

INDIVIDUALITY, OR THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR
MILDRED LEBLOND, 1957

"There is but one I, or Us, but one divine Principle or Mind, governing all existence."
(S&H 588)

You have to be a committee of one in order to accomplish something. We do have to work as if we were the only one to do it.

"The individuality of man is no less tangible because it is spiritual and because his life is not at the mercy of matter. The understanding of his spiritual individuality makes man more real, more formidable in Truth, and enables him to conquer sin, disease, and death." (S&H 317)

Individuals seem to think of themselves in a human way, as one of many, and wait for others to accomplish things. Anything to be done must be accomplished by the individual. What can I do about the situation? If I believe I am only one, humanly, little could be done. But understanding myself -- the Only One -- that One could accomplish a great deal. We must be more interested to "enlarge the borders of our tent" -- understand our God being.

"Mystery, miracle, sin, and death will disappear when it becomes fairly understood that the divine Mind controls man and man has no Mind but God." (S&H 319)

"Each individual must fill his own niche in time and eternity." (Ret 760)

"In Science all being is individual, for individuality is endless in the calculus of forms and numbers." (Mis 104)

Note well -- your individuality is endless. This means including everything subjectively as one's own individuality.

"One infinite God, good, unifies men and nations; constitutes the brotherhood of man, ends wars; fulfills the Scripture, "Love thy neighbor as thyself;" annihilates pagan and Christian idolatry, -- whatever is wrong in social, civil, criminal, political, and religious codes; equalizes the sexes; annuls the curse on man, and leaves nothing that can sin, suffer, be punished or destroyed." (S&H 340)

Why did Mrs. Eddy mention all this unless she expected Christian Scientists to do it? We cannot sit by and wait for the fulfillment. It must take place as ourselves. If God does this, it must be done by the individuality of God. No other way but as Himself-Herself.

Our necessity is to do it by the individual's understanding of what men and nations are.

"For, if the trumpet give an uncertain sound who shall prepare himself to the battle: So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue where easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? For ye shall speak into the air." (I Cor. 14:8,9)

Unless you and I know a subject ourselves, how can we reflect it? Our consciousness must include the government of God. "Love thy neighbor as thyself" means we no longer believe in a God afar off, but God right at hand. . . our own consciousness.

This appearing as the individuality of oneself begins to destroy what is wrong in social, civil, religious and political codes, equalizes the sexes; annuls the curse on man and leaves nothing that can sin, suffer, be punished or destroyed.

“Most of us willingly accept dead truisms which can be buried at will; but a live truth, even though it be a sapling within rich soil and with blossoms on its branches, frightens people. The trenchant truth that eats its way through iron and sod, most men avoid until compelled to glance at it. Then they open their hearts to it for actual being, health, holiness, and immortality.” (My 160)

“The Word of God is a powerful preacher, and it is not too spiritual to be practical, nor too transcendental to be heard and understood.” (Mess. '01:11)

Note the two words ‘practical’ and ‘spiritual.’ Spiritual is above the physical, but sometimes we feel that it is intangible. It is sometimes felt that Spirit is intangible. We are tempted to believe that the practical is not the spiritual.

For your homework this year, study Mrs. Eddy’s use of the words *practical* and *spiritual*. **Practical is the demonstration of the spiritual.**

Watch what an ungodly government attempts to do, what it can do to a Christian Scientist who is not alert. This is important! Apathy is partly due to thinking that government is material and not spiritual; also partly due to believing that it is separate from business, home, church, etc. -- but this is not true. The government under which you live affects every avenue of the being of your life. It is used to present claims to your consciousness. Only Spirit can remove it.

My purpose in bringing this to you is my love for Christian Science and its prosperity. We must face disdain and criticism. The error that has crept into our government is attempting to restrict your demonstration of divine individuality and thereby impair the Christian Science Movement. We must remove the limiting beliefs so that we may return to the Bright and Morning Star, that our church and our government may be free from socialism.

“In my public works I lay bare the ability, in belief, of evil to break the Decalogue, -- to murder, steal, commit adultery, and so on. Those, who deny my wisdom or right to expose error, are whether willing participants in wrong, afraid of its supposed power, or ignorant of it.

The notion that one is covering iniquity by asserting its nothingness, is a fault of zealots, who like Peter, sleep when the watcher bids them watch, and when the hour of trial comes, would cut off somebody’s ears. Such people say, ‘Would you have me get out of a burning house, or stay in it?’

I would have you already out and know that you are out; also, to remember the Scripture concerning those who do evil that good may come, -- ‘whose damnation is just.’ And that whoso departeth from divine Science, seeking power or good aside from God, has done himself harm.” (Mis 335)

During the earlier times in Christian Science, the opposition was seen as *materia medica*, Romanism, and old Theology. However, the opposition to Christian Science is operating now primarily in the form of government. All the others use the government to accomplish their purpose.

Do you think the form of evil stays the same? It does not.

“To suppose that persecutions for righteousness’ sake belongs to the past, and that Christianity today is at peace with the world because it is honored by sects and societies, is to mistake the very nature of religion. Error repeats itself. The trials encountered by prophet, disciple, and apostle, ‘of whom the world was not worthy,’ await in some form, every pioneer of Truth.”

