

THE ARENA

ANZURA

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THE MIND ARENA OF CHOICE

"Mind is your ship, the Adjuster is your pilot, the human will is captain." (page 1217)

Editor's Notebook

Like Eridanus, which stretches across the southern skies, our feature article almost spans this entire edition. It originally appeared as a contribution to the online *URANTIA Book* discussion group, UrantiaL. We present here an edited and revised version of the original article posted by Bonnie K. It addresses many issues which are currently engaging our fellow readers around the world. As sturdy readers of *The URANTIA Book*, we will no doubt enjoy such a challenging and lengthy piece. It comes warmly recommend by your Ed.

* * *

If this is the fifth epoch, then these are its early days. This is the time when beliefs have their chance to become threads for the weaving of future myth. Now is when the first pretty crystals of dogma begin to settle and grow.

In these early decades, before investigative journalists press us as readers of *The URANTIA Book* to commit ourselves to a creed, and before the weight of public opinion begins to "help" us frame our concepts and adjust our responses, we enjoy the luxury of time for unforced study and unstructured reflection. As we become more familiar with the content of these 196 papers, we might wonder about the revelation itself: Why do we have it in this form? Why does it explore certain subjects in certain ways? What was omitted, and why? Why, in particular, were we told what we were? What might be the ramifications of our actions? These are the issues Bonnie explores.

As its early beneficiaries we have the opportunity to help structure the way the rest of the world meets *The URANTIA Book*. Perhaps the most enduring contribution we can make in these early days is to quietly and relentlessly attend to the business of refilling Urantia's conceptual reservoir with the waters of truth.

Busy times are ahead. Rumour has it that South Americans are buying *URANTIA Books* as fast as they can be printed, and the next two years will see the completion and printing of many new translations. An interesting role will soon appear for anyone familiar with *The URANTIA Book*.

THE ARENA

PO Box 609, Narrabeen, NSW 2101, Australia

The Arena is a quarterly publication dedicated to the promotion of goodwill and understanding among readers of The URANTIA Book and is supportive of URANTIA Foundation.

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He recounted their experiences in Galilee when time and again great throngs of people enthusiastically followed them around and then just as ardently turned against them and returned to their former ways of believing and living. And then he said: "And so you must not allow yourselves to be deceived by the great crowds who heard us in the temple, and who seemed to believe our teachings. These multitudes listen to the truth and believe it superficially with their minds, but few of them permit the word of truth to strike down into the heart with living roots. Those who know the gospel only in the mind, and who have not experienced it in the heart, cannot be depended upon for support when real trouble comes."

The URANTIA Book, page 1,927.

News Around the World

The URANTIA Reference Library (ANZURA)

Many thanks to all who have begun contributing material to the Urantia Reference Library. And thanks also to Robert Coenraads for his voluntary and high quality effort as the man behind the project. In order for the material to be properly categorised and cross referenced, Robert has taken it upon himself to read it— a mammoth task, and a labour of love.

The Reference Library is an ongoing project. It is for your benefit and the benefit of future generations, just like a regular library. Keep watch for any material that is related to *The URANTIA Book* and send it to us if you can, or at least tell us about it if you can't. It may be in a book you read, or a media article from times past. We will chase it up if you can give us some details.

Conference '97 Sydney, Australia

The 1997 URANTIA Book Readers' Conference, hosted by the Sydney study groups, is to be held over the NSW Labour Weekend at:

**The Ave Maria Retreat Centre
6 Wentworth Street,
Point Piper NSW 2027 (a Sydney suburb)
Tel: +61-2-9327-5339**

DATES: Friday 3 October 1997 to
Monday 6 October 1997

The conference theme is:

“DARE TO BE GODLIKE”
- the ultimate challenge -
A Practical for Ascenders.

The Ave Maria Retreat is set on a beautiful harbour-side location with views and walks; ideal for rest, play and inspirational study. The organisers want to hear from anyone who would like to share their thoughts on what they would like to see, hear and do at the conference. Please send your in your ideas early! And for those with friends overseas, this year's conference will be an excellent excuse to bring them to Urantia's Great South Land. A few balmy days in the company of a host of actively adjusted humans, overlooking one of the world's most picturesque harbours... What more could one ask for?

