

SPIRITICITY, April 1963

THREE TOPICS HARD TO WRITE ABOUT

By Nell Truesdell

FROM TIME TO TIME I have been asked to write about personal magnetism, animal magnetism, and malpractice. In a broad sense, these subjects blend, though each has distinct characteristics that mark it off from the others. All are negative: they disappear when we cease to fear or to be curious about them. They are not easy to discuss because any ugly aspects of human experience arouse emotional resistance.

It was evening when I began to write this article. My telephone rang, and a person who lives in another city asked me to help release her daughter from the detrimental influence of a worthless husband who beats her unmercifully, but who keeps her in a trance so that she continues to support him. This call for spiritual ministry brought to mind the case of a man who, some years ago, fell under the weight of a hex that an enemy had put on him. Under his belief that he was hexed this strong man suffered a total physical collapse.

All human beings carry around a mental atmosphere. Each one formulates his own thought-envelopes and his prevailing thought-forces influence all who associate with him, whether near or distant. They may not get his exact thoughts, but if they are receptive they will get the effects of his dominant emotions. These "effects" are what are called personal magnetism.

The quality of our thoughts is determined by the underlying characteristics of our nature. The force of our thoughts not only affects our own body, mentality, and affairs, but influences others around us. The intensity of our thought gives them direction. Like arrows shot into the air our thoughts, propelled by the vehemence of our purpose, fly toward a selected target. If our thoughts are of a low nature, they are destructive.

A practitioner of voodoo sorcery or conjuration acquires the skill of influencing others so that they carry out his determinations. Susceptible persons with an abnormal curiosity about sorcery develop an inexplicable fear of some questionable but fascinating power that seems to hover just beyond the reach of mind. Because they fear the psychic power of an aggressive personality, they subject their consciousness to him and surrender their spiritual nature to his will.

If you think that a person is working against you, you punch a peephole in the rim of your consciousness through which you see toward him. When you look toward him through this peephole you draw his influence into your consciousness. He cannot enter your consciousness if you close all the doors - put up the shutters, as it were - by gazing with all your heart toward the Divine Presence of God in your midst. Learn to rush to God the instant that you sense any negative attitude toward you or any surreptitious attack on you. Hide yourself (your attention) in God.

The understanding practitioner of Christ Truth never fights evil to get rid of it. Evil slinks back into the realm of illusion whence it came when the Reality of God is affirmed. A victim, then, is released from his own false notions and fears.

Do not "treat" another person by sending your thoughts out to him or by trying to enfold him in your love waves. This is malpractice. If you do this, you tighten him in the grip of your own fear and add to his burden. Too, you take on his load and suffer the consequences. Instead, turn your attention to God unwaveringly, call on the Name of Jesus Christ faithfully, and accept the ministrations of the Holy Spirit expectantly.

We are apt to believe that only those persons who live on a lower social and economic level are susceptible to personal magnetism. But I know a man who had reached an enviable peak of success in a highly competitive business who lost his grip and fell under the weight of his belief that enemies had set out to break him. Not only in business, but in "truth work" students have been made impuissant under the mental drive of a propulsive practitioner who had indoctrinated them with specious, but authoritatively given, misdirections.

In a family, one strong-willed person may assume power over the others and confine them to his limited notions. A child was blinded by his dominant parents, though there was nothing the matter with his sight. He recovered when he was sent to live with more understanding relatives. A son stuttered helplessly in the presence of his stern father; he was healed when he was put into the care of a speech specialist who had compassion for such children. A daughter committed suicide to escape the jealousy of her youth-seeking mother. All were victims of the unfeeling driving force of personal magnetism in those whom they believed to have power over them. The transfer of passion from the willful to the willess disarranges the behavior patterns of otherwise intelligent human beings. Abnormal human emotions can be transferred by thought to unsuspecting victims. All too often the disastrous influence is disguised as human affection.

A precise denial followed by a definite affirmation of Truth will clear one's consciousness of surreptitious invasions of unethical personalities. Deny: There is no such personality in Spirit. Then affirm: God is the ONE Presence and Power in the universe.

