

## THE EMPEROR

There was born into the world a little baby who was an Emperor. He grew until he could creep just like any other little child. One day when the nurse was bathing him outside in the sunshine on a hot summer day, she turned away for a moment. When she turned back again this little Eastern Emperor had disappeared — vanished into thin air. The whole country was searched, north, east, south and west, but to no avail. Everything possible was done to find him, but finally the boy was given up for dead.

The thing which had happened, however, was most simple. When the nurse turned away from the child, he crept out of his little tub, crawled through an opening in the hedge which surrounded that part of the Imperial grounds, and in another moment he was outside. Just then there passed a slave, who seeing the little naked baby picked him up and took him not to his home, for he had none, but to his wife, and they brought the boy up as a slave.

The poor little chap underwent the most terrible vicissitudes. The life of any slave is bad enough, but that of an Eastern slave is worst of all. He never knew what it was to have a roof over him, to have clothes or decent food. He slept out in the cold and heat, in the rain, snow and sleet; his covering, if he had one at all, was an old piece of bagging, but usually he went about naked. He was beaten, overworked and underfed and generally eked out a most wretched existence; yet at eighteen years of age he was a fine, strong, stalwart, healthy boy, tall and handsome.

Then he was discovered.

A man came to him and told him that he was the Emperor, that he was in his own Empire, that everything he saw about him, and vastly more, was his, all the people were his subjects, and moreover he was entitled to all the rights, privileges and prerogatives of an Emperor in his own Empire. The boy could not believe it and said so, but the man assured him that this was a fact and added, "If you do not believe me for the words, 'believe me for the very works' sake.'" (John) The boy replied to this, "What do you mean by that?" The man answered, "I mean just what I say, Sire. If you cannot believe me when I tell you the truth in so many plain words, that you are the Emperor, then see if it will not work, because if what I say is true and you are the Emperor in your own Empire and have all the rights, privileges and prerogatives as such, then it will work." The Emperor asked then what he should do in order to see if it would work, and the other answered: "What do you want to do?" Whereupon the boy said: "I want money, clothes, food and such like." And to this the man said: "Order those things to be brought to you, and if the command is fulfilled, you will surely know that you are the Emperor and that it is true." The boy then issued the order, and immediately the things asked for were brought to him in abundance, and he felt within himself that what had been told him was the truth. Shortly after that he was able to take his place on the throne and govern his people.

Now suppose you had been called on to "treat" or pray for this boy, suppose you were as great a metaphysician as Jesus was, and that the boy himself requested you to

help him, how many treatments would be necessary for you to give him in order to make this boy into the Emperor? Think it over a bit before reading on. How many? Ponder it a bit. The answer is none at all. He does not need a single prayer or treatment because he is and was and always will be the Emperor. What is needed is that he be *taught* the truth, — that he *is* the Emperor and is in his own Empire with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives of an Emperor, and that he can act accordingly.

This story, as a matter of fact, is to be found in the very first chapters of the Bible, but under a different terminology. Instead of there being born into the world an Eastern Emperor, we have born into consciousness the real man, the Son of God, the Christ-man, the Emperor of the Empire of Spirit, or the Prince of the Kingdom of God. There he is, made in the image and likeness of God, having dominion over all things, dwelling in the midst of this wonderful Kingdom of Spirit wherein “God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.” This man is spiritual, perfect, bountifully supplied and has everything he can possibly require. That is the first picture.

The next picture we have presented to us shows him as lost, not out of a tub, but in a mist. The third picture shows him, not as a slave in an Eastern Empire stripped of all he is entitled to, but as a slave to matter stripped of everything good that he is entitled to as the Son of God, absolutely naked and bereft of everything good. There he is in the Kingdom of God, now called the Garden of Eden, surrounded by everything that is needful to him such as vegetation, trees, rivers, streams, hills and valleys, gold, silver, precious stones, everything and anything that one could wish for his benefit, and yet, there he stands stripped, naked, deprived of everything that is his to make him happy.

Then God finds him and asks: “Where are you?” The man answers and says: “I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” Whereupon God speaks in astonishment saying: “Who told you that you were naked? Where did you get such foolish ideas? Who told you that you were deprived of all the good things of Life?” The man answered: “The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she told me.” God then causes him to bring her out from her hiding place and asks her: “Who told you all this foolishness about being naked, stripped of everything that is good? Where did you get this knowledge?” And she said in effect, that it was the serpent, or the carnal mind, that told her. Whereupon God said: “That is wholly nonsense, and there is not a bit of truth in it. Man is the Son of God and lives in the Empire of God; he has dominion and everything therein is his.” Or as the Bible says, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.” But God adds: “of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Or, in other words, “Everything in the garden is freely given to you. It is all good. Man is the Son of God, he has dominion and all is his, but do not let yourself believe that materiality is real or that evil exists, for the moment that you do so, you die or forfeit your rights, privileges and prerogatives of the Kingdom of God and so believe yourself to be stripped of everything that is good and is rightfully yours,”

Jesus knew all about this. He knew that man is the image and likeness of God, and that he has everything that is good — good health, good sense, good humor, good taste, good nature, life, love, abundance and such like.

One day a man was brought to him who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years who said he wanted help. Jesus said: “Why, man, you are the Son of God in the Kingdom of God, and have all the rights, privileges and prerogatives of the Son of God.” The man

answered: "I cannot believe it." Jesus said: "Well, son, if you cannot believe me for the words, 'believe me for the very works' sake." The man answered: "What do you mean by that?" Jesus answered: "I mean just what I say — that if you cannot believe me when I tell you plainly in so many words that this is the Kingdom of God and that you are the Son of God, enjoying all the rights, privileges and prerogatives to which that Son is entitled, then, if you cannot believe me when I say this, try it out and see if it will not work, because if it really be true then it must work." The man asked: "What shall I do?" Jesus looked at him and said: "Why, man, what did you come to me for?" He replied: "I want to walk. I have been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. I want to walk and be able to go about like others. Help me to do so." Then Jesus said: "Well, then, my son, exercise the rights, privileges, and prerogatives of the Son of God in the Kingdom of God and take up your bed and walk. Try it." The man obediently tried to do so and immediately he was healed.

A blind man came to him. He asked for help. Jesus said: "Why, my son, you are the Son of God in the Kingdom of God and right at this moment you enjoy the rights, privileges and prerogatives of the Son of God." The man answered him: "Sir, I cannot believe it." Said Jesus again: "My boy, if you cannot believe me for the words, 'believe me for the very works' sake.'" "What do you mean by that?" asked the boy; and Jesus said: "I mean just what I say to you, that if you cannot believe me when I tell you in so many plain words that you are the Son of God, perfect, harmonious, spiritual, having dominion, and enjoying all the good things of the Kingdom of God, then try it out or see if it will not work, because if it be so then it *will* work." The boy said: "What shall I do?" Jesus said: "What do you wish to do?" The boy answered and said: "Sire, I want to be healed. I have been blind ever since I was born. I have never seen the trees and flowers of which I hear others speak; I have never seen the green grass, the blue sky, the rivers and streams as others do; I want to see; Lord, open my eyes that I may see."

Then Jesus said to him: "My young friend, use the rights, privileges and prerogatives which are yours as the Son of God and open your eyes and see. Try it." The boy tried to do as he was told and went away *seeing*.

Try it yourself. If it be true that the Kingdom of God *is* here — and it *is* here — then it will certainly work.