The library will require a Pentium-based computer to keep all its articles and information cross-referenced and accessible to all. Eventually we would like to see it 'on-line', making the resources available to anyone from home. If there is anyone out there who can provide a computer we would love to hear from you. Contributions to the cost of the computer and the upkeep of the library are also welcome.

To help us raise money for this resource, we will be offering reproductions of some superb artwork of Jesus' home (by one of our talented associates). We expect it to be available for purchase at a nominal price by mid year. So save those pennies as the print will be a favourite with book readers and look great in your home. It will be a limited print run, and we hope it will help raise the \$1,000 needed to equip the Library with the necessary tools. Details will be announced in the next issue of *The Arena*. AND... maybe a sneak preview.

For those who missed the initial announcement of this Reference Library project, we have decided to start a resource centre for historic and other works concerning the human side of the "*Urantia Story*". Events in living memory, and those going on about us now, will be of great interest to future students of *The URANTIA Book*. Dr Robert Coenraads has been elected to manage and coordinate this project.

We envisage that eventually readers would be able to visit the centre to study or discuss topics with others, either personally or through an internet connection with other such centres around the world.

We would like to enlist your help, as *The URANTIA Book* readership, for suggestions about relevant works we should hold in the reference library. Also we would like your help in acquiring actual copies of the material. In addition, if you have any items you would like to donate to the library, please forward details initially to:

U.R.L. (ANZURA) Attn: Robert Coenraads
PO Box 609, Narrabeen, NSW 2101.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Kindred Spirits in the great land “Down Under”,

This is brief hello from the frigid zone here in Chicago, to let you know we’re still alive and surviving the Chicago winter. We miss our Auzzie friends, family, surf and sunshine but we’re enjoying the lifestyle and work here at the Foundation.

It’s a great experience seeing what goes on in the offices here at the hub of this great revelation. You really get to see just how much this book and its message are spreading and making its way into the world at large. The work here at the Foundation is endless. Dozens of letters and phone calls come in every day from readers either wanting more information or wanting contact with other readers, or just wanting to talk to someone about the book.

Our main task here is to help the Foundation prepare for the expansion of the revelation on the international scene. With more and more translations nearing completion, the Foundation is having to develop a strategy to deal with the anticipated activity resulting from the release of these translations to the world. Already the Spanish translation is selling like hot cakes in South America. My husband Trevor attended the Guadalajara book fair in Mexico and was astounded at the overwhelming reception of *The URANTIA Book* amongst

these lively Latinos. They sold over 900 books! At times there were 30 or 40 people waiting in line either to buy a book or ask questions about the book. The Foundation needs to get ready. The Russian translation is ready to go, the Dutch is almost ready—just a matter of months now, the Korean will go early next year. The Swedish, Italian, Estonian and German are in advanced stages with Danish, Norwegian, Lithuanian, Arabic, Chinese and Portuguese in the incipient stages.

Never before has the URANTIA Foundation been faced with such a challenge and we’re grateful that we’re in a position to be of service. We’re developing a strategic business plan which will be our administrative guide to help us cope with the demands associated with distribution of the translations in these countries. Overseas offices will need to be opened and administered, reader inquiries and referrals will need the services of the Foundation, and readership networks need to be established to assist in ongoing reader support. It really is an exciting adventure to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

To all our beloved friends in Australia and New Zealand, we send you our love. We think of you all the time—a thought is independent of space so the world is really only very small. You just have to close your eyes and think of your loved ones and presto! You’re right there.

Kathleen Swadling

Greetings!

In the December edition of *The ARENA*, Mark Anderson wrote a small article, “Who Really Am I”, where he wonders how it is that he is a free will creature. He said that he wanted to hear ideas on this concept.

Mark, you are a unique, one-of-a-kind individual that has never existed in creation before and never will again. This unique individuality you possess is of value to God.

God and the Eternal Isle of Paradise have always existed. An event took place where God willed to share existence. Part of the sharing was to include free will creatures. The creatures needed to have a free will since anything less than free will would make them to some degree mechanical. Unfortunately, it was impossible for God to create completely free will creatures since the act of creating them did not include their free will participation. God solved that problem.

