



Switzerland

Max Kappeler
on

The Structure of the Christian Science Textbook:
Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures

by Mary Baker Eddy

-our way of life and our teacher

April 1998

Dear students,

Concerning the structure of the Christian Science textbook, we find that the text of *Science and Health* is set. It does not need to be changed. Yet this same text can yield different insights according to our method of approaching it; and changing our method of approach makes it seem as if we have a completely new Textbook before us.

If we approach *Science and Health* with a *religious sense* we may find many marvelous 'religious truths' and experience individually subjective inspiration, but we shall not find its Science. Or, if we read the text with an *atomistic consciousness* we shall find many 'metaphysical facts.' The Textbook appears as a helpful collection of aphorisms, but not as a system of Science. When we study the Textbook with a *structured consciousness* we find something infinitely greater, namely the structure of the one infinite Being, the Science of being.

It is evident that a spiritually structural understanding, being a higher model of understanding than religious sense or atomistic knowledge, expresses itself in a higher demonstration — a higher sense of healing and life-experience.

The Textbook: Our Way of Life

If the Textbook is our way of Life, then we must *follow the invariable order of the chapters in life*, in order to be that being the Textbook presents. As we go from chapter to chapter, we realize that not one single chapter can be side-stepped. If we are just casually reading the Textbook we can, of course, skip chapters as we please, but we cannot do so in demonstrating being. We shall soon find that every chapter necessitates the chapter preceding it and inevitably impels the subject of the following one.

What comfort we get from the fact that *Science and Health* presents an ordered unfoldment of divine facts, which can be learned and assimilated in an ordered way, and which evolve in the natural order of our very being. We can see why there is nothing academic about the structure of *Science and Health* in its Science. In fact, understanding it spiritually in its Science is vitally necessary to our way of Life.



Message From Max Kappeler continued

The Textbook: Our Impersonal Teacher

The Bible and “Science and Health,” as seen in their spiritually scientific structure are a healthy basis for self-instruction in Science. This finds confirmation in Mary Baker Eddy’s statements: “You can well afford to give me up, since you have in my last revised edition of Science and Health, your teacher and guide” (Mis. 136:18), and “Students who strictly adhere to the right, and make the Bible and Science and Health a study, are in no danger of mistaking their way.” (Mis. 284:10).

Since John W. Doorly showed us the first faint gleams of what constitutes spiritual order, I made up my mind to devote my life unreservedly to the research of what it involves to see more of the Science of Christian Science. Over the last 60 years I have tried to present what constitutes the three main categories of Being which build the structure of the Science of the Textbook. One of my first important presentations of the Science of Christian Science is my book “The Structure of the Christian Science Textbook — Our Way of Life” (1954). Together with my books, “Epitomes for the Spiritually Structured Interpretation of the Christian Science Textbook” (1982) and “The Science of the Oneness of Being in the Christian Science Textbook” (1983) students have a workable aid in investigating for themselves, the Textbook in a deeper, structured sense. Mrs. Eddy asks that the Bible and the Textbook be the student’s “only textbook for self-instruction in Christian Science” (Man. p. 34).

In this connection, I should like to quote a few statements from the “Christian Science Journal,” April 1891, which appeared under Mrs. Eddy’s direction: On the occasion of the appearing of the 50th edition of the Textbook the question was asked: “Is not the new Science and Health intended to be the teacher for the future, thus to do away with incorrect teaching, and oral instruction of human teachers”? In the answer we read:

“The Work is intended for all ages, grades and classes; for the child just beginning to prattle, and for the aged grandsire; for the novice just entering upon the study of Christian Science and for the student who has made, as human language expresses it, the greatest advance. Without wishing to establish any *dictum*, the writer cannot refrain from giving expression to his conviction that this volume gradually *will* supersede all teaching, in the technical sense of the word; further, that it will prove great gain for the Cause of Truth when that day arrives.”

Naturally, we have always recognized the Bible and *Science and Health* as the great teachers, but as they speak to us through order and system, they will lead us wisely and gently along the way of Life. The more these two books are seen in their Science, the more they interpret themselves directly to us and Mrs. Eddy’s foresight will thus be fulfilled.

Our hearts should be full of gratitude that we live in the very age when the Science of Christian Science has been revealed to us, so that the deeper and higher meaning of the Science of the infinite One can be grasped.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Max Kappeler".

Max Kappeler



The Structure of the Christian Science Textbook — Our Way of Life: On the assumption that “Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures” by Mary Baker Eddy is a work of revelation, brought forth to establish a practical and scientific understanding of God, this book analyzes the spiritual order and structure presented in “Science and Health.” The thesis is that the structure of Being itself establishes the structure of the Textbook — as it does for all revealed text. The more one understands the Textbook through this spiritual structure, the more the structure of Being becomes the structure not only of one’s understanding but also of one’s way of life. What at first seems abstract is shown to be eminently practical, touching the seeker from the first step of his desire to know God aright.

Cloth: 206 pages

\$16.00

Epitomes for the Spiritually Structured Interpretation of the Christian Science Textbook: This book is a companion to Kappeler’s book “The Structure of the Christian Science Textbook — Our Way of Life” (see above). It gives the finer structure of the Textbook by reducing the text to its core meaning by the method of formulating it in short epitomes, thereby revealing the divinely structured order of “Science and Health.” The method of formulating and working with epitomes is also explained. The book appeals to the scientific student.

Cloth: 110 pages (large size)

\$50.00

The Science of the Oneness of Being in the Christian Science Textbook: The question of the oneness of being has occupied the thought of spiritual thinkers throughout the ages. With an extensive introduction — dealing with such issues as the development of monotheism, spiritual monism, the one and the many, the part and the whole, distorted concepts of oneness and multidimensional oneness — this comprehensive work presents a divinely differentiated sense of oneness. It shows how the first sixteen chapters of the Textbook reveal sixteen fundamental laws not only for establishing the oneness of being but also for uncovering sixteen root-beliefs of duality. Since such beliefs lie at the root of mankind’s problems, this systematic analysis of oneness brings with it powerfully practical implications for transforming human understanding and experience.

Cloth: 276 pages

\$24.00



The Structure-principle of the Christian Science Textbook

Class, 1975 — Wilmington, (DE)

This class facilitates a scientific understanding of the Christian Science textbook by challenging the method of atomistic thinking and offering instead the scientifically structured method of approach. Only a structural sense of Science can successfully lead to an understanding of the subject of the infinite One.

In order to tackle the whole teaching of the Christian Science textbook, the following points are dealt with in greater detail:

The definition of science in its structural concept; — structure and structuralism; — the categories of Christian Science; — what constitutes a maxtrix.

The class then shows how the structure of the Christian Science textbook (represented in its matrix-form) can be seen through two scientific methods: 1) *the deductive method* and 2) *the inductive method*.

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The Christian Science Textbook: a workshop on text-interpretation

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Using the first five chapters of the Textbook as a working example, these classes teach the fundamental method of scientific text-interpretation: — 1) how to discern the spiritual structure of the text; — 2) how the Textbook presents a spiritual symphony and how we can sort out the leading tones and elements within that symphony; — 3) how we can work with the spiritual structure to answer questions intrinsic to the subject, as well as to see its practical implications for our way of life.

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The companion book recommended for this study is: *Epitomes for the Spiritually Structured Interpretation of the Christian Science Textbook* (Max Kappeler)