

THE THEATER

Someone asks: "How do you 'be still and know that I am God'? How do you still the human mind and so let the Christ-Mind, the one Mind, arise, and 'know the Truth,' 'hold thought steadfastly' (*Science and Health*), 'realize the Truth,' or 'behold the perfect man'?"

It is as though you were in a theater. You are there to see the play. Everything is set for you to do so. The theater management attends to all this. You have but to pay close attention to the stage, its settings, its characters, and what is done thereon. The management enables you to have an unobstructed view of the stage and maintains quiet in the auditorium. Sometimes there is a disturbance, perhaps a radiator begins to crack and snap. The management stops it. There used to be pillars in the theaters, preventing a clear view of the stage. The management did away with this also, by removing the pillars. Sometimes a drunken man becomes obstreperous, talkative, and noisy. The management removes him also. If you yourself, by argument or otherwise, attempt to stop his noise and misconduct, it will only make matters worse, and there is liable to be a noisy dispute, and both of you are liable to be ejected, by the management. It is the management's business to keep order, to see that all untoward conditions are removed so that you may see and hear what is going on upon the stage without being distracted in the very least. The management also has a doorkeeper who stands at the entrance and admits only those who are entitled to admission.

Then do you listen to the play and watch what is going on. The play is always the mind of the author expressed through its ideas symbolized by the characters and surroundings. You are looking into the mind of the author, and seeing that mind through its ideas, for thus is mind expressed.

A Booth may cut loose in spite of the guards, and assassinate a president. Then the turmoil is so great that the curtain is rung down, the theater is closed, and if one would see a play, he must go to another theater until the first one is prepared by the management to resume its functions.

We are in the great theater of good, God. Each one is in his own theater, as it were, and it is run by the "I" or Ego which is God, Spirit, universal Mind. The world is the stage. Shakespeare says:

*All the world's a stage
And all the men and women merely players.
They have their exits and their entrances.*

We are there to behold the great play written and staged by the Author, God Himself, the Creator of all things and without whom nothing is made. The play itself is called "The Kingdom of God," and the book from which it is drawn is "The Book of Life."

We are in the theater watching the play, listening to everything that goes on. This play can be viewed only by and with that Mind which “was also in Christ Jesus,” the one Mind. To himself Jesus was spiritual, and so was everything else. He saw the realities of being in spite of the disturbances of, and temptations of, the human mind which swirled about him. He listened *over* their disturbances.

In this theater we should maintain a doorkeeper, or should “stand porter at the door of thought.” (*Science and Health*) David sang, “I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.” Only those who are receptive and would behold the play as it is enacted scene after scene should be admitted. When we see the play, we are simply looking into the Mind of the Author, God Himself. He is expressing Himself through His ideas, and whatever we see or hear on the stage is God expressing Himself, and we can behold this only with the one Mind, the Christ-Mind, and never with or by means of, the human mind.

Nothing can enter this great auditorium of God “that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie; but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life,” and everything therein is spiritual. In this theater we must watch and listen attentively to what is going on upon the stage. The human mind constantly strives to get the floor, by distracting us from the play. It puts pillars in the way, drunken men — Isaiah says, “They are drunken but not with wine, they stagger, but not with strong drink” — men drunken with the human mind are there; so are talkative persons, snapping and cracking radiators; every conceivable thing seems to arise to distract us from beholding the play, the Kingdom of God. The very devil himself, the human mind, seems to possess us at times, striving to prevent us hearing and seeing that which is going on upon the stage — from perceiving the realities of being. However, as in the material theaters, if we are really intent upon hearing and seeing the play, we will pay as little attention as possible to the human mind gyrations which are going on about us and listen and watch above the disturbing conditions and in spite of them, knowing that the management itself, God, the “I” or Ego, quells the disturbances. It is not your personal affair to attempt to eject them, argue with them, or fight against them. To do so is to recognize them, and that invariably makes them worse, and all of you may be ejected. Jesus said to let the wheat and tares grow together until the time of harvest, lest in rooting up the tares, the good wheat be pulled up with them; but in the time of harvest the reapers will gather the good into the barns and burn up the tares. Leave the disturbing factions alone, listen and watch attentively to the play itself, and soon the management, God Himself by His very Presence, will quell and dispel the human mind and the evils, whatever they may be. Gradually you will find the pillars will be removed, the cracking radiators, the drunken and talkative persons, all disturbers and disturbances — in other words, sickness, sin, death, and other troubles will be removed; and then with that Mind, the one Mind, or Christ-Mind, always present in some measure, will you behold and hear the play itself, the Kingdom of God, with health, peace, life, love, and abundance of all good.

Sometimes, indeed, some cataclysm, such as the assassination referred to, will occur in your theater or in your consciousness, and the curtain will be rung down and the theater temporarily closed. Then is the time to seek out another theater, that of a practitioner — though everyone calling himself a Christian Scientist should be a practitioner, and potentially everyone is so — and enter his consciousness or theater. There you must

watch and listen to the performance, until such time as your own consciousness, or theater, or auditorium, is cleansed and purified of the human mind's disturbing influences and distractions. But wherever you are, in your own or another's theater, wherein the play goes on eternally, you must listen and watch to behold the play itself and its characters and settings, and sooner or later you will behold the Kingdom of God; and this Mind which was also in Christ-Jesus, this one Mind, will reign supreme in you, for the Kingdom of God can never be perceived save only by the Christ-Mind, this one Mind; and this old faker, the devil or human mind, will be no more. The fact that you do behold the Kingdom of God is evidence that you have this one Mind in you.

It is the prerogative of the Ego or "I" which is God, Spirit, and which is truly the Mind of the genuine practitioner to whom you have turned, or into whose theater you have entered, to prevent the entrance of any evil. There must not be even a taint of error permitted to pass the portals of his consciousness, or enter the auditorium of God, good. Then when you enter into this pure consciousness of the Christ, do you behold and experience peace, harmony, life, love, strength, and abundance. Then, too, very soon your own theater is once again open, the curtain raised, and the play is on, ready for yourself or others to behold the realities of being, and an SRO — standing room only — sign will soon be necessary in front of your theater.