If ever you sense a personality that has invaded your home or your business, immediately turn your attention toward God in your midst. Cleave to God as you declare your denial and affirmation. Wondrously your practice will clear your premises of unsolicited invasion. Never send your attention out to any person; pay strict attention to God. He only can dispel the unfavorable influences that may attempt to disturb you. You remember the axiom: "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad." Don't be caught in that trap.

Animal magnetism is an unsavory topic, but let us face it so that we may turn away from its influence. Between animals and humankind physical sensations can be interchanged. Fondle any pet - a dog, cat, horse, sheep, or goat - and at a certain point you will feel a click in your emotions that is similar to a weak electric shock. In the human being, this clicking mechanism indicates the transmission of a sudden overflow of "feeling" from an animal to the person. Animals refuse to be transgressed. When an animal tires of playing around he gives vent to his emotions: a dog will growl; a cat scratch; a horse bite or kick; a sheep baa; a goat butt. They will not tolerate the violation of their nature through over stimulation. Though they may not be aware of it, many women carry dogs in their arms to capture the sensation of emotional excitement that, in them, is felt as a sharp, reciprocal warmth that they call love. The transfer of stimulation from the animal to the human being produces, in the person, a playful and lighthearted gaiety that is pure animal response; and, in both the pet and the person, over-indulgence always culminates in a reversal of feelings.

Have you ever observed women rush toward a child to grab and hold it close. The child, feeling the invasion of his soul-nature, screams to be released. When he is put down, he calms down.

You recall the incident related in Scripture of the woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years and who thought in her heart that if she could touch the hem of Jesus' garment she would be whole. But the instant she touched Him, Jesus turned and demanded: "Who touched Me? ... Somebody hath touched Me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of Me." (Luke 8: 5, 46) Jesus Christ would not tolerate transgression of His manhood. Neither must we permit our spiritual nature to be transgressed. (Nor must we ever transgress others.)

Malpractice. A friend told me about a woman who always telephoned her friends and relatives and instructed them to pray for her husband on a day when she knew he was to make a business deal so that he would make lots of money. The unsuspecting man was driven to distraction by the mental pressures brought to bear on him. On the brink of a breakdown, he turned to drink for relief and ended his life as a hopeless alcoholic. The wife blamed liquor, of course. But it was her sort of mental malpractice backed by her insatiable ambition to be wealthy that destroyed her husband.

Personal magnetism, animal magnetism, malpractice: all are types of lust to control others through channels of emotion. An enlightened Truth student does not stoop to investigate the source of these "nothings"; if he feels their influence, he turns from them to God. He gives his attention to God. He throws himself on God's saving Grace knowing that the Three-in-One protects and delivers him. "There shall no evil befall thee ... for He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." (Psm.91: 10-11)

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SPIRITICITY, April 1963

PHYSICS AND METAPHYSICS

By Robert Applegate, Jr.

(CONTINUED from last month)

The Simplicity Postulate

SCIENCE MOVES towards simplicity as it approaches the truth; religion moves towards complexity as it departs from the truth.

Albert Einstein wrote: "In every important advance the physicist finds that the fundamental laws are simplified more and more as experimental research advances. He is astonished to notice how sublime order emerges from what appeared to be chaos. And this cannot be traced back to the workings of his own mind but is due to a quality that is inherent in the world of perception."

In other words, it seems that the nature of the universe is simple - if we can grasp that simplicity. It is true that Relativity does not seem simple to the layman, and Quantum Physics at present is far from simple. But in Relativity the presuppositions are fewer, and the ultimate conclusions are simpler, than in the Classical Mechanics. What makes the Theory difficult is the abstract mathematics of it and the long chain of reasoning that leads from

the presuppositions to the conclusions. Leopold Infeld in his book on Einstein writes, "It sounds paradoxical, but general relativity theory appears to be difficult just because it is so simple and assumes so little."