In one big bang he created time and space. The Eternal Son and Infinite Spirit came into existence. He turned over time and space to them with, among other things, a mandate to bring forth free will creatures.

Urantia evolved to where it could support life. Soon higher animals evolved, one of which became capable of making moral decisions. These became what we call human. Now God was ready. When one of these humans demonstrated the ability to make a moral choice it was given a Thought Adjuster, a bit of God.

Mark, from the instant you received your Adjuster God has been sharing your life with you. God whispers to your mind for you to recognize him, and God invites you to take the journey to Paradise by striving for perfection. The decision is yours exercised, through your own free will. God invites you but never forces or coerces you, a free will human whose brain reasons and responds to stimulus in its own unique way. Thereby, God sees the world, through your mind, in a way unique in all his domain. That uniqueness is your personality. It is a gift from God to the YOU.

As you travel with God through your life the things you do that are acceptable to God are stored somehow in what we call a soul. Your soul grows as you dedicate your will to doing the will of God. When your life on Urantia is finished you will pick up your journey to God with a new form on the Morontia worlds. A unique mind will be returned to you and it will hold all the wonders that experience built into your soul.

In time as you progress in spirit the will that you use to direct your life becomes the same as the desires that God has for you. Then you will have merged with your Thought Adjuster. In time the love of God will pull you into his presence. You will be surrounded and immersed in his love. And God will look exactly like you thought he would look.

Edward Kendrex, West Australia

Articles

Why This Revelation?

[The following is an edited and revised version of a posting by Bonnie K. on UrantiaL, an electronic list-service for discussion of *The URANTIA Book*.]

Many readers of *The URANTIA Book* have come to believe that what is presented in its pages, the text of *The URANTIA Papers*, conveys the fifth epochal revelation of relative truth to the peoples of this planet. Let's explore some possibilities beyond what might seem obvious to most who share the belief that this material is intended to enlighten with truth, and thereby uplift both individuals, and the planetary peoples of Urantia. While we may know what the revelation we have received is, and is about, why were we given the particular revelation we were, exploring certain subjects in certain ways? Why were we told what we were, and not told what was not included, particularly?

Evolution, Progress, and Unity

As ascendant creatures, we evolve, we progress. Individuals evolve, and so does the civilization they find and pass on. Revelation of greater truth is intended to complement evolution, and thereby assist evolutionary progress. To be able to progress socially, we must first individually grow spiritually. As we are told in *The URANTIA Book*, this will not happen because we institute social changes or perform more material activity alone. Social improvement is the side effect of the moral and ethical advances among people, as the individuals spiritually progress. Progress, spiritual evolution, real religious growth, occurs inward and upward inside individual people. While this results in more moral and ethical action by people and within societies, it cannot be superimposed artificially, from outside of people, and be maintained without this internal growth of individuals to support it.

A social group of people will not "progress" any faster than the individuals within it grow spiritually. Material and intellectual progress alone are not stable, either for individuals or social groups, until they are dominated by spiritual orientation, and this is only done by individuals, and done inside themselves. And such growth cannot be forced or imposed on them in any manner. It is responsive to the choices they make, and increasing personal faith in their Universal Father.

No amount of activity outside oneself will compensate for failures of such internal growth, or make things go any faster, whatsoever. Attempting to force or push progress to happen is dramatically demonstrated in *The URANTIA Book* to have precisely the opposite effect. And

we may similarly observe such failures in human society in recent times, if one conducts a study of the social experiments over even the most recent periods of history. In *The URANTIA Book* such attempts are displayed as an evil that has plagued us before, and numerous specific instances are listed. Only the individual person can make the choices that allow him or her to grow spiritually. It is most often a slow process. What is most important about such growth is that it is balanced and integrated. And **that** it occurs.

Evolution is the process for growth and progress for beings such as us. Attempts to avoid this feature of God's will results in something other than God's will. It backfires on us, and any "progress" we so attempt to cause, since it is not stabilized by spiritual dominance. Sooner or later such efforts result in collapse of the "progress" and at least reversion to the previous state. And by doing or attempting this, time is lost in truly progressing. So attempts to force or speed evolution, in fact, retard it.

