldliness

Science and Health, p.458: 32-8 “Christianity causes men to turn naturally from matter to Spirit, as the flower turns from darkness to light. Man then appropriates those things which ‘eye hath not seen nor ear heard.’ Paul and John had a clear apprehension that, as mortal man achieves no worldly honors except by sacrifice, so he must gain heavenly riches by forsaking all worldliness. Then he will have nothing in common with the worldling’s affections, motives, and aims.”

Worldly definition (not found in the 1828 Webster Dictionary): of or concerned with material values or ordinary life rather than spiritual existence; temporal, mortal, human.

I have been thinking about this while studying the Lesson this week on SUBSTANCE and how a young person might view these concepts. This wonderful Lesson explains that real substance is a gift from God and when we seek Him, the so called worldly things of material existence fall away from our experience. We are spiritual.

God is the Giver-Lender

It all starts with God. God is the Owner of All. God gives/loans to man abundantly: health, freedom, wisdom, love, Science, dominion, protection, perfection, and daily needs.

(Psalm 37:26) **God lendeth.** Man borrows/reflects ... gives back / returns the loan abundantly in kind. Man acknowledges that God is the true Owner. Man is always indebted to / grateful for Life's great gift, because God is always giving.

Conditions of borrowing the loan: Do that which is good. Be perfect. Be righteous. Be honest. Keep the Commandments. Be humble. Know that neither you, nor any material thing, are the Source. Give thanks to the Source. Love, Love, Teach/heal/share. Pay back.

SUBJECT: Matter — September 19th, 2021

“...Matter Can Make No Conditions for Man”

“...matter can make no conditions for man.”
(*Science and Health*, page 120).

“The medical schools would learn the state of man from matter instead of from Mind. They examine the lungs, tongue, and pulse to ascertain how much harmony, or health, matter is permitting to matter, — how much pain or pleasure, action or stagnation, one form of matter is allowing another form of matter.” (*Science and Health*, p. 159)

“Condition: State; a particular manner of existing or being; quality.” (Websters Dictionary)

This Bible lesson made me more aware that I was using the line, “matter can make no conditions for man” as a treatment for disease only. Yet it says “no conditions” so that includes what is considered good. At a recent Roundtable, a quote was given reminding us to translate all back to Spirit. If We Say, “I Want” From Collected Writings by Bicknell Young “Someone said, ‘It seems to me, the claim constantly is, that we cannot see Spirit.’ The answer was, ‘My dear, you cannot see anything else, but Spirit; it would be impossible to, even if you tried.’”

Spirit, God is all, the only cause, and source of “conditions for man” not matter. Spirit is only good! God is our source for comfort, strength, peace, supply, satisfaction, joy, freedom, etc.

Our Daily watch this week is helpful also.

I Will Not Fear what Flesh can do Unto Me

In reading the lesson, I stopped at the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who were brought before the king for not serving his gods or worshipping his golden image, and thought about how relevant this story is for the times we are in now. (Citation 2. Daniel 3). When the king became furious with them for still refusing to serve his gods, he commanded that the furnace he was about to send them into, be turned up “one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.” I am asking the question, do I have the amount of confidence and trust in God, that would allow me if tested as far as the three men in this story were tested, to trust this God enough to stand with Him, even if threatened with being thrown into a furnace for going against human agenda?

In the world, it seems the “furnace” is being turned up, and some are being asked to do what they might not want to do, in exchange for what seems to be their livelihood. The wonderful thing in this story, is that because their trust in God was equal to being able to walk into the furnace, in doing so they were untouched, unharmed, and the king became a witness to how this God protected them. At the 9/8/21 Wednesday testimony meeting and also very relevant to now, we were given some passages from Christian Healing by Mary Baker Eddy (Page 15:12)

“Christian Science explains to any one’s perfect satisfaction the so-called miracles recorded in the Bible. Ah! Why should man deny all might to the divine Mind, when at the same time he calls God almighty and admits in statement what he denies in proof? You pray for God to heal you, but should you expect this when you are acting oppositely to your prayer, trying everything else besides God, and believe that sickness is something He cannot reach, but medicine can? as if drugs were superior to Deity.”

The fire symbolism is powerful and got me thinking too.

Useful References:

Deuteronomy 4:12

Isaiah 43:2

Daniel 3:47-50

Zechariah 13:9

Matthew 25:41

Revelation 19:20, 21:8, 14:10

All these references fit nicely with the ideal of overcoming 'this world', especially Isaiah.

