

## THE BOOK OF LIFE

### The Pigmy Mind

Let us suppose that the story of Robinson Crusoe falls into the hands of a race of pygmies which had never heard of the outside world, nor had seen anything other than their own kind. The book is discovered to be most interesting, and the little fellows secure the rights to film it and produce a picture. In due course the work is done, and when it is presented it is found that the characters, Crusoe, the cannibals and Friday, are about two feet high and everything else accordingly.

It so happens that you walk into the cinema where the picture is being shown, and it, of course, causes great merriment to you. Nevertheless, the story is most fascinating; so you likewise secure the rights to film the story. When it is completed, the author is invited to see the production, and on his way to this preview, he drops into the pigmy theater to see the other production. It causes him even more merriment than it caused you, and he wonders how anyone could possibly have conceived of such a thing after reading his book.

Then he steps into your theater for a preview of your picture. This, of course, is better, and he says so, for therein Crusoe and the others are depicted as men of usual stature and everything else accordingly; but, nevertheless, the picture is a long way from what he, as the author, intended the story to be when he wrote the book.

You have made Crusoe to be a dark-haired, thickset, black-eyed, stocky fellow, whereas the author believed him to be tall, fair, blue-eyed, slender and an athlete. You have depicted Friday as a Negro, thick-lipped and flat-nosed, bowlegged, and with kinky wool, whereas he was a Nubian, black as coal, but built like an Adonis, with a body from head to toe that looked in action like a statue. As for the dog, it was not a Newfoundland, but a mastiff; the parrot not red and yellow, but a blue and green bird; and so on with nearly everything else you have portrayed. There is, then, but one way out of the difficulty, and that is to call the author in to get his viewpoint, and as and when this is done the picture is completed and as it should be.

Mind wrote the Book of Life, and it immediately fell into the hands of the human mind, which at this time was what might have been called a pigmy mind, a small mind, almost destitute of intelligence, and correspondingly materially-minded. As a result the first filming of this picture of the Book of Life was a most astonishing world —, antediluvian it is termed — wherein we find apelike men of the Cro-Magnon or Neanderthal type, and great animals — mostly bodies with small heads indicating materialism and little of mind — known to us as Ichthyosaurs, Brontosaurus, and Dinosauria, and all living on the very lowest plane of existence mid swamps, slime and such like. Later on, of course, as intelligence, or more of mind, begins to permeate human consciousness, there gradually is evolved a better picture, or world, until today we have the world as it appears to us.

At this point, the Author, God, Mind, looks down upon the world and sees, as we find in Genesis: "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that

every *imagination* of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually,” and so it was not at all the picture which the Author, God, Mind, depicted in the Book of Life.

I like to think of a scene in a theatrical production called, “Green Pastures,” played by a company of colored people, wherein God is depicted as a benevolent and kindly old colored gentleman, dressed in a dusty, black old-fashioned frock coat somewhat worn at the elbows. His office is furnished with an old roll top desk, revolving chair, and the other things which go with such an office, and which had just been dusted by two angels, colored mammies, whose wings rather than heads were covered with dustcloths. Through a broad window he looked down upon the earth and beheld what was going on there.

So when God looks down upon this human version of the Book of Life, He says, “Your presentation is far, far better than the antediluvian world which I observed some long time ago, but it is still a far, far cry from what I as the Author intended. Whence came old age, war and pestilence, famine and hardships? Whence came greed, hatred, avarice, fear, worry and other evils? I never wrote such in the Book of Life, for such things are not in *my mind* and I cannot manifest (reveal) what I have not in *mind*. You have done well, very well indeed; but still it is a long way from what I intended it should be. The whole picture must be retaken and an entirely new version set forth; then it will be all right.

“True, the human mind has benefited somewhat by its experiences, but it has been most unwilling to let go of its own viewpoint and adopt the Author’s, which must be done. At different times, I have sent *My* servants, or prophets, with the good news; but in the main you have refused to listen to them and have rejected their teachings; you have beaten them, stoned them and driven them out wounded and bruised. Then I sent *my son* and him you treated shamefully. You not only rejected him, but you crucified and killed him, and now there is but one thing for me to do. I must come *myself* (Luke 20:9-18), so here *I am*, and from now on if you would put on the correct version, you must listen to *Me* to what I have to say; and not only listen, but you must heed what I say, forgetting your own preconceived ideas of human policies, human ways, human wisdom and human methods. Thus the *perfect* picture will appear. Then indeed will “The kingdoms of this world . . . become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ.”

It does not require a great stretch of the imagination to see that the pigmy mind must give up its own personal and preconceived ideas, with its pigmy thoughts and opinions, its pigmy ways, its pigmy wisdom, and the pigmy policies of its pigmy mind, if it would advance to the point of human understanding in which you find yourself; but if it refuses to listen and heed what you have to say and point out to it, it would have to stay down in the pigmy mentality.

It is so with us today, for if we continue to entertain the human thoughts (good or bad of the tree of knowledge) and opinions, ways and methods and policies of men, we shall never be able to attain that viewpoint of the Author, God. In other words, we shall not “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,” and so we shall go on seeking things from this false viewpoint until at last, through much tribulation, we shall be forced into the giving up of those human thoughts and ideas, ways of men and senses earthly. Then will the Christ arise within us and become our Saviour, saving us from whatever we need to be saved.