VICTORY OVER FEAR IS GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

World's Torture Chamber Is Dread of Disease Which Human Nature, Through Erroneous Belief and Lack of Moral Courage, Commits Itself

BY CAROL NORTON

FEAR appears as an assertion of being in opposition to the one great universal essence, divine Love. The Scriptural statements are therefore significant: God is Love. Whosoever dwelleth in Love dwelleth in God and God in him. Perfect love casteth out fear. Whosoever fearest is not made perfect in love.

Fear is the world's greatest slave-holder. Monarchs and peasants, learned and unlearned, the old and the young, the civilized and the savage, all in greater or less degree yield temporary obedience to the arbitrary dictates of this most cruel of cruel task-masters. A mouse may stampede a whole herd of elephants. The greatest conquests of human history have not been the much heralded victories of nation over nation, army over army, or of man over the forces of nature. Such triumphs may be and have been great, but there is yet a greater conquest. This conquest is the victory gained over fear in the individual consciousness of every human being. The processes of man's awakening in the divine image and likeness of God seem to be from beginning to end a succession of victories over fear, both in the abstract and in the concrete. Fear is both the tempter and the tempted, the torment and the tormentor. Fear is the world's torture-chamber to which the race, through erroneous belief, commits itself. Individual effort, moral courage and mental ascension into oneness with the divine nature, reverse this sentence and destroy the element of human nature which would lead every individual into this place of torment.

Fear is parent to such mentally debilitating moods as apprehension, worry, timidity, cowardice, depression, superstition, self-deprecation, self-limitation, and that merely animal or foolhardy false courage, which under stress will hazard the most unnecessary risks. Fear of suffering and of the discipline consequent upon the infraction of moral and spiritual law often begets dishonesty of thought and action. Hence fear is frequently the parent of dishonesty. Fear is little less than atheism. It is a mood, belief, or sense of things which practically denies the ever-presence of God as all Truth, Life, and Love. Fear is a component part of the Adamic or animal nature; a reactionary state of thought which is at all times delusion. Fear is the prolific cause of day-ghosts, and of the nightmares of darkness. It has been well said that "fear is the devil's ablest representative agent, the child most resembling the features of its parent." Fear is the intimate and congenial accomplice of evil in the majority of the great tragedies of human experience.

Is a Divine Process

The healing, saving consciousness of the all-Good, all-Love—God—cures disease, and annihilates the false claim of remembered or present fear. This normal state is heaven's native atmosphere.

The weak links of the chain of individual human nature are the cardinal fears of that nature, therefore an individual's weak points include his leading fears. The conquest of these fears through the acquisition of the thoughts of divine Mind constitutes the divine process through which is acquired the Mind of the Master and the gradual possession of immortal sovereignty.

Fear is a mood of error that has many subdivisions, and is in human belief especially contagious. Through the long centuries of human progress, fear has been the chief weapon in the hands of tyrants. In the ages past, fear rather than love has ruled the race, but the present hour sees the exaltation of Love as the supreme power.

Fear will always be found arguing for the interests and victory of its own proteges—catastrophe, loss, demoralization, accident, defeat, death. Fear rules over a house divided against itself, for it is the law of friction in itself and ultimately proves the occasion of its own destruction. The de-animalizing of the human mentality, and its purification through the recognition of pure Mind, leads consciousness by sure degrees into the repose of spiritual activity wherein progress is painless, and individuality is progressively discovered.

As the history of the individual is identical with that of the race in its upward climbings from sense to Soul, from the slavery of fear to the liberty of spiritual fearlessness, so the actual history of the mental struggles of the race as a whole is identical with the history of the individual. The conquest of a sense of indefinite fear must be the starting point for our victory over human limitation, and an innumerable succession of victories over fear constitutes the history of every ascending career. From earliest times tribes, nations, and peoples, like individuals, have risen from low to high conditions by this overcoming.

Fear does not always define itself. At times it is without form or argument, instinctive and depressing. Under other conditions it conjures up from the dark chasm of materialism, the bottomless pit of nothingness, some mountain-peak of defined catastrophe, collapse, or fatality. Surrender to what may be denominated the fear mood, brings the mind into the mental realm of false argument, erroneous concept, and chaos, and effectively excludes peace, courage, and happiness. A man's leading fear is that man's personal devil. His minor or lesser fears may be termed the devil's satellites. His happiness and success are therefore in his own keeping, and it is largely his own fault if he is mentally hospitable to this devilish sovereign and his troop.

