

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 213

**SUBJECT: Ancient and Modern  
Necromancy, Alias Hypnotism,  
Denounced — May 29th, 2022**

## Are We Deluded?

Hypnotism is a “farce-like state” while a delusion is a “false belief” that is resistant to confrontation with actual facts. The “false belief” of mortality: birth, sin, disease, suffering, decay, and death is “conjured up” by delusion and exists in our imagination, like a mirage; Hypnotised and deluded, ignorant of the Principle of Immortal Life, mortal sense, individually and collectively, seeks “good” and avoids, condemns, even battles with “bad, evil, devil or satan.”

Christ Science declares, as absolute: God is ALL. God’s ALLNESS is forever in At-one-ment with immortality, incorporeality, all-inclusive love and infinity. We are free of “the delusion of mortality”, termed by Mrs. Eddy as “error” and “personal sense,” once we catch the truth of AT-ONE-MENT.

The Supreme Principle of At-one-ment, embraced by spiritual sense, in the non-judgemental and non-dual mind, enables us to rise out of the “false belief” of mortality and into Soul, unscathed.

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Yes, to a large extent deluded; that is why one writer said we all need to quit standing on our heads... and stand upright on our feet!

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## Definitions

Necromancy – (1) The art of revealing future events by means of pretended communication with the dead; enchantment; conjuration (1828 Webster’s); (2) Conjunction of the spirits of the

dead for purposes of magically revealing the future or influencing the course of events (Merriam-Webster Dictionary); (3) A method of divination through alleged communication with the dead; black art; magic in general, especially that practiced by a witch or sorcerer; sorcery; witchcraft. (Dictionary.com)

Mesmerism – (1) The act of putting someone into a mental state like sleep, in which a person’s thoughts can be easily influenced by someone else (Cambridge English Dictionary); (2) Hypnosis as induced through animal magnetism; hypnotism; a compelling attraction; fascination (Dictionary.com); (3) Irresistible attraction. (Collins Dictionary)

Hypnosis/Hypnotism (Greek = hupnos) – (1) A trancelike state that resembles sleep but is induced by a person whose suggestions are readily accepted by the subject (Merriam-Webster); (2) An artificially induced altered state of consciousness, characterized by heightened suggestibility and receptivity to direction. (YourDictionary.com)

Denounced – (1) Accused; proclaimed; threatened by open declaration (1828 Webster’s); (2) Pronounced, especially publicly, to be blameworthy or evil (Merriam-Webster); (3) Criticized strongly and publicly (Cambridge Dictionary); (4) To condemn or censure openly or publicly; to make a formal accusation against. (Dictionary.com)

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## Defense Against Temptation/Hypnotism

“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own

lust, and enticed.” James 1:13, 14

“Dear one, there is but one Mind [and] this one is yours, mine, and governs all. All our thoughts come to us from this Mind and return to their source. In this Mind there is no material sense, and there is no other Mind; no mortal mind to tempt, to harm, to control us. Now know this, realize it, and you are the master of the occasion, the master of yourself and of others.” – Mary Baker Eddy in letter dated June 22, 1905, to John Lathrop.

“Declare daily, hourly! God is the only Mind. That Mind is my mind and the mind of my fellow man. I do not have a mind of my own. There is no mind to tempt me, harm me, control me, mesmerize me, or hypnotize me. I spiritually understand this and am master of the occasion.” – from Dorothy Reike address.

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Question: What is the meaning of the term “hypnotism” or mesmerism, hypnotic suggestion, “the arm of flesh”, carnal mind, personal sense, temporality, corporeality, false belief, error, nothingness, ignorance, superimposition, personal sense, animal magnetism, “man with breath in his nostrils”, Adam, “the creature”, “the old man”, human sense, carnal mind, mortal mind, “this world”, the appearance, malpractice, delusion, hallucination, “the dream world”, the mirage, the tempter, the lie, human existence, temptation, evil, devil, the anti-Christ, illusion, unreality, wrong thinking, deception and a claim?

Answer: “Hypnotism” is the universal, impersonal, erroneous belief in relative good and relative bad or evil; the belief that mind is other than Spirit.

Always, “hypnotism” is the ONLY claim, yet it is broken up into many – so many – erroneous beliefs. Every claim is hypnotism! The essence of every claim that is experienced, individually or collectively, is the belief that human beings have a Mind separate and apart from God. When Christ-consciousness is revealed, hypnotism

ceases. Christ Science reveals the immortality of being, thereby dispels the false appearances of mortal sense. Hypnotism may disappear for the Christ-conscious individual and yet continue as mass hypnotism for the rest of the human family.

