

THE ARROW AND THE SHADOW

As I stood waiting for the elevator to take me up to my offices, I watched the arrow which indicated the position of the elevator. As the arrow revolved or stopped, its shadow moved or stopped with it. The shadow manifested or shadowed forth exactly whatever the arrow did or was.

It would have been utterly impossible with all the power on earth at one's command to do anything to the shadow. Nothing could affect the shadow save only the arrow itself. One might corrugate the wall behind the arrow and the shadow might appear to be deformed; but this would be deception, for the shadow would not have been changed in the very least and would be just as before the background was disturbed.

One might take out the whole wall serving as a background and the shadow might appear to have vanished, but it would still be there the same as ever. So long as the arrow remained, just so long would the shadow remain. The shadow could hold no communication with the arrow, but any communication must be from the arrow to the shadow, for the shadow is obedient to the arrow and not the arrow to the shadow. Move the arrow and the shadow moves; stop the arrow and the shadow stops; bend the arrow and the shadow bends; straighten the arrow and the shadow straightens.

The shadow corresponds to man, the universe, the body, the environment. The arrow corresponds to God, Soul, Mind, Spirit, Principle, etc. — "The only I, or Us" (*Science and Health*); "Thought passes from God [arrow] (The interpolations are the author's.) to his man [shadow]; but neither sensation nor report goes from material body [shadow] to Mind [arrow]. The intercommunication is always from God [arrow] to His idea, man [shadow]." (*Science and Health*) When God moves, the shadow moves, or the manifestation moves — man and the universe moves — not otherwise.

Nothing anyone can do to the shadow will affect it in any way. The background may be taken away from it and it may be said to be dead, to have disappeared, to be lost, etc., but it is as surely there and untouched as it was before so doing. The background may be materialized or the viewpoint be otherwise changed; it may be limited in health, life, or otherwise, and it may be perceived as material, sick, poor or otherwise discordant, but it is as surely spiritual and the perfect shadow or manifestation as it was.

No other so-called power exercised upon it has the slightest effect upon it. Shadow or manifestation it is, shadow or manifestation it remains. As God, Spirit, Soul, Mind, Principle is "the same yesterday, and to day and for ever," so is the shadow "the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Does the shadow appear to be material? It is, however, just what it was — the shadow or manifestation of God, Spirit, and hence is spiritual. Does the shadow appear to be dead, lost or to have disappeared? It is still there, just as it was, for its life is God, its being is God and can never be lost. Does it appear to be without substance — supply? This too is impossible, for it has whatever can change the manifestation or shadow from what it was, is and ever shall be — namely, the

shadow or manifestation of Spirit, Soul, God, Mind, the "I." *Science and Health* emphasizes this point and says: "By its own volition, not a blade of grass springs up, not a spray buds within the vale, not a leaf unfolds its fair outlines, not a flower starts from its cloistered cell."

God is, shadow is; God has, shadow has; God does, shadow does. God, Spirit, Soul, is the "I" or Ego. It controls the shadow or manifestation. "The I is Spirit" (*Science and Health*); "It is the spirit that quickeneth [giveth life]; the flesh profiteth nothing" (John); "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zech.) From the true standpoint of the "I" as being what it is in fact, namely Spirit, God, Soul, etc., the "I am" claims its rights and presses its claim as shown in *Science and Health*: "I am Spirit. Man, whose senses are spiritual, is my likeness. He reflects the infinite understanding, for I am Infinity. The beauty of holiness, the perfection of being, imperishable glory, — all are Mine, for I am God. I give immortality to man, for I am Truth. I include and impart all bliss, for I am Life. I am supreme and give all, for I am Mind. I am the substance of all, because I AM THAT I AM."

Live from the standpoint of the "I" as being God, Spirit, Soul. This gives the true background and not a false background. No longer then does the shadow appear to be material, sick, sinful, etc., but it appears as it really is — the shadow of Spirit, God, or the manifestation of Mind. "I am the God [Spirit] of thy fathers, the God [Spirit] of Abraham, and the God [Spirit] of Isaac, and the God [Spirit] of Jacob" (Acts); and as Jesus well said: "For he [God] is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him [unto Spirit]."

Let go of the limited background, the background of materiality, of limitation, of every false belief, all of which produce a false limited or material background against which the shadow or manifestation seems to be sick, dead, limited, poor or otherwise discordant. This false background is obliterated by refusing to entertain human opinions, methods, ways and means, all the false theories of the earth earthly, all the false presentations of a false human consciousness, in fact, by stilling the human mind or silencing the material senses. Whereupon to the exact degree of success in so doing does the Christ arise in us, or the Spirit rest upon us; and so, with Spirit or the true and real "I" or Ego in the foreground, in the background the shadow or manifestation will also show forth those good things, as health, peace, life, love, abundance, or what not.