

The Advancing Idea Adopts New Idiom

A great churchman has said that the curse of all religions is that they are based on some one person or some one book. Thank God that we have two textbooks-the Bible and "Science and Health," and the Bible is a collection of books. It is quite evident that the advancing spiritual idea always adopts a new idiom of expression. The spiritual idea adopts a different idiom all the time; for instance, the idiom of Abraham and Jacob was not the idiom of Moses (the idiom of Moses was the I AM THAT I AM and the Commandments and so on). The spiritual idea developed in the period we are considering to some extent in Jacob and still further in Jacob's sons, and then it climaxed in the Joseph state of thought, but the Joseph state of thought couldn't fulfil its mission without all the twelve-Judah had his place, even Simeon had his place, and so on. The idiom through which Moses later presented the spiritual idea was not the idiom of the prophets nor the idiom of Christ Jesus. It is extraordinary how much Christ Jesus did and how little he said,-how little teaching and preaching has come down to us. The idiom of Jesus was not the idiom of Mrs. Eddy. She adopted an entirely different idiom, although as you understand it, you see that it is co-ordinate with the spiritual idea as Jesus demonstrated it.

The divine idea clothes itself differently in every age. How do we know what the language of the spiritual idea will be a hundred years from now? Whatever the language will be, the idiom of the Bible and "Science and Health" will remain, but we don't know that the presentation of this subject in a hundred years will be the same. There is never any finality to our understanding of Truth. The man who believes that there is any finality to what he knows of Truth doesn't understand Truth. As the spiritual idea goes forward, the Bible and "Science and Health" will maintain their places and they are bound to do so, but we don't know what the idiom of the spiritual idea will be in the years to come. I imagine that in the days of Jacob they all thought, "There will never be anything more than this: this is the final answer," but the fact of the matter was that even Jacob was not able to understand the truth about Joseph, and it is evident that Joseph himself was willing to be used by the spiritual idea, and he *was* used by it, but he himself didn't fully understand what was going on-for instance, he was once found "wandering in the field."

The Christ-idea uses us all. It is forever going on: divine Principle, Life, Truth, and Love, is forever translating itself through Soul, diversifying, classifying, and individualizing itself as Spirit, and manifesting itself as mind. That will never cease, and the idiom through which the Christ-idea is presented will change and change, but that which is born of God will always remain. Consider music: the idiom of music has changed in a great measure, but the music of Beethoven and of all the great musicians remains. The idea remains and develops,

but the idiom changes.

Whatever is truly scientific partakes of the nature of eternity and infinity. Human symbols of the scientific and spiritual must never be regarded as more than symbols, or else the divine idea is lost in consideration of the symbols. It is really of little importance whether the Biblical characters used as symbols of the spiritual idea ever existed physically. Recent discoveries have proved that much of the Bible history is inaccurate and unreliable, but this should in no way disturb the Christian and scientific thinker. He is primarily interested in the eternal now" of reality and divinity. The Bible presents to such a thinker the most ordered and inspired record of the unfoldment of God's true nature.

John W Doorly: Talks on the Science of the Bible, Vol. II, p. 355