Fear Exceeds the Ills

Strange as it may appear, the first tendency of the human mind seems to be to ascribe reality to the unreal. With further analysis and thought, however, the positive reality appears, and easy victory is gained over the condition feared. At all times it should be remembered that fear gains its power over thought from the fact that a false sense entertained, argues for the reality of the obnoxious unreal. Fear is at all times a pessimist, an enemy to health and happiness, and a continued adversary to the normal rights of the individual.

"Be not afraid, only believe," said the Master. He who refuses to think a fear thought and mentally affirms Love's allness, dwells secure in the embrace of the eternal. Thus is salvation wrought.

Because sickness, mental and bodily discord, and death menace the instinctive love of life, these errors are most feared by the human mind. Forgetful of the harmful effects of fear, this mind fails to master the deep philosophy of the Pauline utterance, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey." Throughout the ages the realm of religious belief about God, man, heaven, hell, suffering and individual salvation, has been more invaded and ruled by the monster fear than any other department of human thought. Past and present religious thought relates largely to man's future. Wherever the unknown or future tense enters in, there fear will always be found on the spot, ready to give a lurid description of that which is liable to happen. It has been truly said that "the fear of ill exceeds the ill we fear," and it is a true statement which reads, "Death is the fear of death."

Argue as we may, analyze as we may, search and penetrate as we may into the farthest domains of the enemy's country—thought comes back to the original proposition that the belief in error is error, as the sense of sin is sin.

Fearless Ones Are Brave and Tender

Victory over fear is not won in a moment. We are fearless and spiritually courageous in the ratio that we are developed in the understanding of Love, Spirit, God, our Father-Mother. Fear has been analyzed for what it is and what it does; not to cast reflection upon those holy souls who are nobly and bravely fighting the good fight of faith and overcoming with surety and certainty this common enemy. The fearless nature is neither brusque nor harsh, but honest, tender and brave. Moral courage is moral because it has the fearlessness of morality, and is the offspring of a limited spiritual understanding of the first great commandment, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Therefore moral courage in its higher sense is spiritual courage and is truly "the lion of the tribe of Judah." Men possessed with a single idea, not at all commendable or exalted in itself, often face disease, catastrophe and death with visible fearlessness, but these forms of courage do not triumph in the great inner battles of life, or bring the individual to the realm of divine and immortal sovereignty. The most sensitive and spiritually enriched natures often tell us that their lives are beset with many fears and their mental processes register many hours of silent conflict with self-distrust and timidity. They also tell us that these conflicts steadily lead to places of peace, repose, mental quietude, and bodily health, where God's children can rest from their labors and enjoy the blessedness of dominion, and plenitude here and now.

As Good, divine Love, and Truth, the synonyms of God, dwell forever, self-conscious and harmonious, so man, the image and likeness of perfect Being, is forever conscious of harmony, dominion, and immortality. Eternal Life is progressive Life, and the man of Us, even now and here, has dominion over sin, sickness, and death—over fear and its myriad sub-divisions. The consciousness of the allness of divine Love as the infinite guide, healer, sustainer, and ruler of man's destiny, begets faith, which leads men to believe all the promises of the Most High, because so many of them have already been fulfilled in demonstration.

In no one way does fear show itself in a more pernicious garb than in its seeming power to perpetuate pain and disease. Physicians admit that the most hideous diseases are engendered by fear, and the severest form of sickness is prolonged by its presence. Therefore love and faith as mental conditions are of especial healing value. Where fear is, love is not. Where there is real love, there can be no fear. We never really love those whom we fear, and the nature that is fearful has not yet tasted the bliss of true love, from which the fear element is forever absent.

Many temperaments are kept in bondage to organized and personal domination because their fears are constantly played upon by the particular dogmas of the institution by which they are enslaved, or by the threats, arguments, and methods of some controlling mind. Slavery to duty is often a form of fetish worship, an attenuated expression of fear. The broad, hopeful, generous, pure-minded, and unselfish nature easily blends with the love order of the universe, and, conscious of its own individual sovereignty, makes of life one progressive song of triumph and well-doing. Fear is the habitual mood of tyrants, and those who most control others by playing upon their fears are the greatest serfs to fear's despotic sway. It is a true saying that "the fear of the unknown and the unlived future exceeds the fear of the known, even the fear of the possible repetition of past sufferings." Therefore there is an infinitude of value in the utterance of Jesus, "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

If children are guided, restrained, and educated through the sweet, patient activities of love, with a proper recognition of the child's individual rights of self-government when old enough to enter into their possession, this is the Scientific method. But children made to obey through fear of punishment are in constant terror of their parents, and are made haters of the law of right rather than lovers of it. Is it unnatural that with the first privileges of individuality a mental reaction against enforced obedience takes place? This reaction is inevitable, and parents and guardians have themselves to thank for their grave disappointments in connection with those whom they have labored to educate in the right way. Even animals respond to the sweet influence of loving patience, and resent severity and government through fear. The natural and normal love of the good and pure expresses our recognition of the nature of infinite Principle, which is thus reflected more and more perfectly in us; whereas an enforced adherence to righteousness represents an abnormal condition which inevitably leads to retrogression and collapse.

