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‘Some Questions to Prof. Wallace.’

Editor of *Golden Gate*: In the last Sunday’s lecture of the justly celebrated English scientist, Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, he says the phenomena of Modern Spiritualism have “proved the action of mind without any material brain and the exertion of force without any material body.”

We are among those who have had the same or similar evidences of what might be called disembodied mind-power. We would like to ask him to give the public his view upon the following questions:

Are the societies of scientific research into psychic or soul phenomena advanced enough in this new branch of science to be able to distinguish between such phenomena produced by disembodied mind, and the same phenomena produced by unseen embodied mind?

It is stated as proven that a person in the body in one continent, has, at a given time prearranged, produced slate-writings in another continent. Now what proof is there that such slate-writings, etc., are not at any or all times produced by mind-power embodied? If disembodied mind can do these things, why can not embodied mind do them as well? And if embodied mind can produce the phenomena, how can we detect the embodied from the disembodied mind action?

Do not understand us as criticising or making difficulties. We only want to get light upon the fast growing conviction that so-called death of the body is no dividing line, and that whatever mind *out* of the body can do, mind *in* the body can do as well, provided it be as well self-controlled in the truth.

In the admirable statesmanlike article of Rev. Dr. T. T. Munger upon “Education and Social Progress,” in the June *Century*, he sums up the threefold action of Christianity, evolution and history upon our western nations as follows:

“Christianity—the doctrine of evolution when properly interpreted—and history have yielded a practical working form of this idea. Christianity teaches nothing unless it teaches the self-sovereignty of man. Evolution crowns its process with man who acts in freedom, and holds his destiny in his own hands. History ends its records of struggle with tyranny in a nation that is at last governing itself. From these three conspiring and cooperative sources do we get what I have called the democratic and federative idea, and now hold it in actual realization. In the perfecting of it, lie the destinies of the nation, and through it runs the line of progress.”

Now this higher self-sovereignty, or as we like to call it, soul-sovereignty, teaches that mind—under control and harmony of its own soul in God—has power over all things beneath it, according to the plane upon which it acts, whether in the body or out of it. And knowing this, as Prof. Wallace does, we only want to ask, how he distinguishes between the phenomena produced by the embodied and by the disembodied mind?

Faithfully yours,

Charles Bowles.

184 Palace Hotel.,

San Francisco, June 7, 1887.

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The Alfred Russel Wallace Page, Charles H. Smith, 2015.