Thanks for your honest self-examination. From the lesson, I now realize that the three Hebrew captives confidently served God, the Lord of Hosts, long before the banishment to the furnace. Their lives had been to overturn the pagan beliefs since their capture. This culminated in such a wonderful demonstration and healing for the kingdom. Our lives should be to overturn any lies we face daily, then we will have a consciousness of love that cannot be burned.

Hebrews 11

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." In reading the lesson today, I remembered the book *The Comforter: Physics to Metaphysics* by Yvonne Reus. This book has been mentioned at previous Roundtables, and I felt I should look up Hebrews 11 in it, as the author, a physicist and Christian Scientist, has attempted to bridge the two in this book. Regarding the verse above, she wrote on page 701: "Things appear to be made of matter, but are really Spirit. Our senses fool us as the physicists have learned. Matter is not the solidity it appears to be. Right now, because that is not understood, we must accept it, at first, on faith. Material senses cannot grasp the revelation which came to various spiritually-minded men and women down through the ages. What we believe is substance is illusion, as the physicist also tells us. We will, over time, understand, as Jesus did, that the substance or essence of supply, health, movement, or whatever is needed, to be solely in idea and not in matter,

and understand also that the true man and the universe lie in these infinite ideas. We can prove to every level of consciousness that this infinitude is the fundamental fact. Ideas aren't quantifiable, (a bucketful of health) can't be measured, but exist as stable mental substance. Spirit is a quality of God which man reflects. We are scientists using Science, not merely religious sentiment. The dictionary tells us that substance is 'that which is real, in distinction from that which is apparent' (Webster)"

Then she says in the next paragraph, regarding the rest of Hebrew 11, "Paul looks back over the first events of the Old Testament that were based on faith..." to see that "Without faith that perfection already exists in the universe and man, we would not have the stamina to stick the course and gain spiritual understanding whereby we can prove it to ourselves and others. It is the *works* we must see."

Thank you for this week's lesson, and for all the resources that Plainfield has made me aware of which always help to strengthen and increase my understanding, and help me more-and-more to see the works. Thank you!

I will spend time reading this book. Mrs. Eddy gave us so many types of instruction to walk the "footsteps of Truth". If you read *Science and Health*, p.113:26-32, she even says to use mathematical logic to help a student.

Divine Principle v. No Matter

It struck me, embracing 'matter' as an enigma, during contemplation of this week's Bible study lesson that:

- (i) 'This world' (error-reality made up of mortal mind's false suggestions, claims and beliefs of life) is not 'My Kingdom' even when patched up, for matter cannot express Eternal Life (*Science and Health*, p.488).
- (ii) Christ Consciousness dismisses 'this world' since Christ Awareness is not hypnotised by the human mind's false suggestions, claims and beliefs because every false belief of matter surrenders to Christ (Divine Science) (*Science & Health*, p.493).

Mrs. Eddy confirms: “The suppositional warfare between truth and error is only the mental conflict between the evidence of the spiritual senses and the testimony of the material senses... this warfare between the Spirit and flesh will settle all questions through faith in and the understanding of divine Love” (*Science & Health*, p. 288).

Man has been ‘hypnotised into accepting a false estimate of God and hence of himself and [reads] this into everything’ (G. Carpenter).

The scriptures call all men and women ‘Christ’ (‘ye are gods’) and that truth cannot be nullified by disbelief or hypnotism. Yet living in ignorance of that truth closes the soul to actual perception of Immortality.

Divine Principle was the master of Jesus, not Jesus the master of it. Jesus asks us to embody the Divine Principle and express Christ as our own true selfhood. Jesus said to those who mocked the Truth: Notwithstanding your suspicion and mistrust of me, look into the Christ Principle manifested in my WORKS and appreciate no mortal or ego-person is capable of such divine works (John 10:31-38).

Jesus demonstrated, over and over, ‘this world of matter’ is powerless once a person knows and experiences SELF from the standpoint of Eternal Life; experiences Self without beginning and end [see Heb 7:1,4].

There is so much more!

To end. My chant in honour of the Christ-idea. ALL IS Eternal Life, Love, Infinite Mind and its manifestation.

What is this error-reality claiming imperfection, limitation and decay?

What is this imperfection?

A suggestion! A lie! An illusion of mortal mind! ALL is Spirit, Eternal Life and Love; this is true seeing.

True seeing is the journey and the goal of Life. So glad that you are willing to question the picture before you. Is it from God who you love and serve, or the enemy who imprisons?

The answer comes from *Science & Health*, “Mortals can never know the infinite, until they throw off the old man and reach the spiritual image and likeness” (p.519)

“Existence, separate from divinity, Science explains as impossible” (p.522).

Blessings of God



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