The jealousy that is born of fear is curable through the understanding of that divine Love which is at once just and logical. An understanding of the law of relationship between individuals is in itself a positive cure for what can be called jealous fear, and the love that prefers another's good above its own is at all times a destroyer of every kind of jealousy, so truly defined by Shakespeare as "the green-eyed monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on."

Misunderstanding Is Torture

Moral cowardice is a form of fear which shows itself most conspicuously. Fear of public opinion, censure, criticism, and misunderstanding, is a prolific cause of mental torture and defeat-begetting timidity. Public opinion should not be thoughtlessly or stupidly defied. On the other hand, it should neither be worshiped nor blindly obeyed. Public opinion is but the aggregate sense of the enlightened masses on a given question, person, or thing. To the extent that such opinion has a right basis and is made up of accurate deductions, which lead to true conclusions, it should be deferred to as a guiding influence in human affairs. But he who through fear of a mistaken public opinion does less than his duty, proclaims half truths where whole truths are needed, will be punished with many stripes for disobedience to the heavenly vision.

Moral timidity, another of fear's proteges, inculcates the erroneous idea that tradition, custom, and usage, because hoary with age and supported by the multitudes, should receive obedient deference from the individual. Herein fear again comes to the front and endeavors to keep man enslaved to mere institutionalism, or conventionalism.

Fear of evil is the self-destructive characteristic of mortal mind, yet evil is the selfhood of this mind and, logically analyzed, it is afraid of itself. And why should this not be so, is it not the law of annihilation to itself? Therefore it fears itself as its own destroyer.

The human mind, always ready for new frights, is stampeded at the sight of our numerous modern synonyms for the evil one which Jesus defined as a lie without any truth in it, and because the modern terminology is couched in scientific phrases it begins to yield itself to a new reign of terror at the awful character of "the ghost" or "man of straw" that it is called upon to oppose and overcome. This very mind would laugh at the thought of fearing evil under its Biblical names, while it cringes and crouches in trembling fear before the apparent power of this same old lie under its modern terminology.

The Greatest Courage

One of the grandest, bravest characters in the history of the race is the law-giver and moral reformer, Moses. The moral standard, which is the forever afterglow of this "man of the Law," stands as a sturdy bulwark of the highest good of the race, and in a foundational way it made possible the greater work of humanity's greatest spiritual Leader and Regenerator, Jesus Christ, who added to his superb moral courage the richness of spiritual courage and faith, making morality mental as well as physical, and leading thought and life through a spiritual interpretation of the Law and Prophets to the celestial glory of ultimate sinlessness. Moses and Jesus stand amidst the eternal ways of man's progress as beacon lights of manhood's highest form of fearlessness. Moses stands for moral integrity, Jesus for spiritual law, and both witness to the law of Spirit, the triumph of true manhood over fear in all its forms. In our own age we are privileged in the degree of our worthiness and spirituality to participate in the wondrous triumphs of a type of moral-spiritual courage unique in the annals of history.

When amidst our present observations of the world-wide growth of Christian Science, its educational and institutional extension, we pause and go back in thought to the time when Mrs. Eddy in the human loneliness of her position as Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, stood on one life platform, with virtually the whole world on an opposite one, do we not stand face to face with a remarkable instance of woman's fearless courage? At that time cannot we picture her as saying:

Whoso hath felt the Spirit of the Highest
Cannot confound, nor doubt Him, nor deny;
Yea, with one voice, O world, though thou deniest,
Stand thou on one side for on this am I?

And so on through the years, by utterance, act, and example, this torch-bearer has borne witness to the Christian Science religion of love. Courage is assuredly needed in the defense of truth, and it certainly takes a divine fearlessness to uncover the myriad operations of the claim of evil—the origin of all human fear. Therefore is there not visible in the life work of our Leader's history the grandest illustration of womanhood's progressive victory over fear?

