

Extracts from Lindbergh's "Of Flight and Life"

I have here a little book which has just been published in America and which I understand is creating a great sensation over there. It is written by Colonel Lindbergh. He uncovers the situation in the world to-day down to the bone. He is a John the Baptist crying in the wilderness. He just pours out his soul in this book. I want to read you some extracts to show you what we are face to face with, and the prospect is certainly grim unless we can gain that scientific understanding of God and man which is illustrated in the Bible in the most perfect way.

It should now be branded on our consciousness that unless science is controlled by a greater moral force, it will become the Antichrist prophesied by early Christians. If we are to keep it from destroying that part of our civilization which is left, if it is to be the great benefit to mankind that we have hoped, we must control it by a philosophy reaching beyond materialism, a philosophy rooted in the character of man and nourished by the eternal truths of God . . . We must realize that salvation lies first within us, and only secondarily in our governments, treaties, and laws . . .

To me in youth, science was more important than either man or God. The one I took for granted; the other was too intangible for me to understand. The basic relationships of men were hidden by American prosperity and the froth of party politics. The ever-present truths of God were veiled by dogma and convention . . .

I now realize that while God cannot be seen as tangibly as I had demanded as a child, His presence can be sensed in every sight and act and incident . . . I now understand that spiritual truth is more essential to a nation than the mortar in its cities' walls. When the actions of a people are unguided by these truths, it is only a matter of time before their walls collapse, as they did at Berlin, Munich, Nuremberg. This, the modern European reads in the rubble at his feet. Of this, the alarm of atomic scientists must warn us in America.

Worshipping science and its materialistic standards, man becomes enmeshed in the complication of his own ideas and creations. The essential simplicity of life gives way to an antlike organisation of ever-

growing intricacy. Man sets up a system around his theories and inventions to compete with a divine plan unfolded through the ages . . . He does not stop to consider that these discoveries will destroy him unless directed by a sense of the quality of life . . .

When we worship God and live by His spiritual values, the knowledge and infinite complexity of science are channeled by a wisdom beyond human capability. Then, instead of making us the slaves of its industries, science sharpens the higher senses by removing the drudgery from life. Then, instead of smothering religion with its masses of data and logic, it intensifies religious truth by cleansing it of ignorance and superstition . . . Then the tempo of life adjusts itself to the tempo of the spirit, and to the development of intellect is added the boundless freedom of the soul . . .

What is the way? That we must find in each day and hour. Eastern mystics say, "Thou canst not travel on the Path before thou hast become that Path itself." The New Testament tells us, "Seek, and ye shall find." We must search for it as we have searched for the discoveries of science. We must consider the problems that face us until the desire for their solution takes on the strength of a prayer. We must discuss them with each other, read and write about them. How are we to combine religious truth with scientific progress? What balance in men are we to build with our ideals? To progress, even to survive, we must learn to apply the truths of God to the actions and relationships of men, to the direction of our science. We must learn from the sermons of Christ, the wisdom of Laotzu, the teachings of Buddha. In these, in the Bible of the Hebrews, in the philosophy of Greece, in the Indian Vedas, in the writings of saints and mystics, we have a record of the great religious and moral truths discovered by man throughout the ages at his moments of highest inspiration.

Our mission is to understand these truths, to separate them from the dogma which surrounds them, and to apply them to our way of modern life. We must draw strength from the forgotten virtues of simplicity, humility, contemplation, prayer. It requires a dedication beyond science, beyond self, but the rewards are great and it is our only hope.

Now, we have the answer to the problem which Lindbergh faces so honestly, and the answer is in the Bible. The answer is in that "seed-plot" of the Bible which Mrs. Eddy put into the terminology of to-day when she gave the answer to the question "What is God?" "God is incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love." In that answer you have perfect numerals of thought,—Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love,—and you have a perfect calculus of reality,—the Word, the Christ, Christianity, and Science,—by which men can learn the ideas of God, prove and live the ideas of God, and can learn intelligently to analyze, uncover, and annihilate the errors of the carnal mind.

We must have that quality of womanhood and motherhood which doesn't think of self, but only thinks of the idea; a mother puts everything she has into supporting her child. We have the answer, and if we can find men and women who will throw their hearts and souls and their selflessness of purpose into establishing what they see, then we shall make some headway in giving that answer to mankind. We can't do it through men and women who come to Christian Science merely for what they can get out of it. They are just drones. We need men and women who seek not for themselves, but who seek the Christ and the Science of the Christ.

Because we have seen that the answer lies in Science, as presented in the Bible and the Christian Science textbook, we can explain it, we can tell the other fellow about it, we can demonstrate it, and we can understand it and become it. As Lindbergh quotes, "Thou canst not travel on the Path before thou hast become that Path itself." So let's gain a sense of Science and let's put all we have into it; otherwise, we won't go anywhere. A half-timer is no use whatever.

The only church that is worth a halfpenny is "the spiritual understanding of God and man appearing," the "structure of Truth and Love" (S. & H. 583: 12), and that church demands absolute consecration of thought. When we build that church, we shall build it first in the individual, then in nations, and finally all through human experience. The church will be Science, and you can't organize Science. You can't even organize the science of music or mathematics. To-day there is nothing in our thought which gives us such a sense of the holiness of God as the term "divine Science."