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IDEALISM

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Idealism, or Mental Science, is the philosophy that teaches ALL IS MIND. Everything in the objective universe is a formulated thought. Life is exactly as we have made it, and our environment is the outcome of our own ideals. Nature progresses ever upwards in the order of evolution; but the "evolution" of the new science is one of mental forces, and not of dead matter. There is no dead matter. Every little atom thinks and is so much embodied intelligence. There is only a difference of degree between the clod of earth and the brain of an Emerson. The latter evolved out of the former, and the clod possesses in latency the powers of the philosophers brain.

Our existence is made up of a multitude of experiences. This forms our character, which is our personality. The difference between the lowest form of life and a Jesus Christ is simply the difference of experience. Life has been called a school, and this is certainly what it is. Experience is our teacher; and we learn in many ways. Even our sorrows, our sins, and our failures, all have their lessons if we but recognise them.

All is mind. This statement will appear strange to a person who looks at the subject superficially. Man's body, the clothes that he wears, the earth on which he lives, and the suns and stars in the heavens, are all so much Mind. What is mind? It is that which thinks; that which recognizes something. Mind is not merely a few cubic inches of matter lying in the skull of a man. Look at a man's body, and a careful survey will bring you to the conclusion that every atom of it thinks. For instance, a musician is able to let his fingers fly over the keyboard, and unconsciously play melodies. How is this? It is because his fingers are so to speak so much brain force, and think for him. Man's body is a vast brain structure, having its throne in the head, but by no means confined there. Man then, first and last, is a thinker.

To think is to recognise. But there are different grades of recognition, and this makes the distinction between one form of life and another. Everything in the Universe is what it recognises itself to be. I AM THAT I AM. I WILL BE WHAT I WILL TO BE. The Will of Man is supreme. In the lower creation, the will which is the same power as the human will, is not self-conscious—the animals have no consciousness of the power within them. Recognition of the fact that the Will is all powerful makes man the master of the Universe. This is Idealism. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. But we can never will that which we do not desire. Therefore desire is the mainspring of action. Social life to day is the outcome of past ideals of the race. It is what we have desired it to be. It is exactly suited to the present; and we have no right to shirk the responsibilities it offers us, and complain of Fate being against us.

Our so-called troubles are the best things that could happen. To overcome them is to enlarge our character and make our personality stronger. Unhappy is the man who has few obstacles in his path. To one fully conscious of the value of overcoming, there is a distinct pleasure in surmounting difficulties.

All is good; and there is no evil. To many this may seem a startling announcement, but

it is true, nevertheless. This is another way of affirming the omnipresence of God, for "God" in Mental Science is not a person, but a principle—the Principle of Being. It is another word for Life. God is the Eternal Energy or Force of the Universe. Behind every atom of matter—in every sentient creature, lies Deity. In the heart of each man sits enthroned the King of Heaven; and the body is the Holy Temple of the Divine Spirit. God is Infinite, and the infinite is indivisible, it would therefore be incorrect to say that each man expresses or enshrines a portion of God, but rather that every person is the manifestation—the image of God. Man is dual in his nature. Subjectively the "I" is God divine, for there is but one Power, one universal Will; but objectively Man is the Expression of Deity, the Image of God; in other words, he embodies, as much of Life or God, as he recognises.

There are many metaphysicians who dislike the term "God." This is because that word has been used to express a false idea of Life—an idea that represented the Creative principle as outside of man, centred in a personal divinity, whereas the higher conception of Mental Science shows God to be a Force or Energy within man.

