

## America

AMERICA, spiritually understood, is the outward evidence of man's individual oneness with God.

AMERICA, in that sense, is not a nation defined by territorial boundaries but is the spiritual idea of Mind everywhere present.

AMERICA typifies the yearning of the heart for spiritual reality, "whose branches run over the wall."  
"As the heart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

The "Pilgrim Fathers" were the "Separatists" who separated themselves entirely from bondage to ecclesiastical and political formulas and founded what is called AMERICA, as Abraham founded Israel by going out from his "father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee," forsaking all for the highest sense of good.

The Puritans, on the contrary, did not wholly separate themselves from their old affiliations. They still clung to an ecclesiastical mental unity with the old theology and still looked to an intermediary in the form of the ordained minister between themselves and God, even in the conduct of government. So they could not be wholly single-minded in their purpose.

It was not the Pilgrims who indulged in the Salem "burnings," it was the Puritans. The Pilgrims had no part in them.

It is not the Puritans but the Pilgrims who are the real "fathers" of AMERICA. "Come out from among them, and be ye separate," expresses AMERICA as the spiritual idea of Mind.

AMERICA is synonymous with individualism. Had individualism not been the objective of the Pilgrims, they would soon have been forced to admit that there is no freedom and success without it, as the following historical data show.

At first, the Pilgrims felt that community interest, rather than individual interest, in crops would better serve their ends, for the moment. But they quickly learned, as Governor Bradford records in his "History," that collectivism was doomed to failure. Complete individuality was essential for true spirituality and prosperity -- as it always must be.

Man, as God's idea, is necessarily individual.

AMERICA, negatively interpreted, in other words, viewed materially, is the final expression of this individualism seen as human government.

The negative is as individual as is that which it negatives and cannot be changed. The attempt of evil to change AMERICA from individualism to collectivism, and all that goes with that theory, is destined to failure. The breath of AMERICA is freedom, which means individualism.

To surrender its Pilgrim heritage, would be to sell the birthright of AMERICA. But this can never be done, for it is AMERICA.

Mrs. Eddy emphasizes individualism thus:

"Is not a man metaphysically and mathematically number one, a unit, and therefore whole number, governed and protected by his divine Principle, God?!"

This individualism, this oneness, is AMERICA.

*From "Christian Science: It's Clear, Correct Teaching", by Herbert W. Eustace, C.S.B.*