

Brother Page's Questions Answered.

Mr. H. C. Page in the issue of the 21st wants some one to answer the questions, "Are souls made to order, or does God keep them in stock?" Before asking such a question we must first ascertain whether such a thing as a soul does in reality exist.

As for myself I am unable to conceive such to be the case, as I have never heard or read of the question being discoursed by any one who was able to state at what time or stage of life the soul really does enter the body, whether it enters as a full grown soul or develops with the body, or even what the soul is or may be. Now my conception of it is simply this, that there is no such a thing as a soul as conceived in general, but what is called a soul, I simply call intelligence.

For instance, if I am married and raise children, as a consequence my own and my wife's intelligence would simply be transmitted to the children accordingly, even before the child is born, as I am inclined to believe in the doctrine of prenatal influence, which fact is simply called or understood as heredity. All through my life with my children my advises, my examples to them, is the gradual development and transmission of my intelligence to them.

But if I die childless, married or single, it is not to be understood from this that my intelligence, or so called soul dies out with me, but to the contrary, all my examples and practices, my good ones and bad ones must have at one time or other through all my life made an impression on some one of my fellowmen or women, and thus my soul or intelligence has been transmitted, and not lost. For we all take our knowledge from our predecessors and only improve upon it according to our abilities. For I believe with W. H. Galvani that if a man has a soul, the animal also has a soul, only according to the degree of development intellectually, for every living thing no matter how low in the animal kingdom has a certain intelligence, as everything alive must necessarily be cognizant of its existence and realizing the necessity of food for sustaining its life, which is only called an animal instinct, but which is really a rudimentary intelligence transmitted from the parent to the offspring but not developed apparently as it is in man; for as we develop and progress our intelligence or soul rises higher and higher in the scale, but that of the animal remains stationary, but none the less a soul, if ours is one. Wherefore I am unable to conceive the idea of a soul existing in every human being, leaving him at death, and be either sent to hell or heaven according to

its merits or demerits as that book of superstition called the bible teaches it. But the gradual vanishing of superstition and the continual advancement of science developing the human mind and establishing the Torch of Reason there in, it will eventually bring man to such a high state of development, that the pondering and expounding of the question of our souls hereafter will no more be necessary, and men will no more torture one another for opinions sake, but will practice humanity, and this will establish heaven on earth, and hell will vanish forever, and the soul theory be disposed of forever, and the trade of soulsaving for a living be ruined forever more. H. FRICKER. Portland, Ore.

To the question of Brother H. C. Page, "Are souls made as wanted, or does God keep them in stock?" I answer that they must be kept in stock all ready, because it is claimed that souls are immortal, living forever. Forever is always; see?

Then there must be a certain number on hand, and when they are returned to God, he sends them around again as they are needed. If he kept making new ones all the time the stock would outgrow space after awhile, and what would become of them if there was no room in hell and heaven becomes overcrowded?

Again: God had about all he could do to manage things away back in Abraham's time; even more than he could attend to, and had to begin to employ man-angels to help him (there were no lady-angels employed as yet.) Now with all the increase of population, prayers, and wickedness, God is not only perpetually busy, Sundays and all himself, but has to employ "legions of angels" to help him. He sent his "son," to "die for man," but it didn't appear to do any good and now with the increase of Free-thought secularism, etc., he must be at his wits ends; (judging him from the character given in the bible) what time has he to devote to soul making?

Still the other view, viz. that they are manufactured to order as wanted, has argument, and it would account for the quality and size of a great many souls; being made by the help of Angels probably and in the hurry and rush of business poor material and bad workmanship is the natural result.

Please allow me a question. Did God ever make a joke? He was angry, swore in his wrath, drowned and burned people, and was sometimes pleased in his way, but did he ever perpetrate a joke?

Was "God," who made the earth, the animals and mankind, in the first chapter of Genesis, the same "person" as the "Lord God," who did the same job, and the Garden of Eden business, in Genesis ii?

F. S. M.

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