Finally, thought turns away from the contemplation of all that is fearful, or that is associated in any way with the element of fear, either in the abstract or in the concrete, and with attention fixed on the eternal type of humanly divine character revealed through Christ Jesus, we behold as in a glass the glory of the Lord, and are changed into the same image from glory unto glory, even as by the spirit of the Lord. The mind freed from fear, purified, chastened, and ennobled by the strength gained in holy warfare, mounts as on wings of eagles, partakes of the primary glory of Man, and enters into sonship with God. All types finally merge into the Christ type, as the seven primary colors make the perpetual chastity of white. Jesus prayed that all men should be one with the Father, even as he was, and that all should with him partake of the life celestial. Therefore when fear presents itself to the man or to the woman who would be an imitator of Christ, when timidity projects into human thought the fallacious arguments of self-limitation, when apprehension would doom the clear-eyed vision of aspiration and spiritual longing, when distrust of one's ability to fulfill the law and enter into the possession of the promises of Christ seems to eclipse hope and limit courage, let the individual rise in the conscious strength of God-given dominion into the eternal likeness of the all-Perfect. Let us remember that the Father of Jesus is still our Father, and that as with the virgin, our own pure sense, immaterial and supersensual, still "doth magnify the Lord." Let us be fearless and untiring in demonstrating that the pure in heart are eternally blessed because they see God in man and in the universe, and are forever the fearless children of the eternal Love.—The Christian Science Journal.

PRAYS DAILY THAT THERE MAY BE NO MORE WAR

BOSTON, April 11.—The Christian Science Sentinel of Boston this week publishes the following:

WAR

MARY BAKER G. EDDY

For many years I have prayed daily that there be no more war, no more barbarous slaughtering of our fellow beings; prayed that all the peoples on earth and the islands of the sea have one God, one Mind; love God supremely, and love their neighbor as themselves. National disagreements can be and should be arbitrated wisely, fairly and fully settled. It is unquestionable, however, that at this hour the armament of navies is necessary for the purpose of preventing war and preserving peace among nations.

COR CORDIUM

Deep in my heart I shut one thought of you,
Deeper than Love may look,
As one who lays a June-red rose between
The pages of a book,

Of old and lovely legends read no more
For memory and pain,
Yet knows the whiteness of one page must bear
A sweetness and a stain.
—Arthur Ketchum in Smart Set.

The beautiful fireproof hHOTEL GREEN in Pasadena is worthy of a visit.

A.B. CHASE

OUR LEADER

Our Judgment

Based Upon Over Thirty Years of Experience in Piano Selling Is Surely Safe to Follow in the Purchase of an Instrument

Three Snaps

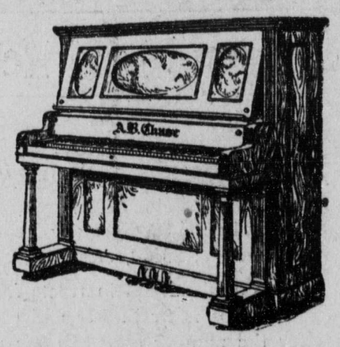
Weber . . . $295
Bailey . . . $215
Wheelock . . $145

On Sale Monday Morning

It's Easy to Pay The Bartlett Way

We Also Carry a Full Line of the Following Pianos:

Schumann
Kimball
Pease
Foster
Armstrong
Brewster
Etc., Etc.



"Not the Cheapest But the Best"

We Offer Easy Terms of Payment

THE BIG EXCLUSIVE PIANO HOUSE

231-233-235 S. Broadway

Bartlett Music Co.

Opposite City Hall

Builders Hardware Another Week

EVERY BIT MUST GO IN THE NEXT 6 DAYS

A week ago we announced that we would close out our Builders Hardware Department on Saturday, April 11—box up what stock was left and send it to our warehouse. But we found upon taking inventory on Saturday night that the selling has been so heavy that very little Builders Hardware remains. This being the case, we have decided to extend the sale another week and close out every single piece. This will be your last opportunity to get Builders Hardware at less than cost price. We won't extend the time longer than Saturday next—because goods are on the road and we need the room the Builders Hardware now occupies for it.

WE'RE DISCONTINUING OUR BUILDERS HARDWARE DEPARTMENT

Builders Hardware at Less Than Cost

We are closing out our Builders Hardware Department entirely. We have lost money on this class of goods. We know that there are many lines which will pay us better to handle—therefore Builders Hardware must go to make room for them.

While the selling has been simply tremendous since we announced our intention of closing out this department, there is enough stock left from which to make satisfactory selections. But we advise you to see us early in the week—what little stock remains will be disposed of.

No Builders Hardware Will Be Charged

We are selling Builders Hardware at from 15c to 20c on the dollar less than we paid for it. For this reason we wlil open no accounts—Builders Hardware will be sold on a strict cash basis. Goods will be sent C.O.D. only when we are assured there will be somebody on the job to pay for same. We haven't time to figure your plans—make out your lists and bring them in tomorrow. Copy of our inventory can be seen by any hardware dealer who wishes to buy.

Canfield's
"SO SUPERIOR"
537-9 SO. BROADWAY, LOS ANGELES
PHONES—EXCHANGE 860