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# Religion and Psychology

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*The Modern Psychologist*

TRYING to think constructively for a moment or two on the relationship of Psychology and Religion, I find them closely related. Of all the sciences, Psychology, perhaps, is more closely allied to Religion than the rest of them. Perhaps I should modify the word "Religion" and substitute in its place the word "God" for in dealing with hundreds of thousands of people, I find there is such a thing as Religion which knows very little of God.

In this Realm of Religion there seems to be quite a tendency to build up a definition or picture of God which is peculiarly suited to the particular individual or organization. In the study of Psychology, however, we find rather a scientific approach to the same subject. After all, Psychology deals with the "soul" whatever that may be, and Religion is presumed to be responsible for the destiny of this same "soul". If I may be pardoned for speaking personally I will say that it was the study of Psychology which gave me the picture of God, I hold today. I never was quite able to grasp the theory of the "sub-conscious mind." Naturally, when this theory was advanced, thousands of people flocked to the advocates of it. To think that there existed some hidden Power or Mind which could when contacted bring to us things we needed, and which we could not secure by the normal working of the conscious mind, quite naturally attracted hundreds of thousands of people to it. Many of these good people today are completely disillusioned though, for they have followed this teacher and that teacher and have found to their sorrow, that they have been unable to find the mystic key to the equally mystic Realm of the "subconscious mind."

## *The Subconscious Mind and God*

I GAVE a lot of thought to that theory, and through it conceived a vision of God which in one year's time went into sixty-seven different countries and which today, seven years later, has students and followers by the hundreds of thousands. Now, it may have been just a matter of the definition of terms—what you call "sub-conscious mind", I may call "God". In this case you have two Realms, one of Psychology and the other of Religion, and they may in the last analysis be one and the same Realm. I am of the opinion this is so. To say the least a definition of the words "sub-conscious mind" is hard to make. Of course, we realize that there is supposed to be a sub-strate or superstrata-of what we know as our conscious mind, but we begin to wander into the hazy Realm of Metaphysics when we attempt to be too definite in our definition of "sub-conscious mind".

While the Realm of Religion is rather hazy, and while the word "God" is equally hazy, yet the people seem to be able to grasp the attributes of a "God" much better than they grasp the attributes of a "sub-conscious mind". Thousands of us who fortunately or unfortunately have been placed on the firing line in the Realms of both Psychology and Religion find a longing which amounts to a passion sometimes for something slightly beyond the reach of man, which something when attained will bring to man the fulfillment of the longings of his heart. The flare for the "sub-conscious mind" philosophy is somewhat diminished, and I think that we can wisely substitute the word "God" in its place. This puts the study of God on a scientific



basis, and I have always been of the opinion that very few Truths of God will ever be known as long as we surround him with a halo of mysticism and mystery.

### *The Search for a Creative Intelligence*

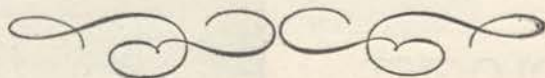
**F**OR many years I groped in the Realm of orthodox theology and, of course, was met with the old time-worn formula "faith". Nothing at all was left to my reason, and after absorbing what orthodox theology had for me, I found myself still being tossed about on the trackless sea of doubt without an anchor to which to pin my hopes. On transferring my endeavors to the Realm of "Psychology", a very great change was at once manifested. I see in the "sub-conscious mind" theory exactly the results one would expect to obtain from the Realm of Religion or from God.

I found further that it was much easier for me to accept a scientific knowledge of God than it was for me to accept scientific knowledge of "sub-conscious mind." True, I studied every branch of Modern Psychology from the so called New Psychology to the more ancient mechanistic brand, and I am quite sure that I found there the key for which I was looking and I also know as a matter of fact that as a result of my labors in these two Realms of Psychology and Religion hundreds of thousands of other people have found what I found.

Now, dealing with the mechanistic or behavioristic types of Psychology, we still find ourselves up against a stone wall after we have progressed a certain distance. True, in the Realm of Religion one might say that we also find ourselves up against the stone wall, but I am not so sure that that is a fact. Whether this universe originated in the spiral nebulae over long periods of time or whether it was created in seven days of twenty-four hours each makes little difference. There must exist a Creative Intelligence which was at the back of creation.

### *Psychology and Religion*

**N**OW, the Realm of Psychology takes us so far toward the discovery of that Creative Intelligence and leaves us there. The Realm of Religion which we presume to be the Realm of God takes us directly to the source of a creation. We may not be able to find God, but it is not necessary that we should. Whether logical or not, the God-Idea is so firmly implanted into the human mind that we poor unfortunates grasp it and are able to apply it far more readily than some of us are able to grasp and apply the principles of Modern Psychology. It seems to me that where Psychology ends, the Realm of Religion begins.





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