Truth has no value unless it is sought, and when found, both embraced, and lived. We can't force or coerce others into choosing this. Only individuals can benefit through adopting more expanded truth. The living of truth is no easy task. But those who do the hard and steady work this requires are the ones who will actually uplift the spiritual values and social conditions for all the groups of which they are a part. And all of us are a part of, and have a place in, the greater universe, mankind, and whatever smaller national and social groups we may happen to function in. We each hold a position in all the groups we are a part of, and our choices and acts affect all other beings who share this universe too, to a greater or lesser extent.

While we can't directly observe spiritual progress in individuals, its effects can be noted, both in individuals and in groups of individuals, by the unity they are able to achieve among one another. It is the indication of balance, integration, and cooperation, and there is no real growth unless it attains these features. Unification occurs inside each thing, and increasingly expands to unify in greater circles outside itself.

Progress doesn't start the other direction for us. We may directly observe whether such spiritual growth and similar levels of truth-embrace by individuals has occurred within groups by observing the level of unity, cooperation and balance in the human social interactions that the people in groups demonstrate. The very fact that there is a lack of cooperation and unity is indicative that this has not happened at similar levels for all the individuals making up the group.

We may note that the factions and "splitting" of *The URANTIA Book*-oriented readers into multiple groups, with differing and competitive objectives, indicates a failure in this regard. The higher end of a person or group cannot further expand and grow until the lower end also moves forward. Adherence to lesser ideals anchors us, both on individual and social levels, and

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prevents such movement. With no further evidence than lack of unity and cooperation among people, we may clearly know that work needs to be done “inside” before any good effects “outside” will occur. This is true inside people, and inside groups, and there will be no stable expansion of truth until it occurs in this sequence.

We cannot escape reality and still exist. And reality and all the beings in it are connected. We cannot and will not “grow” until we deal with each such failure on our own part, and among ourselves at each progressive level. We will not leave behind anything which we have not perfected ourselves which is a part of the whole we are also a part of. We will be stuck at that stage until we integrate and adopt the truth and the enlarged viewpoint that allows us to personally be in harmony at each level of reality we encounter, and “grow” into.

While each of us may perform differing functions, if we don’t work together for the good of the whole, and maintain not only our personal integrity but integrity as part of the greater whole, there is collapse at every point of overgrowth that lacks such integration and unity. There is no real freedom in breaking into pieces what is only functional when it is whole. As individuals and as groups, we need to attain a state of integrity. Personal adoption of truth causes greater integrity within human personalities, even that which will “set us free”. It likewise functions in the same manner within groups,

once it has been adopted by the individuals who then become sturdy supports for further growth within the group, and also form the URANTIA Foundation for expansion of the group, social progress. Integrity is not attained when integral parts of a body are missing, don’t work, or resist and impede the function of other portions of itself.

If what we will do will have any lasting meaning during our lives here on this planet, it is important that we are first rigorous with ourselves, and that we think matters through as deeply as we are able, since using our mind to make choices is our only gateway to spirit. It is the only avenue available to us to adopt truth, live it, and grow. It is important to truly consider values, not just superficially, according to what we, who are the least of the beings who might attempt to truly become spiritual, and who largely act as animals, might believe feels good or contributes to what we perceive is our immediate welfare. Animals feel good any time they come in contact with pleasurable stimuli, but that does not make their responses actually good. And using up all the good things now, sometimes leaves nothing for later, when it is needed. Animals are ignorant of universal and spiritual values, and these are the values that are good.

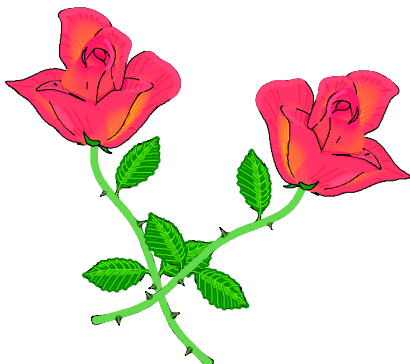
To think that we, who are relative idiots in the universal scheme, are “wise” and “capable” and “good”, represents a grave error. It is even more ignorant to adopt

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Gardening

This world has never seriously or sincerely or honestly tried out these dynamic ideas and divine ideals of Jesus’ doctrine of the kingdom of heaven. But you should not become discouraged by the apparently slow progress of the kingdom idea on Urantia. Remember that the order of progressive evolution is subjected to sudden and unexpected periodical changes in both the material and the spiritual worlds. The bestowal of Jesus as an incarnated Son was just such a strange and unexpected event in the spiritual life of the world. Neither make the fatal mistake, in looking for the age manifestation of the kingdom, of failing to effect its establishment within your own souls.