Jesus taught this. He said, "the Father within me doeth the works." This is Mental Science. The Father, the Eternal Energy, the great I AM doeth the works. Religion has for two thousand years obscured the teaching of one of the most profound metaphysicians that ever existed. Instead of following out the principles of Jesus, Christians have exalted the personality of that man, and spent their time in emotional adoration. Jesus did not want this. He always denied possessing any personal authority, or special goodness, and taught his followers that it was through the Principle of Life, or the "Father" within him, that he was able to do these mighty works. He also told the people that greater things than even he accomplished were within the province of man's power. And the Holy Spirit he said, would guide us unto all truth. This is exactly the position of Mental Scientists. We do not run to any authority outside of ourselves, but we recognise that each man is a Temple of the Holy (whole) Spirit, who guides us into all truth. This divine Spirit is the "I" of every man. There is only one force in the Universe; it is the I AM; and it finds its highest expression in man. Jesus was divine—but all men are potentially what he was actually. No man doeth anything of himself; the race moves together but there are some "I's" who boldly come forward, proclaiming man's divinity, daring to formulate more lofty ideals of life, and these men make up the vanguard of the human race; these are the heroes of history. Jesus was one of them, perhaps the greatest one that has lived so far; but he whose power was so tremendous said, greater works than these may we do.

There is no absolute perfection in life. We do not want it. It seems to me that perfection is synonymous with putrefaction. It implies that there can be no further progress. This is not my ideal. My ideal is to climb higher, ever higher up the golden ladder of existence. I shall make mistakes in my ascent, but these errors are the very things that teach me. The race is evolving a more noble ideal. The past was good, but we have grown beyond it. We the "dreamers" of this age believe that our highest ideals may be realized on this earth.

We not only believe, but know that man has power over sickness, poverty and death. And the power resides in the Mind. The Mind is the storehouse of Energy. It is the Kingdom of Heaven, which as Jesus said was "within". The King sits on his throne there. His name is I AM. There is nothing sacrilegious in thus asserting the Human and Divine Will to be one. To recognize ourselves as one with God gives us the power of overcoming environment.

Our ideals have been low and we have reaped exactly what we sowed. Thought is the sower, our ideals are the seeds, and the fruits we gather are our experiences. If you are not satisfied with your present life, it is a sign that you are ready for Mental Science. If you are contented, these words are not for you. Live your life in your own way. If you wish to be a mere animal, be one. There is nothing evil in such an existence, it is simply a low ideal. A good animal nature is something to be cultivated. There are many individuals who live a happy contented existence, living to a good old age—ah! but they die—and how much have they profited? But they knew of nothing higher. They neither desired nor sought a better life. Truth only comes to the seeker. Seek and ye shall find.

HAPPINESS IS CONTAGIOUS

AMY GOLDING

One of the mistakes of life, is to put aside as foolish, and not worth investigating, the subjects that are brought to our notice, which are not easily understood; by so doing we often deprive ourselves of much pleasure and helpful knowledge.

Many ridicule the science of Mind Healing without stopping to think of the feeling of illness, and inability to physical exertion, attending some tidings, or the lack of tidings, that was to inform us of the welfare of some loved and absent one. If we have not experienced it ourselves, we have witnessed its effects on others, or have imagination enough to grasp the possibility of the mind ill at ease, being able to deplete the vitality, and if long continued to cause death.

Any science that will teach us how to gain a mastery over evil thoughts, which must yield evil results physically, is well worth time and effort to investigate. With our minds at ease and contented, the trifles which now upset us, will have no power to annoy.

Happiness and misery are contagious; viewed from that light, we owe it to humanity to do all in our power to seem, and be happy; that we may transmit our condition to all with whom we come in contact. It will, of course, require much patience, and perseverance on our part, to overcome old doubts and beliefs; but that is what our reasoning faculties are for, to measure and weigh the intellectual problems that life sets before us; to refuse or neglect to do so is both a loss to ourselves, and equivalent to an acknowledgment of our intellectual inferiority.

We are always chasing after pleasure, going long distances, spending—I might truthfully say, wasting—much valuable time and money seeking the happiness which lies within easy reach of all who are willing to seek it in the right spirit.

Some people are habitually seeking trouble, perverting every little circumstance.