

ANIMAL MAGNETISM

Animal magnetism has been not infrequently spoken of as a species of witchcraft, or power of evil, which has its birth in the teachings of Christian Science. This is not a fact — it is no such thing; frankly, it is not a thing at all, and has neither existence nor power.

Animal magnetism is the so-called action (actually, lack of action), mesmerism, or magnetism of the carnal mind, the animal or mortal mind. It is the animal part of the human nature, or the “First Degree: Depravity, Physical” (*Science and Health*, p 115), the evil of the “tree of knowledge.”

The terminology, animal magnetism, was not an invention of the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, and the Author of the textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*; but this term was used for many years prior, and subsequent to her discovery and authorship. It was used by many who were not even in the slightest degree allied with Christian Science.

Before the advent to this age of Christian Science, animal magnetism was declared by those who investigated it to be but a chimera of the human mind, or the mind of mortals. It remained, however, for the Revelator to this age to discover the absolute nothingness of it from the premise of Truth, to wit: that, inasmuch as the divine Mind is infinite and All, consequently there is no other Mind; no human, no mortal, no animal, and no carnal mind; hence, there is no action of any so-called mind, and therefore no animal magnetism.

What is the thing called animal magnetism? Humanity is, and has been, wrongly educated into a belief that there is something known as a carnal mind; that this mind thinks or acts; and that this action is intelligence. Now, as a matter of fact, there is but one Mind, or consciousness, and the action of this Mind is the only intelligence. When humanity believes the former, this belief hides or clouds the actual presence of this only Mind, and this *one* Mind, then, seems to be absent. This apparent absence of the divine Mind is what is known as the animal or matter mind, or animal magnetism.

We will find our way out of the maze of false educated beliefs of minds many, if, instead of being aware of a carnal, animal, or mortal mind, we recognize the presence of *one Mind only*, and that, the *divine*; this recognition of what *is*, obliterates forever that which calls itself animal magnetism, or the absence of the divine Mind.

It is thus plainly evident that this “absence” cannot act. When, however, as heretofore, we have accepted the suggestion that animal magnetism is something rather than nothing, we are believing it to have action, to be intelligent, and to think. Refusing the suggestion of an animal nature, a carnal mind, a mortal mind, more than the *one Mind* being present, and viewing it as an “absence,” we then are on the way to recognizing it for what it is, the absence of “the mighty *one* of Israel,” or intelligence. Therefore, this animal magnetism is simply non-intelligence, a no-thing. We may get a glimpse of the way this no-thing (animal magnetism) has come to be universally accepted as something instead of a no-thing, by this illustration:

Suppose an ordinary electric light bulb be shown to me, and I have no knowledge of what it is; suppose, further, that we are living in an atmosphere that is blue; and suppose, too, that I am a bit curious. I ask you, "What is that thing that you have there?" You then hand it to me, and I examine it closely.

Inasmuch as the atmosphere is blue and the air has been exhausted from the bulb, it appears to be white within, or colorless, or absent of blue. As I examine this thing, it seems to me that there is something inside the bulb, a white something. So I question you again, "What is the white thing within the glass?" You reply, "Oh, that is just a vacuum." Now, I, in my ignorance, know nothing of the word *vacuum*, so I immediately believe that the white thing inside the bulb is a vacuum or a something; this is just my ignorant belief, of course, for it would be impossible for me to make something out of nothing.

Then I take this bulb to a foreign country where no one knows anything of electric light bulbs, electricity, or even vacuums, but who, nevertheless, lives in the same blue atmosphere. They see the bulb; they examine it carefully; they notice the white inside the hard substance which we know to be glass; and ultimately they question me and find out that this is a vacuum, this white thing inside the glass; in their ignorance, equally as ignorant as my own false viewpoint, they too, in turn, believe this vacuum, this nothing, to be something.

They conceive this vacuum to be some strange kind of a power, and they could be persuaded as easily that it is an evil power which causes disease, pestilence, famine, war, death, or whatnot; they might even pray to it and work to be saved from its evil influence, even believing that whatever occurred that was disagreeable was the direct result of this so-called power. So it might go on for years, that whole foreign country bowing down to this no-thing (animal magnetism) in the false viewpoint that it was something.

One day, someone more curious, or less superstitious than others, manages to get hold of the bulb, and breaks it in the attempt to investigate it; when, lo, this nothing, calling itself something, vanishes, the blue air fills in, and what has seemed to be something is found to be not something, but the absence of something, and the secret is out!

So with animal magnetism, the absence of Mind, the absence of intelligence. The Revelator to this age, more penetrating, more curious to know more of God's allness, has broken the shell of mortal mind with Christian Science, and the nothingness of animal magnetism stands revealed as *no-thing*

It is evident that anything claiming to result from that which is termed animal magnetism, or lack of intelligence, can be totally avoided, or rectified, by the use of intelligence (the *one* Mind), and the following will serve as an example of this fact:

One who was becoming interested in Christian Science was mystified over the wild accounts of the supposed workings of animal magnetism, and the foregoing was stated to him for his enlightenment. When these two met one morning, after his usual cheery good morning, he observed that he was late because his car had been stalled on the road owing to his chauffeur having forgotten to fill the gasoline tank. After the explanation had been made to him about animal magnetism, the other one said, "I suppose if I were to tell you that it was animal magnetism that caused you to be

stalled on the turnpike, you would think I was foolish.” The other replied, “I *certainly* would.” “Well,” said the other, “I say just that. It was animal magnetism which caused you to be stalled on the road. Moreover, this could have been avoided by the use of intelligence, for it is plain to be seen that when intelligence is present (and it is *ever-present*) animal magnetism (the non-use of intelligence) does not present itself as something in any of its various disguises.” The motorist said, “How is that?” The reply came, “Well, in this instance, had you used a little fore-thought (intelligence) you would have said to your chauffeur before you started, ‘Did you fill the tank and put the machine quite in shape?’ And the chauffeur’s eyes would have been opened to his remissness, the negligence would have been rectified, and there would have been no delay, and harmony, instead of inharmony, would have reigned.” Animal magnetism, the non-use of the divine Mind, would have been scientifically handled, in this instance by the utilization of the divine Mind, and thus the belief of a so-called powerful *no-thing* obliterated.