

Research on Tree of Knowledge of good and evil and the Tree of Life

Genesis 2: 6-8, 16-17, 21-22

At least nineteen times in Mrs. Eddy's writings she refers to the material creation of Adam and Eve in Genesis, chapter two, as an "allegory." The word can mean a story with a hidden meaning; a description using fictional characters; an extended metaphor.

6 But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

A mist obscures the vision, makes things less visible or unclear; it is that which dims or darkens or interrupts vision. In Mrs. Eddy's writings, she refers to the mist as materialism (Mis. 30:26); temptation, pleasure in matter (Mis 85:21), clouds of sin (Mis 355:26), evil, claim that God is not all (Pan 6:5).

7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Lord **God**: Jehovah;

Self-existent One who reveals Himself

Formed: manipulates instead of reveals or creates; like a potter molding clay

An anthropomorphic version of man

The careful shaping of mud as a sculptor

Dust: earthy nature of mortals

Man: *adam*=human; essence of human life; organic;

Adam= SH338:13 a dam, representing an obstruction

8 And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

"Eden" is a name that may mean "pleasure, delight or enjoyment" (*AB Genesis 16*).

"S&H 526:26 The name Eden, according to Cruden, means *pleasure, delight*. In this text **Eden stands for the mortal, material body**. God could not put Mind into matter nor infinite Spirit into finite form to dress it and keep it, — to make it beautiful or to cause it to live and grow. Man is God's reflection, needing no cultivation, but ever beautiful and complete.

9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL:

Tree is *ets* in Hebrew which means “a tree; wood, timber. **Its related word is *atsah* which means to fasten or make firm, i.e., to close (the eyes): shut.**

There are two distinct trees: the tree of life, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil or dualism.

The tree of knowledge of good and evil, lies. It claims the tree will open the eyes, but instead it shuts the eyes.

“Physiology.” As a representative of the serpent, or material medicine, physiology closes the eyes of mortals and never opens them. Only the light of Christ, operating through Christianity, can show us the true means of healing and thus enable us to demonstrate it.

The study of physiology (*the science that deals with the bodies of living things, how they operate, branch of biology that deals with the functions of living organisms and their parts*) closes the eyes of mortals, however, the chapter “Physiology” opens them!

The first paragraph of the chapter on Physiology says this:

Chapter VII

Physiology

SH 165:1

Physiology is one of the apples from “the tree of knowledge.” Evil declared that eating this fruit would open man’s eyes and make him as a god. Instead of so doing, it closed the eyes of mortals to man’s God-given dominion over the earth.

526:19-22 The “tree of knowledge” stands for the erroneous doctrine that the knowledge of evil is as real, hence as God-bestowed, as the knowledge of good.

299:18-20 Knowledge gained from material sense is figuratively represented in Scripture as a tree, bearing the fruits of sin, sickness, and death.

538:14-15 The “tree of knowledge” typifies unreality.

526:19-22 The “tree of knowledge” stands for the erroneous doctrine that the knowledge of evil is as real, hence as God-bestowed, as the knowledge of good.

Some scholars conclude that this tree symbolizes dualism. And since a tree is known by its fruits, coexistence of good and evil is death (Gen. 2:17).

TREE OF LIFE:

“Tree of life – so called from its symbolic character as a sign and seal of immortal life. Its prominent position ‘in the midst of the garden,’ where it must have been an object of daily observation and interest, was admirably fitted to keep man habitually in mind of God and futurity” (Jamieson 18).

16 And the Lord God commanded the man saying Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

“**Thou mayest freely eat;** without offence to me, or hurt to thyself. The words in Hebrew have the form of a command, but are only a permission or indulgence. . .” (Matthew Poole’s Commentary, www.biblehub.com).

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

“in this verse he receives warning of a moral discipline. His moral being is to be tested by a simple injunction for which no reason is assigned. No hardship is imposed: but a limitation to self-gratification is required. He who makes the requisition has given freely the enjoyment of everything beside. Man’s character is to be tested in the simplest manner. Will he shew obedience to the Divine will and trust in the Divine goodness?” (Cambridge Bible).

“By death he means the separation of man from God, who is our life and chief happiness: and also that our disobedience is the cause of it” (Geneva Study Bible).

21 And the Lord God caused a **deep sleep** to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

SH 585:23-28

EVE. A beginning; mortality; that which does not last forever; a finite belief concerning life, substance, and intelligence in matter; error; the belief that the human race originated materially instead of spiritually, — that man started first from dust, second from a rib, and third from an egg.

23 This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh, but she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man.

Bone is *etsem* (6106) in Hebrew which means **body**, substance, essence.

The root word of body or bone is *atsam* (1673) which means to **bind fast i.e. close the eyes**; to crunch the bones; break the bones; to be mighty; to shut tightly the eyes.

Corporeal sense, or the belief that life is in a material body, closes the eyes. The serpent claims that the tree of good and evil will open the eyes to the divine method of healing the body: “For God doth know that in the day ye eat of the tree thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

“tree” comes from a root meaning to “close the eyes” shut”

“Body” or bones means to “bind fast or close the eyes”