In Quantum Mechanics scientists have not yet found the desired Simplicity; this has distressed them. They find themselves faced with what Robert Oppenheimer has called "this insulting mass of equations." But there is evidence that the underlying simplicity is beginning to emerge. One picture of the atom explains all the complicated phenomena that are observed as "resonance effects" of matter waves. They would correspond roughly to the many, many shades of meaning that can be carried by sound waves, all of which are simply vibrations in air. But we must remember that matter waves are not in time and space. So Sir James Jeans wrote, "In transcending space and time, the new quantum mechanics finds a new background which makes for far greater simplicity and so probably comes nearer to ultimate truth."

An illustration will show how science has brought simplicity into our picture of the universe. The ancients thought that the sun and the planets revolved around the earth. To explain the motions of the planets they had to postulate a very complicated system of cycles and epicycles. The planets had to go around in many little circles as they went around the earth in their large orbits. The system was so complicated that Alphonso X of Castile said that if the heavens were really made like that, "I could have given the Deity good advice, had He consulted me at their creation." The Copernican Theory, which pictured the earth and all the planets going around the sun, greatly simplified our picture of the solar system. But it failed to explain the erratic orbit of Mercury (the planet closest to the sun), and further complications had to be invented to account for this irregularity. The Einstein Theory, which shows the planets following "geodesics" (shortest possible lines in a curved space) successfully accounts for Mercury and is the simplest of all the theories. Robert H. Dicke (physicist at Princeton University) says, "The chief support for General Relativity is the simplicity, elegance, and beauty of the formalism."

So far is simplicity a sign of advance in physics that scientists use it as a test of their theories. Jeans wrote, "When two hypotheses are possible, we provisionally choose that which our minds adjudge to be the simpler, on the supposition that this is the more likely to lead in the direction of the truth." Physicists call this the "Simplicity Postulate." We could well apply it to areas outside science.

But in religion, men always go from simplicity to complexity. Abba Hillel Silver has recently published a study, "The Original Torah of Moses." ("Torah" means "teaching," although it is usually translated as "law.") He shows that the teaching of Moses was revolutionary and extremely simple. There was no provision in it for bloody animal sacrifice. All the elaborate instruction that we find about sacrifice and ritual in Leviticus and elsewhere in the Old Testament was later addition, accretion, to the simple Mosaic teaching.

So it has been with all the great religious leaders. Their message has been simple and revolutionary. It has dealt with the attitudes of men's hearts and with their direct approach to Deity. All the elaboration of ritual and of intellectual explanation (theology) has been later addition. Buddha refused to indulge in metaphysical explanation saying that, if you were hit with a poisoned arrow, you would not wait to find out who shot it and who his ancestors were before you had it removed. But present-day Buddhism is an overwhelming mass of metaphysical speculation.

Religion does not progress in a straight line as science does. For science is based on rigorous experimentation and any error is quickly detected. In religion, a great leader brings a new message to the world. As generations pass explanations of the message become more and more complicated, and men depart further and further from it. Ultimately, reformers arise to point to the simplicity of the original message. All the prophets pointed the people back to the Mosaic teaching and to the simplicity of the people's original practice. So the reformers of the Sixteenth Century tried to go back to the simplicity of the first followers of Jesus Christ. But few ever go back far enough: to the God the original leader pointed to. So Jeremiah got the message, "If you will return, says the Lord, return unto Me."

As the teaching of all the great religious leaders is simple, so the Gospel of Jesus Christ is overpowering in its simplicity.

Men have always rejected this simplicity of the Truth. It shows their intellectual pretensions to be just that: pretensions. Our intellects delight in mastering a complicated subject. It gives us a feeling of power and superiority to feel there is something we know. To be told that we know nothing, that we must become "as this little child" before the Almighty is offensive.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

We have been corrupted from that simplicity; our only hope is to return to it. But simplicity is not easy to attain, or to regain. A would-be writer told Dorothy Dix that she would be willing to start writing "simple" things, such as Dorothy wrote. Mrs. Dix said, "My dear, it took me forty years to achieve simplicity. I suggest that you try it sometime."

Simplicity is characteristic of all great art, in every field. It is never easy; it comes as the result of long discipline. But we must go beyond this, for even the greatest art will not heal us or heal the world. It is only in Christ - in what He taught, in what He was, in what He is (which also transcends time and space) - that we will find the Simplicity that will heal us and, through us, help to heal the world.