The URANTIA Book 1863:12



Many of us have discussed at length the matter of how to reach other people with the truths of *The URANTIA Book*. There are disagreements about whether it is more important to spread the truths or the book itself, for example. The discussion was at times in danger of turning into an argument, but there were at least several people with differing viewpoints that stuck with it, continued to be respectful, and tried sincerely to see the goals and motivations within the others’ hearts.

Eventually a useful metaphor was developed: When growing a lawn, one spreads the seeds far and wide, splashes water all over the place, and runs a lawnmower over all the grass. When growing a rose, one stands in one place for a long time, working on only a single living thing.

Some people are good at tending lawns, some people are good at growing roses. But a garden with both grass and roses is prettier than a garden with just one. And more to the point, if the grass-grower tries to make the rose-grower use techniques that work on grass... and if the rose-grower tries to make the grass-grower use techniques that work on roses... you won’t have either roses or grass – you’ll have two gardeners fighting when they should be gardening.

the position that one is wise, when one is foolish, than just to be the foolish creature one is, and recognize it. At least then we can try to improve. And this is our human estate, now. We are not thought adjusters or divine beings. We are material animals bestowed with divine potential which we might and may attain through the combined functioning of the gifts of personality, freewill, mind and a divine thought adjuster within it to help guide us, as well as many beings to assist us in our endeavors. But it is our part to do the often difficult work of making and acting on choices in favor of our Father's will, truth and divine values, and of developing faith in Him, in order to actually attain this potential in any regard. Considering what we are, we're fortunate to get such an opportunity.

Controversy and The Content of *The URANTIA Book*

I believe that the controversy and discord among reader groups and organizations is of particular interest, in considering the purposes of the revelation revealed within *The URANTIA Book*. I have spent some time investigating some of these matters of discord among readers, reader groups and organizations in some depth, and will share some of my general thoughts and conclusions regarding these controversies between reader factions.

The lack of unity among readers evidenced by the fragmented groups, and individuals, who each express interest in "spreading" the revelation, and who then indicate they choose to do this by focusing on spreading material objects such as books, is direct evidence they haven't yet "received" the revelation in some respect

themselves, even if they are the owners or producers of lots of books and other material or intellectual things, and even if they can quote the words of the book. It would appear they believe the book object is, all by itself, truth, "the" revelation. For truth to be "revealed," there must be someone to whom it is revealed. What is not so "seen" has not been "revealed".

Truth is adopted through mind, but embraced by the "heart". Ideals and truth become the property of individuals through using these as the basis for choices, which are then acted upon, and thereby shared. Words and other symbols do not contain truth, but they may represent and thereby convey it, allowing the possibility of the represented concepts to come to mind. But if truth concepts are not brought to mind, and then actively embraced, no more truth has been revealed by symbols than if there had been no symbols to convey truth concepts. We might expect when truth is prematurely or inadequately presented to those who are not looking for it, and who are not ready to thereby "see" it and accept it, they will reject it, since it must be actively chosen. It is then truly revealed in reality, even in the universe. It cannot be contained hidden in minds, or the symbols of some age or race, in a book. It must take root and grow, it must expand.

Lack of unity is direct evidence of failure to actually embrace the truth of the revelation we have potentially available to us through reading, adopting and acting upon, even thereby living the values represented through the words in *The URANTIA Book*. Those who have failed at unity themselves, and with others, have nothing to spread,

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Our Interdependence

The number of relationships that exist in our lives is probably close to infinite. Not only do we have personal relationships with one another, but our minds are related to our bodies, our souls, our Thought Adjusters, the Spirit of Truth, other minds... the list goes on. Likewise our bodies also seem to have a considerable number of interconnections. Even the individual parts of a single body are related to the other parts in many different ways. In short, we're just one big bundle of relationships. We truly are INTERDEPENDENT.

