

## THE VACUUM

“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.” So said Job.

Definition of “vacuum” — “Space absolutely devoid of matter.” *Science and Health* says: “Matter is Spirit’s contrary, the absence of Spirit,” and also refers to “the nothingness of matter.” No person has ever been able to produce a perfect vacuum.

An airplane is held up in the air above the earth not, as generally supposed, by the speed of the level plane compressing the air beneath the wings and riding on it, but by the speed of the plane and slant of the wings tending upward, which produces a vacuum above the wings; whereupon the plane is anchored to the vacuum as firmly as though it were hooked on to a star. Let the plane get off the level or slacken speed, and the vacuum is lost proportionately; and when the vacuum is gone, the plane will fall to the ground and crash, unless it has been high enough to enable the plane to be righted and gather speed again; whereupon the vacuum will be once more created and the plane solidly fastened to the vacuum and again safe.

It remained for Mrs. Eddy through a revelation from God to discover, long before airplanes were invented, that matter is but the “absence of Spirit” — God. It must therefore be evident that the presence of God would constitute a vacuum — a place “absolutely devoid of matter.” Literally then the plane, like the earth, “hangeth upon nothing” — the “nothingness of matter” or, better still, it is “sustained by Spirit.” (*Science and Health*) Jesus was thus sustained when he walked on the water — was borne up by Spirit, God; and so was Peter until he let matter come into his consciousness and so lost his vacuum.

A speeding plane with its wings tending downward could never rise and create a vacuum; nor could we, when consciousness tends earthward, empty consciousness of material beliefs and create a vacuum and so be “sustained by Spirit.” We must speed not only forward, but upward like the plane taking off, or as Mrs. Eddy said as she relayed the Word of God as follows: “The bird whose right wing flutters to soar, while the left beats its way downward, falls to the earth. Both wings must be plumed for rarefied atmospheres and upward flight.” (*Miscellaneous Writings*) Then if we slacken not, but speed onward and upward away from the earth earthly, we shall create the vacuum or the “nothingness of matter,” and correspondingly the actual presence of God, Spirit, will be there to lift us higher and higher, and we shall be held safely in “the everlasting arms.”

In the plane we set the wings to ascend and speed along the earth trusting air, the more ethereal, thus creating the vacuum which holds the plane in perfect safety hooked into the “nothingness of matter.” Similarly do we speed along the journey from sense to Soul and from bondage to freedom, leaving the material by refusing to entertain human thoughts and opinions, the doctrines and theories of men and all the preconceived imaginations of the human mind, and, trusting the *spiritual* by living the *Truth* in praising and glorifying and giving of thanks to God for “*His wonderful works to the children of men,*”

we shall find that we have created a vacuum — a place “absolutely devoid of matter,” which is really the reception of the Christ, or the second coming of the Christ — the actual presence of God. Thus do we leave the earth earthly with its discords, pain and sufferings, and find ourselves in the Kingdom of God and the recipients of God’s wonderful blessings.

No person of himself can ever produce the absolute “nothingness of matter” or a vacuum. It can be done only by the presence of God or Spirit. Jesus said: “I do nothing of myself” (meaning Jesus the person); it is “the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works” (the presence of God), just as light dispels darkness. It is an utter impossibility for a person through human endeavor, or the action or thinking of the human mind, to create this vacuum or to stop his own thinking. The human mind could not possibly do this; but if one will refuse to entertain the human (leave the earth earthly and praise and glorify God, and give thanks by living according to Principle, by becoming evangelized or by living an evangelical life) he will find that even as darkness is dispelled by light, so the human mind with its materialism will disappear, always and only as one ascends by living evangelically; this he does by keeping the commandments of the Lord his God.

“Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in [now] and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers giveth you. Ye shall not add unto the word which I *command* you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you. Behold I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” (Deuteronomy)