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## **Mesmerism and Animal Magnetism Defined**

I am very grateful for the Plainfield Lesson Sermons. Without fail, when faithfully studied, each Lesson provides ever-expanding instruction applicable to any of life’s challenges. This week, Citation 7 from *Science and Health* stands out. I had never before noticed the difference between mesmerism and animal magnetism and how this difference reinforces the necessity to stand porter at the door of thought. If, at the outset, we mentally or emotionally buy into the material picture, illusion, we either voluntarily or involuntarily open the door to animal magnetism, which gives impetus to action. Staying watchful and tuned in to divine Mind, we are naturally protected from misguided actions

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## **The Leaven**

The upheaval seen in today’s world is malicious animal magnetism’s resistance to Truth. When Principle seems to be absent, man’s resistance is forfeited. The purpose of animal magnetism is to destroy the Christ’s idea, man’s eternal harmony.

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Hence we work, watch, and pray!!

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## **Science and Health, Section 4**

After the horrendous incident in Texas, where innocent children were killed, this section gave me the impetus to pray more diligently about the world and against “this malicious animal instinct, of which the dragon is the type, incites mortals to kill morally and physically even their fellow-

mortals.” (S&H p. 564) It was for me a wake-up call to not be complacent. Even though it didn’t happen to me or mine, “we are all in this together”. As Christian Scientists, I hope we can see through this animal magnetism and don’t allow it to win!

This section in the Bible Lesson has been prophetic - all of it! A big Thank You to the Lesson writer!!

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In reading the previous post, the word ‘obsolete’ came to mind. I searched for it in *Miscellaneous Writings* and found this:

“If God is Mind and fills all space, is everywhere, matter is nowhere and sin is obsolete. If Mind, God, is all-power and all-presence, man is not met by another power and presence, that—obstructing his intelligence—pains, fetters, and befools him.” *Miscellaneous Writings*, p.173

“[Evil obsolete] The notion that both evil and good are real is a delusion of material sense, which Science annihilates.” *Science and Health*, p. 330

Doesn’t this tell us that the monstrous nightmare of evil (the Dragon) has never been real, is not real now and that everyone in the case, seen and unseen, exists only as a “gentle beam of living light”? That is how I am praying about Texas today. I think of “spiritual wickedness in high places” as “the Dragon”. But wickedness has no power to kill or to cure... in high places or low ones.

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## False Claim

“That false claim — that ancient belief, that old serpent whose name is devil (evil), claiming that there is intelligence in matter either to benefit or to injure men — is pure delusion, the red dragon; and it is cast out by Christ, Truth, the spiritual idea, and so proved to be powerless.” *Science and Health*, p. 567:18

I have been working with the idea of “false claim” quite a lot. Because of the teaching here at

Plainfield CS Church, Independent, did I have an awakening that these so-called claims are in fact powerless when Christ Truth is recognized and practiced in our prayers and watches.

For instance: Any mortal mind or human thought that would try to block a right idea for a child or an adult is overcome, and the outcome is always positive, enriching, and prosperous. I have witnessed this Truth several times and rejoice!

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See S&H, p. 230: 4-18. These lines are wise counsel in challenging times, always helpful to contemplate.

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## “And Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil”

This lesson was a powerful treatment for staying in “the house of the Lord”:

“... take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” Ephesians 6:13

Thinking with God is our armor and to stand, not give up, but persist for good.

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:” Matthew 6:13

Our prayer of affirmation that God does not tempt us but delivers us.

“But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, ... Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast ... And he said unto the woman, ... in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened. ... And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?” Genesis 3

God is clear that He wants our obedience and faithfulness. The world says look at me. We are instructed to check our peace, stop often and check our thinking, to ask ourselves, “Is this a thought from a loving God?” and be firm here.

“Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober.” I Thessalonians 5

We are called to watch, and we have many practical instructions in Mrs. Eddy's writings and at Plainfield on how to do this. Christ Jesus commanded his followers to "watch".

"Submit yourselves therefore to God." James 4  
Here we stay in the "secret place of the most High."... "For He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways" (His thoughts and protection). Psalm 91  
We have authority to cast out all that tries to draw our thoughts and feelings away from God!

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This phrase, 'lead us not into temptation', seems to be a grammatical erroneous translation from the original Greek, and it does not make sense. Let us not be led into temptation, let us not fall into temptation, seems to be the better translation, from some research I did on the subject.