The past 30 years or so seem to have focused people's attention on individualism in this country. Much has been said, written and produced about how we can improve ourselves as individuals.

The biggest drawback to this latest journey into inner awareness has been the almost total disregard for the whole, for society. What started out to be the next step in personal discovery has turned into little more than an exercise in self indulgence.

If we existed solely as individuals, then this would be all right. We could cheerfully go about improving ourselves at the expense of anyone and everyone. But we all know that we are both individuals AND parts of a greater whole. At first blush it might appear that we are forced to choose between serving two masters, but upon careful examination it becomes clear that although sovereign by virtue of our free will, that sovereignty is probational upon how it is employed. If we fail to recognize the connection between the individual and the whole, and fail to utilize our free will to cultivate both, we run the risk of destroying one or the other.

Every relationship we have gives us the opportunity of choosing one of three things. We can choose side A, we can choose side B, or we can choose BOTH. Choosing side A or side B proves that we are able to exercise our independence. But choosing BOTH shows we finally understand that any relationship is not successful until ALL factors are considered and satisfied.

except more of what they represent, which is lack of unity and integration. These are not spiritual values, but rather their opposite. We may consider whether it is valuable to spread more of this.

Jesus made a warning to his followers regarding the revelation of enlarged truth he presented. He knew that the majority of people who had contact with his teachings, even his living acts, the “multitudes” who first appeared to accept the saving truth of his gospel, would not actually accept it, except temporarily and superficially, because the truth would find no place to take root. And then these who rejected the truth would turn against those who had accepted it. People do not appear to have changed significantly since those times. This is Jesus’ warning:

This was the occasion of Jesus’ warning his followers to beware of the support of the multitude. He recounted their experiences in Galilee when time and again great throngs of people enthusiastically followed them around and then just as ardently turned against them and returned to their former ways of believing and living. And then he said: “And so you must not allow yourselves to be deceived by the great crowds who heard us in the temple, and who seemed to believe our teachings. These multitudes listen to the truth and believe it superficially with their minds, but few of them permit the word of truth to strike down into the heart with living roots. Those who know the gospel only in the mind, and who have not experienced it in the heart, cannot be depended upon for support when real trouble comes.” [1927:3]

In statements made on electronic mail (e-mail) lists for discussion of *The URANTIA Book*, and related matters,

there are blatant misrepresentations of what is going on, and what has gone on, on a fairly continual basis. Quite often false statements are indicated as being true, and these same statements are frequently repeated numerous times. Nearly all of these misstatements are utilized to create negative characterizations directed against the URANTIA Foundation, as part of discussions about, and promotion of viewpoints against them, their actions, and their policies, related to the book, groups, and individuals.

In investigating many of the URANTIA Foundation’s actions which have been criticized by others, I have found the Foundation’s actions to be consistent with the mandates originally given them, prior to their first publication of *The URANTIA Book*. There is sufficient evidence to conclude these mandates were created under the direction of the persons who first, and directly, received the Urantia papers, and it would be reasonable to guess that these mandates are in accord with direction given by those beings who delivered these materials to us. After reviewing the mandates, I find them consistent with the concepts in the book, and a very wise approach for a long-term presentation of the truth this book attempts to convey to human beings. It is also reasonable to conclude that without this organization in place, with these rules about control of matters pertaining to the book, and goal direction indicating they should focus on spreading meanings and indicating goals pertaining to the book itself are merely supportive of this primary goal, it is likely the book would not have been allowed to be published. It surely was not allowed to be published, until this occurred, in any event.

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Our Interdependence, continued

Since our lives will always be the product of an almost infinite number of relationships, doesn’t it make sense to get into the habit of recognizing and satisfying ALL of the components that go into that relationship? Learning to act as part of a group will never stifle our individual personalities. Giving ourselves to the betterment of a group will never result in the degradation of our own individual selves. It is only when someone totally ignores either the individual or the whole that we see produced those unusual people we call martyrs and ego-maniacs.

I truly believe the best course of action to take in any circumstance is the one that recognizes both sides of the argument and strives to satisfy both sides, even if that means accepting neither side’s recommendations. Sometimes, to achieve a state of MUTUAL BALANCE, it is necessary to take a third path, not evident from the perspective of either side.

