

each of the ideas has its counterfeits, but the noumenon counterfeit is the most important because from it can be deduced all the other counterfeit phenomena.

Animal Magnetism

Animal magnetism is a noumenon counterfeit of Mind because animal magnetism is *the belief that mind is in matter and that mind can be both good and evil*. Animal magnetism is the belief that there is sensation in matter. It is a name for the operation of error.

Evil thoughts are effect, not cause; it is not wrong thinking that gives animal magnetism so-called power. It is the evil animal nature, the evil "heart." It is the carnal, sensual nature, the unspiritual, the brute instincts, the mythical serpent that pushes the claim of sin "with the glittering audacity of diabolical and sinuous logic." (*Un.* 54:27)

The only way we can free ourselves from animal magnetism is through "self-renunciation of all that constitutes a so-called mortal, and the acknowledgment and achievement of [our] spiritual identity" (*Mis.* 185:7). We can change our thoughts at will. We can think one thing one minute and something quite different the next minute. But *changing our disposition is quite another matter*, and is not so easy; here we are not dealing with thought or mental magnetism, but with *animal* magnetism. This is why ordinary metaphysics, which operates in the mental realm, can be misused by sensuality, by animality. The Science of Spirit, however, cannot be so misused because Science, in contradistinction to metaphysics, proceeds from God, not from men and their thoughts. For this reason animal

magnetism loses its supposed power in proportion as we give up our own ego and think, feel, and act from the I AM, out from the I AM that I Am.

Matter

We often have matter as a counterfeit of Mind, but here again we need to be careful, because Mary Baker Eddy uses matter as a counterfeit of both Mind and Spirit. When Mrs. Eddy speaks of substance matter she is using matter as a counterfeit of Spirit but when she uses matter as the objectified sense of mortal mind then she is using it as the counterfeit of Mind.

When we come to Spirit we will find our big counterfeits to be “matter” and “flesh,” so the moment Mrs. Eddy deals with matter as flesh she uses matter as a counterfeit of Spirit. She also uses matter as a counterfeit of Spirit when she is exposing matter as only a counterfeit of reality, of purity, of understanding, of true substance.

On the other hand, when she speaks about matter’s claim of intelligence in matter, or of matter’s ability to do something, or the claim that matter has power, that matter is self-sustaining, *that matter’s sensations can create human offspring, can reproduce man*, or that matter has law within itself, claiming to act lawfully—all these claims are counterfeits of Mind. In this case she is using matter as the counterfeit of Mind.

We have to use spiritual sense to determine when matter is a counterfeit of Mind, and when matter is a counterfeit of Spirit. Language is inadequate to express spiritual ideas so we have to use spiritual sense to discern the