

December 17th, 2007 – Subject: Is the Universe Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force?

Dear Friends: Mary Baker Eddy gave her students 26 subjects for weekly Bible Lessons, to be covered twice yearly. Flowing through the year in her order of the subjects, we hereby present fresh views of each one by outstanding Christian Scientists. In this way, we hope to partake with you of new unfoldments of her infinite revelation.

Our selection this week is from an article included in the Bookmark collection of articles entitled: Dominion over the Weather.

ATOMIC ACTION

by

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The world has advanced into an atomic age. Christian Scientists are fortunate in having a definitive statement on atomic action by their Leader, Mary Baker Eddy. In *Miscellaneous Writings*, she states: “Atomic action is Mind, not matter. It is neither the energy of matter, the result of organization, nor the outcome of life infused into matter: it is infinite Spirit, Truth, Life, defiant of error or matter.

Atomic action, being infinite Spirit, thus wholly good, is not then to be feared, but rather to be properly understood, to be loved and demonstrated.

Jesus promised that the Comforter would come and reveal the actual truth regarding all things. Christian Science is the Comforter, which makes clear that mortal existence is not the everlasting; perfect, immortal existence that God, Mind, created, and that at this very moment is the only real existence. The so-called physical senses, which are themselves part and parcel of mortal existence, cannot inform us what is real and what is unreal. Christian Science, through spiritual sense and spiritual understanding, alone can do this.

"Atomic action is Mind." Since Mind is God and God is All, all action in reality is atomic action. Atomic action, therefore, is not separate from, but synonymous with, omni-action, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, the one and only God, to whom all things are possible. Whatever is true of God is true of atomic action, or Mind. Whatever is not true of God is not true of atomic action. Atomic action is infinite Spirit. Spirit; God being All, has no opposite. Therefore matter, the supposed opposite of Spirit, has

nothing whatever to do with atomic action, and atomic action has nothing whatever to do with matter.

Atomic action is Truth. Therefore error, the supposed opposite of Truth, has nothing whatever to do with atomic action and atomic action has nothing to do with error. Atomic action is Life. Therefore death, the supposed opposite of Life, has nothing to do with atomic action, and atomic action has nothing to do with death. Matter, or evil, can neither help nor hinder the perpetual harmony of atomic action; nor can it interfere with its demonstration.

According to mortal belief, the atom is the basic brick out of which are built all material things. Chemical force and physical energy result from the action and interaction of atoms. Energy of an enormously greater magnitude is pent up within the atom itself. Nuclear physicists have discovered how to release and utilize this enormous reserve of energy. Inventions resulting from this discovery will harness atomic energy to useful purposes. They will provide greater warmth and comfort to greater numbers with reduced physical toil and labor: They will provide means for better, quicker, and more efficient transportation. The result will mean considerable advances in industry, in agriculture, in the supply of power, and therefore in our living standards.

Our Leader refers to human progress out of self-imposed limitation where she writes in *Science and Health*, “We welcome the increase of knowledge and the end of error, because even human invention must have its day, and we want that day to be succeeded by Christian Science, by divine reality.” Human inventions resulting from an increased knowledge of atomic action will have their day. Like other modern inventions, they will be temporary blessings, which lessen human drudgery. Until mankind learned and accepted the fact regarding the shape of the earth, they were subject to the limitations which a flat earth would have imposed. “Similarly, until mankind learn and accept the facts regarding atomic action they will be subject to the generally accepted beliefs regarding it - namely, that it is a great force which can be used by mortals for good or evil.

Mrs. Eddy also says in the textbook, “The material so-called gases and forces are counterfeits of the spiritual forces of divine Mind, whose potency is Truth, whose attraction is Love, whose adhesion and cohesion are Life, perpetuating the eternal facts of being.” Mind, real atomic action, provides mortals with all the good they have. Moreover, atomic action, Mind, is always harmless, always useful, always available. Scientifically applied to human problems in a Christly manner, it is absolutely effortless. Every so-called miracle, or wonder, recorded in the Old and New Testaments and every Christian Science healing, is an example of the toilless operation of Mind in the affairs of mankind.

Consider the wonder recorded in the twenty-first chapter of John. The disciples, dazed by the crucifixion experience, had returned to their fishing. They had toiled all night and had caught nothing. At dawn someone standing on the shore told them to cast their nets on the right side. They did so, and their nets were filled. Then they recognized their risen Master, and when they got ashore they found a meal of bread and fish awaiting them.

The Christ, Truth, through Jesus' spiritual understanding of Mind, the real, atomic action, provided that morning meal. No toilsome plowing, Sowing, harvesting, no transportation was required to produce the bread. No fisherman toiled all night to net the fish. Time and growth to maturity from seed and monad were not necessary, and no one toiled to fetch fuel for the fire. The human need for proper food was completely and instantly met.

And Mind, atomic action "defiant of error or matter," supplied the need. Physical scientists, theologians, politicians, and statesmen, all greatly fear the abuse of what they believe atomic action to be, and with one accord they aver that, if unleashed, atomic energy could destroy our civilization. Therefore, mankind is in great need of understanding the saving power, which accompanies the true concept of atomic action. Truth is not affected by false beliefs, but false beliefs are radically affected by Truth, which destroys them.

The facts regarding real atomic action, or Mind, faithfully held to in thought replace the fables regarding it, and will counteract and neutralize the fearful belief of counterfeit atomic action. Such scientific right thinking is Christian Science treatment, or prayer, which can heal and protect nations as well as individuals.

Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." Students of Christian Science go to the Father, Mind, for the truth regarding all things. As they utilize their understanding of atomic action as Mind, they become the instruments through which Christ, Truth, operates, enabling them to keep atomic energy within the bounds of usefulness and avert any blow aimed at the destruction of mankind. May not this be one of the greater works, which the ever-present Christ will do in and for this age?

The statement that is quoted at the beginning of this article is the complete and final truth, and is the basis of all right thinking regarding atomic action. Whenever atomic action is referred to, over the radio, in conversation, or in the press – let us vigorously deny aggressive mental suggestions of destructive power? and affirm the omnipotence of Truth. In Isaiah, we read: "Therefore shall the strong people glorify thee. . . For thou hast been a strength to the

poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.”

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