Truth will not and cannot lead us away from Itself. Some years ago, I had this vision of God's allness, and I saw that Jesus' work on the cross was to overcome and destroy this temptation of sin, sickness, and death, this temptation of something besides All. "The foundation of evil is laid on a belief in something besides God."  
*Science and Health*, p. 92

I still struggle with all that the senses try to convince me of, when I visit my grandsons and they pass me the flu they strongly believe in, and which the world, the senses, and the news try to convince me of. I have tried long and hard to share this wonderful Science to friends and relatives, but to no avail that I am aware of. It takes the presence of God to stand alone, but this Forum and Church might be just the help I need.

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### **"Learn To Forget What You Should Not Remember"**

"The 'tree of life' stands for the idea of Truth, and the sword which guards it is the type of divine Science. The 'tree of knowledge' stands for the erroneous doctrine that the knowledge of

evil is as real, hence as God-bestowed, as the knowledge of good." *Science and Health*, p. 526  
This reminded me of the following from the first edition of *Science and Health* by Mary Baker Eddy: "Wisdom is not gained of knowledge that brought sin and death into the world; neither is it found in pulp, or the brains of man; this so-called mind is but a belief that matter embraces mind."

It's interesting to find here that so much of what we've learned growing up has been this worthless human knowledge that needs to be let go of. The more I tried to be "realistic" and hold to that knowledge, the less my life felt useful or worth living.

"Learn to forget what you should not remember," Mrs. Eddy says in one of her writings.  
*Class Notes of 1923*, Joseph Mann

As I understand more of Christian Science, I seem to naturally let the false beliefs, doubts, and painful memories drop away, allowing God to work through me with less of that false "me" in the way. It is wonderful to experience. I am so grateful for practitioner support and for all that this Church offers which allows for continual spiritual growth. Thank you!

Also from Joseph Mann: "What is understood needs not to be remembered."

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### **SUBJECT: God The Only Cause and Creator — June 5th, 2022**

#### **Avail Yourself of Spirit, Not of Personality**

God, Spirit, the only Cause and Creator, is the golden principle by which disciples abide. Disciples joyfully spend their time acknowledging that God's ALLNESS is their true state of being.

Let us not attempt to crowd God's ALLNESS into the limited hip-flask of personal sense, since Spirit did not create error. At-one-ment with

Spirit, with ALLNESS, with our divine inheritance, is impossible while we identify as personality in “the world of error.”

To “see” Self, the universe, life and neighbor as they divinely are, Scripture, first and foremost, asks us in Exodus 20:3 to align with the first commandment, “Thou shall have no other gods [beliefs, human desires and idols] before me,” since God said, “I [Spirit] *am* the first, and I [Spirit] *am* the last; and besides ME [Spirit] *there* is no God.” Isaiah 44:6

The Christ-man (sic. woman), the real man, the immortal man, the divine Son created in oneness with Spirit is not at the mercy of personal sense. To Christ-woman, “personal sense” is merely a term denoting “the illusion of birth, decay, and death.” Christ Consciousness or Soul Consciousness is completely impersonal.

God, Spirit, is the only cause and creative principle of immortal life in terms of its own ALLNESS.

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## No Reversal of Good!

“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.” Exodus 14:13  
While reading this verse, my first thought was, “No reversal!” Since God, good, is the only Cause, when we are truly healed, we can know that the false beliefs which brought on the seeming issue will be seen “again no more for ever.”

“If the statement in Science and Health, page 442, is true, ‘...truth cannot be reversed, but the reverse of error is true,’ then students have the authority for playing the game of reversal on animal magnetism. If error declares you are sick, you can know that you are well, since the reversal of error must be the truth.”

*Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Precepts*, by Gilbert Carpenter

“Man’s activity is reflection; his possession is reflection. Mind could find no reversal in Itself, no fear in Itself, no delay in Itself, no inactivity in Itself.”

*Association Addresses* by Bicknell Young, 1937, p. 55

“You live in the land of promise. God has called you out of any sojourn in Egypt (in darkness) to return to your own country and inheritance. The days of hunger, famine, thirst are past.”

*Essays and Other Footprints*, (the *Red Book*), by Mary Baker Eddy, p. 90

I am so grateful for all I am learning here. Thank you!

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## Command

Cause: that which produces an effect; that which impels into existence; that from which any thing proceeds, and without which it would not exist. Effect is for purpose, reality, perfection, completeness. (1828 Webster’s Dictionary)  
Therefore, man is the visible manifestation and presence of the living God.

