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## CHAPTER XIV — RECAPITULATION

### PAGE 478

#### Harmonious functions

15 *Question.* — Does brain think, and do nerves feel, and  
is there intelligence in matter?

18 *Answer.* — No, not if God is true and mortal man a  
liar. The assertion that there can be pain or pleasure  
in matter is erroneous. That body is most  
harmonious in which the discharge of the nat-  
21 ural functions is least noticeable. How can intelligence  
dwell in matter when matter is non-intelligent and  
brain-lobes cannot think? Matter cannot perform the  
functions of Mind. Error says, "I am man;" but this  
24 belief is mortal and far from actual. From beginning  
to end, whatever is mortal is composed of material hu-  
man beliefs and of nothing else. That only is real which  
27 reflects God. St. Paul said, "But when it pleased God,  
who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me  
by His grace, . . . I conferred not with flesh and blood."

#### Immortal birthright

30 *Mortal man* is really a self-contradictory phrase, for  
man is not mortal, "neither indeed can be;" man is im-

### PAGE 479

1 mortal. If a child is the offspring of physical sense and  
not of Soul, the child must have a material, not a spirit-  
3 ual origin. With what truth, then, could the  
Scriptural rejoicing be uttered by any mother,  
"I have gotten a man from the Lord"? On the con-  
6 trary, if aught comes from God, it cannot be mortal and

material; it must be immortal and spiritual.

### **Matter's supposed selfhood**

Matter is neither self-existent nor a product of Spirit.

- 9 An image of mortal thought, reflected on the retina, is  
all that the eye beholds. Matter cannot see,  
feel, hear, taste, nor smell. It is not self-  
12 cognizant, — cannot feel itself, see itself, nor  
understand itself. Take away so-called mortal mind,  
which constitutes matter's supposed selfhood, and matter  
15 can take no cognizance of matter. Does that which we  
call dead ever see, hear, feel, or use any of the physical  
senses?

### **Chaos and darkness**

- 18 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the  
earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and  
darkness was upon the face of the deep."  
21 (Genesis i. 1, 2.) In the vast forever, in the  
Science and truth of being, the only facts are Spirit  
and its innumerable creations. Darkness and chaos  
24 are the imaginary opposites of light, understanding,  
and eternal harmony, and they are the elements of  
nothingness.

### **Spiritual reflection**

- 27 We admit that black is not a color, because it reflects  
no light. So evil should be denied identity or power,  
because it has none of the divine hues. Paul  
30 says: "For the invisible things of Him, from  
the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being under-  
stood by the things that are made." (Romans i. 20.)

1 When the substance of Spirit appears in Christian Sci-  
ence, the nothingness of matter is recognized. Where  
3 the spirit of God is, and there is no place where God is  
not, evil becomes nothing, — the opposite of the some-  
thing of Spirit. If there is no spiritual reflection, then  
6 there remains only the darkness of vacuity and not a trace  
of heavenly tints.

### **Harmony from Spirit**

Nerves are an element of the belief that there is sensa-  
9 tion in matter, whereas matter is devoid of sensation.  
Consciousness, as well as action, is governed  
by Mind, — is in God, the origin and gov-  
12 ernor of all that Science reveals. Material sense has  
its realm apart from Science in the unreal. Harmonious  
action proceeds from Spirit, God. inharmony has no  
15 Principle; its action is erroneous and presupposes man  
to be in matter. Inharmony would make matter the  
cause as well as the effect of intelligence, or Soul, thus  
18 attempting to separate Mind from God.

### **Evil non-existent**

Man is not God, and God is not man. Again, God,  
or good, never made man capable of sin. It is the oppo-  
21 site of good — that is, evil — which seems to  
make men capable of wrong-doing. Hence,  
evil is but an illusion, and it has no real basis. Evil is a  
24 false belief. God is not its author. The supposititious  
parent of evil is a lie.

### **Vapor and nothingness**

The Bible declares: "All things were made by Him  
27 [the divine Word]; and without Him was not anything,  
made that was made." This is the eternal  
verity of divine Science. If sin, sickness,

30 death were understood as nothingness, they would disappear. As vapor melts before the sun, so evil would vanish before the reality of good. One must hide the

#### PAGE 481

1 other. How important, then, to choose good as the  
reality! Man is tributary to God, Spirit, and to nothing  
3 else. God's being is infinity, freedom, harmony, and  
boundless bliss. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is liberty." Like the archpriests of yore, man is  
6 free "to enter into the holiest," — the realm of God.

#### **The fruit forbidden**

Material sense never helps mortals to understand  
Spirit, God. Through spiritual sense only, man com-  
9 prehends and loves Deity. The various con-  
tradictions of the Science of Mind by the ma-  
terial senses do not change the unseen Truth, which re-  
12 mains forever intact. The forbidden fruit of knowledge,  
against which wisdom warns man, is the testimony of  
error, declaring existence to be at the mercy of death,  
15 and good and evil to be capable of commingling. This  
is the significance of the Scripture concerning this "tree  
of the knowledge of good and evil," — this growth of  
18 material belief, of which it is said: "In the day that thou  
eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Human hypotheses  
first assume the reality of sickness, sin, and death, and  
21 then assume the necessity of these evils because of their  
admitted actuality. These human verdicts are the pro-  
curers of all discord.

#### **Sense and pure Soul**

24 If Soul sins, it must be mortal. Sin has the elements  
of self-destruction. It cannot sustain itself. If sin is  
supported, God must uphold it, and this is

27 impossible, since Truth cannot support error.  
Soul is the divine Principle of man and never sins, —  
hence the immortality of Soul. In Science we learn that  
30 it is material sense, not Soul, which sins; and it will be  
found that it is the sense of sin which is lost, and not a  
sinful soul. When reading the Scriptures, the substitu-

## PAGE 482

1 tion of the word *sense* for *soul* gives the exact meaning in  
a majority of cases.

### **Soul defined**

3 Human thought has adulterated the meaning of the  
word *soul* through the hypothesis that soul is both an evil  
and a good intelligence, resident in matter.  
6 The proper use of the word *soul* can always  
be gained by substituting the word *God*, where the deific  
meaning is required. In other cases, use the word *sense*,  
9 and you will have the scientific signification. As used  
in Christian Science, Soul is properly the synonym of  
Spirit, or God; but out of Science, soul is identical with  
12 sense, with material sensation.