Perhaps one way I can illustrate the picture that is presented to us to overcome is by reminding you of Gulliver and the Lilliputians. Was he not bound and made helpless by tiny, tiny threads, any one of which he could have snapped with a finger? Was it not when he fell asleep that the Lilliputians were able to accomplish their purpose? Do you see how evil uses the government to put you to sleep?

Is government, therefore, a material subject not worth understanding? Please remember this point. The opposition today to our demonstrating our infinity and its mighty individuality, to our expanding universe, to being the Root and Offspring, is appearing as the Federal Government.

Never before has the Federal Government interfered so much with the rights of the individual. This has come about so stealthily that we hardly know that we are not free, that we are limited in our demonstration of the oneness.

Error appears as good -- giving benefits from the government. We cannot let it go unchallenged.

Communism is Godless. They are taught there is no God -- there is only man. It openly states that it intends to rule the world. Socialism is Communism in a different form. It obtains its objectives by means of the law. Communism intends to overthrow the laws.

Does this affect our spiritual welfare? It does! This is a religious subject because Communism and Socialism would destroy God in our lives.

How is it attempting to destroy Christian Science? It is attempting to destroy the Godly thinking of the Christian Scientist. What is Godly thinking, or knowing? It is knowing God and man -- one Being. It recognizes no Life but God. It recognizes the divine individuality of Mind -- calling it man. Mind the source of all health, wealth, etc.

What about government insuring our life? Our government says in order to travel abroad, we must have medical inoculations for our health. The government must have taxes to support itself, and all this is based on the belief that life, health, supply, etc. is material.

Where is our spiritual concept of man in all this? We cannot see our neighbor incomplete and demonstrate completeness of ourselves

What is happening to our thinking? What is happening to our God? Does God know good and evil? Little by little, through complicated methods, the government encroaches on the individual and makes him drop the divine concept of his neighbor and then of himself.

Communism would take Christian Science away from us by changing our thought. Giving on the basis of Socialism is not divine Love -- but subtle deviltry.

"To sympathize in any degree with error, is not to rectify it; but error always strives to unite, in a definition of purpose, with Truth, to give it buoyancy. What is under the mask but error in borrowed plumes?" (Mis 371)

"A certain apothegm of a Talmudical philosopher suits my sense of doing good. It reads thus: 'The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and enable a man to dispense with alms.'" (Mis ix)

Is this accomplished through Mind or through the government? Do you see the importance of recognizing the mighty individuality of God? ... Seeing it for ourselves and our neighbor, and knowing as Mind?

Do not allow your Mind to be tampered with by Government!

The starting point of divine Science is that God, Spirit, is All-in-all, and there is no other might nor Mind, -- that God is Love, and therefore He is divine Principle. To grasp the reality and order of being in its Science, you must begin by reckoning God as the divine Principle of all that really is. Spirit, Life, Truth, Love, combine as one, -- and are the Scriptural names for God. All substance, intelligence, wisdom, being, immortality, cause, and effect belong to God. These are His attributes, the eternal manifestations of the infinite divine Principle Love. No wisdom is wise but His wisdom; no truth is true, no love is lovely, no life is Life but the divine; no good is, but the good God bestows.

Divine metaphysics, as revealed to spiritual understanding, shows clearly that all is Mind, and that Mind is God, omnipotence, -- omnipresence, omniscience, -- that is, all power, all presence, all Science. Hence all is in reality the manifestation of Mind.

Our material human theories are destitute of Science. The true understanding of God is spiritual. It robs the grave of victory. It destroys the false evidence that misleads thought and points to other gods, or other so-called powers, such as matter, disease, sin, and death, superior or contrary to the one Spirit.

Truth spiritually discerned, is scientifically understood. It casts out error and heals the sick.

Having one God, one Mind, unfolds the power that heals the sick, and fulfills these sayings of Scripture, 'I am the Lord that healeth thee,' and 'I have found a ransom.' When the divine precepts are understood, they unfold the foundation of fellowship, in which one mind is not at war with another, but all have one Spirit, God, one intelligent source, in accordance with the Scriptural command: 'Let this Mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.' Man and his Maker are correlated in divine Science, and real consciousness is cognizant only of the things of God." (S&H 275-6)

"Human codes, scholastic theology, material medicine and hygiene, fetter faith and spiritual understanding. Divine Science rends asunder these fetters, and man's

birthright of sole allegiance to his Maker asserts itself." (S&H 226) *Note marginal heading "Cramping Systems."*

Do you think that the legitimate practice of Christian Science could have been established without the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights?

I would recommend that you read the early C.S. Journals, up to 1910 especially, -- the articles dealing with Christian Science. Ask yourself, "Am I doing as well?" Are we not inclined to take the Christian Science Movement for granted? Do we remember the healing power which Jesus taught was lost after three hundred years, -- until Christian Science came -- because there was no one to witness to it? It was Government power that took it away. We must not let it be lost again.

"Is there more than one God, or Principle?" (S&H 465)

Read the article in the September, 1905, Journal entitled Christian Science and the Constitution. Also read Thoughts on Individuality by Willard S. Mattox in same Journal (Vol 23, pps 343, 359) Also read Christian Science and Legislation by Clifford F. Smith, Journal, August, 1905.

Mrs. Eddy approved of all these articles.

The Government codes under which Americans live have much to do with how Americans live. We must form our lives accordingly.