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“Eternal Mind the Potter is, And thought the eternal clay: ...Unhallowed thought He could not plan, Love’s work and Love must fit.”  
Such a wonderful Hymn (51)!

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## Hearken Unto This

“Hearken: Listen; to give respectful attention; attend; archaic; to give heed to; hear. Opposite to this is, “tune out, ignore, to refuse to take notice of, to reject.”

“Listen: To hear something with thoughtful attention; give consideration; to be alert to catch an expected sound.”

“Hear: to gain knowledge of; to gain information; to receive communication; learn.”  
(1828 Webster’s Dictionary)



Ray C. Stedman wrote about “hearkening to God” – as we sit in church, “Externally it looks as though you are all paying attention. You sit there quietly, with rapt, turned-up faces, your eyes open and staring straight ahead, apparently attracted by what the Word of God is saying. But... Some of you are playing golf. Others of you are rehearsing a business deal. Some of you are planning a trip. Some are going over a conversation you had two days ago. It would be fascinating at the end of a service to know where everybody has been! But God ... when His Word is speaking, listen! And not only listen, hearken! Harken means to heed the Word, to do something about it, to let it really change you.” He goes on to say that not to listen is to, “harden your heart” and result, “the minute anything goes wrong with them, they are ready to fall apart.” He ends with, “Besides church, are we purposefully seeking quiet times and spaces when we can pay attention and hearken to God’s word letting Him speak peace into our souls?”

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## Oneness

Absolute oneness with Mind is our only way to escape! Escape what? Escape that false state of being, or consciousness, which is conscious of all those things the divine Mind is not conscious of.

Mind is not just intelligence, or brain action; Mind stands for Soul, and Love. In the German and Dutch Bible translations, Mind is “Gemut”, which has connotations of interior, heart, bosom. God knows nothing of all the error and evil that seems to be our world, the so-called reality of the human, mortal mind. I think I will have to grow until I also will know it no longer. Because I think that the divine Mind is infinity, eternity, All-in-all, reality or heaven, eternal Life. As long as I fail to be one with the divine Mind, I will remain living in an uncreated, unreal thralldom of dark suffering and endless dying. Jesus came to save us from ourselves, and share with us his Mind. The article “Oneness” by Bicknell Young explains it very well, and I think I have finally

started to understand it more.

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## Psalm 107

“They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep... they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.”

Psalm 107:23, 24, 28

Lieut. Charles Herbert Lightoller was the only senior officer to survive the Titanic. In the book entitled, *Titanic Voyager, The Odyssey of C. H. Lightoller* by Patrick Stenson, page 191 includes a paragraph that illustrates the promise of Psalm 107 as Lightoller and others were floating on an upturned lifeboat.

“Eventually a seaman somewhere further back spoke up and said ‘Don’t you think we ought to pray?’ There was unanimous heartfelt agreement all round and in unison everyone standing on the upturned boat launched into the one prayer they all knew best. In all the time Lightoller had known the Lord’s Prayer, and heard it recited since childhood, he would never be among a gathering who put such conviction and feeling into it as his companions did just then. Everyone with him was now only too aware that if they were to live through this night they were going to need all the help they could get from wherever it came. There was no sign of any of the other lifeboats. They had just rowed away and disappeared into the blackness. All was now quiet, the cries of those struggling in the water had died away. They were quite alone with nothing but an overturned boat between 30 of them and the cold, grey, unfathomable depths of the Atlantic.”

Lightoller shares his testimony in *The Christian Science Journal*, October 1912. He says, “A doubt never entered my mind as to the possibility of my surviving; in other words, of the ability of the divine power to save me.” He also says, “. . . and while I was below the surface these words from the 91st Psalm came to me so distinctly that

I seemed to realize their full import: ‘He shall give his angels charge over thee.’”

Much gratitude for the lesson writer this week, the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, the work and sacrifices of Mary Baker Eddy, and the Plainfield congregation.

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Thank you very much for sharing this wonderful story! I did not know it.

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### **Hymn 410**

*From The Christian Science Hymnal,  
1932 edition*

No mortal sense can still or stay  
The flight of silent prayer,  
Unceasing, voiceless, heart desire  
That seeks God everywhere.

The heart’s own longing lifts it high  
Where words can never reach,  
Though human lips may never form  
That glory into speech.

The voices that are worldly wise,  
With mortal modes in tune,  
Are mute in that transcendent hour  
When God and man commune.