(To be Continued)

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SPIRITICITY APRIL 1963

EASTER

By Alden Truesdell

"WHAT IS MAN that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou visitest him? For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour."

This minute has come to pass. It will not remain; but the degree of the Truth that we recognize this minute will endure for us. Time will pass; Truth will remain.

We may know the Truth about ourselves - we should know the Truth about ourselves - for we have been instructed by tenet and by example. But, for the most part, we have put off the awakening until a future time, for fear we should lose some of our gloom and gluttony; for these have become habitual. These are the qualities we refer to when we speak of ourselves as "only human," and these human habits have become preferable to spiritual quickening and divine enlightenment. We have no excuse for a delayed awakening, except as we are willing to admit that, because of familiarity, we love the darkness more than we do the Light.

If man's Divine Destiny is to live forever in a state of freedom, he will be wise to start payments of attention to the ways of this spiritual security, much as he makes payments of money to a future social security. And he will find that, unlike social security, the spiritual security is right at hand, although centuries of theological instruction have tried to place it, too, in the future.

Easter Sunday should be the day of days for rejecting all futurity. For Easter celebrates the day when a Man named Jesus - later to be named by many other names overcame every man-made concept, overcame the world, and demonstrated dominion over death. This was the Man (or God) who previously had taught that the Kingdom of God is "at hand"; that the Kingdom of God is "within"; and that "He that believeth on Me hath everlasting Life." This is the Man who promised that if anyone would keep His true and spiritual words that one would "never see death." This is the Man who promised the repentant: "This day is salvation come to this house."

We revel in the complacency of compromise, when we might be pioneering in the Principle of Eternal Life. For we have the Christ doctrine of Eternal Life; we have the Example so dear to those who have the practicability of Principle. If we knew what has come upon us and who has brought it to us, we would cease to be complacent. We would become avid for more of this Light, Power and Life - available as of the present instant. Instead of relegating our immortality to a future time, we would be diligent in giving our attention to the immediacy of our heritage.

At Easter we may find ourselves considering with profit some of the cryptic words of Jesus, some of the "hard sayings":

"I go to prepare a place for you, ... that where I am, there ye may be also."

"A little while, and ye shall not see Me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see Me, because I go to the Father."

"Neither pray I for these (disciples) alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; that they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: ... that the Love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

Jesus Christ prayed for all who would hear - including you and me - that they might be with Him where He is and behold His glory.

We have already been blessed by our acceptance of such of the divine qualities as we could use. But at Easter we may well consider those things that "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man."

For when Jesus Christ said, "He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father." He was speaking to you and to me - for your benefit and mine.

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Alphabet Of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
for every week day of the month

APRIL, 1963

1. His glory is ABOVE the earth and heaven.
2. The Lord shall BLESS thee.
3. CLEAVE unto Him.
4. DECLARE His DOING among the people.
5. Thy words were found, and I did EAT them.
6. Great is thy FAITH.
8. Ask, and it shall be GIVEN you.
9. Thou hast been HONOURABLE.
10. Take fast hold of INSTRUCTION.
11. We are JOURNEYING unto the right place.
12. I shall KEEP the testimony of Thy mouth.
13. The LAMB ... is LORD of LORDS.
15. MAKE MENTION that His Name is exalted.
16. NEW things do I declare.
17. ONE day is with Him as a thousand years.
18. PRAISE the Lord, call upon His Name.
19. QUIT ye like men.
20. The glory of the Lord shall be REVEALED.
22. SEEK the Lord and His STRENGTH.
23. I will TRUST, and not be afraid.
24. Unto the UPRIGHT there ariseth Light in darkness.
25. Obey His VOICE.
26. The eyes of all WAIT upon Thee.
27. YEA, I Have loved Thee.
29. Where is thy ZEAL and thy strength?
30. I will walk before the Lord.

"When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

SPIRITICITY is the working Power of the Spiritual Principle,
As electricity is the working power of the electrical principle.