What does that mean in plain language? It’s the old ‘win-win’ philosophy. It’s Jesus’ advice to his disciples: (1573/3) “Jesus did not expect his followers to achieve an impossible manifestation of brotherly love, but he did expect them to so strive to be like God – to be perfect even as the Father in heaven is perfect – that they could begin to look upon man as God looks upon his creatures and therefore could begin to love men as God loves them – to show forth the beginnings of a fatherly affection...” In other words, our Father on Paradise sees the entire infinite-eternal relationship as it is. He sees it in its perfect state of mutual balance. And if we wish to become like Him, then I suspect we must begin to learn to recognize our own relationships and strive to bring them into a state of equilibrium, a state of mutual balance. By doing that, we not only satisfy our own potential as individuals, but also our potential as pieces of the grand mosaic of time and space.

Jim Lengyel

The issues and meanings involved in the controversies related to matters pertaining to *The URANTIA Book*, revelation and spreading it, and the social groups which have sprung up indicating they desire some control of these matters themselves, are complex and interrelated. But there are some core matters from which most of the other issues arise.

The majority of persons who label themselves as readers of the book at present, appear to indicate they hold such views against the URANTIA Foundation, their actions, and their supporters to varying degrees, if the lists are an accurate sampling of reader attitudes. The majority want to have control of direction of the course of the spread of the “revelation” (meaning books, and book publishing) themselves, and believe they are entitled to assert themselves, and what rights they believe they are entitled to, in order to gain rights of control that would more greatly allow them to do so, from the URANTIA Foundation.

The majority against the URANTIA Foundation claim that the URANTIA Foundation has not followed the orders they were given related regarding spreading the revelation, because these people indicate they are not distributing “the revelation” (meaning books) fast enough. Others claim the URANTIA Foundation should not follow the original orders they received prior to being set up and given printing plates to publish the book—that now that over 40 years has gone by these mandates and goals are completely out of date, and readers should now themselves best determine how an epochal revelation should be administered.

According to those holding the viewpoint that these orders, goals and policies are out-of-date, since rapid and aggressive book distribution is stated the desirable goal which has not been conducted in accord with the views and desires of this group of readers, a commonly stated solution to this stated problems is that the URANTIA Foundation should adopt new policies according to the desires of readers. These indicate administrators of revelation should do whatever the mass should indicate are its desires, democratically, and that group rule is superior to the way the organization was originally set up, which does not allow for the whims of individuals or the public trends of the moment to affect their course or activities.

According to those who indicate the URANTIA Foundation has “defaulted” by not focusing on aggressively publishing, mass marketing, and distributing as many cheap books as possible, it should be replaced by an organization, or numerous of them, that do. And most with either of these viewpoints consider numerous alternative “Urantia Books”, “dumbed-down” versions, with all manner of additions—or publication of only portions—a reasonable activity in this regard. While some state that protection of the text in its original form might have had a value, but probably doesn’t anymore

since such a long period as over 40 years has elapsed, most indicate they have decided the time has come when the wisdom of those who indicate they are readers will be plenty of protection for maintaining the original text of the book, now, and for future generations.

And since the URANTIA Foundation has not gone along with instituting group rule to replace the orders that were given to them, and neither does it approve of alternative publications of the text, since this would violate the orders for handling the book, as well as the goals they were given, those holding these views indicate and advocate various ways that the liberties of the individual should be asserted and upheld against the URANTIA Foundation so others may then take control to replace the URANTIA Foundation’s agenda according to their rules, with the replacement goals of book distribution without constraints of any kind, especially those on publishing or altering the text in any way individuals may desire.

In both cases, revolution and rebellion against the URANTIA Foundation, and creation of new factions instead, is stated as reasonable, and this is most often indicated as justified because speedy book distribution, and social goals are indicated as goals which are more important than the URANTIA Foundation following its orders as it always has, with focus on spreading the meanings of the revelation, while continuing to control or attempt to control printing of the text to maintain its integrity, the quality of the books it continues to translate into different languages, and the publishing and distribution of it for those who are interested in it and ready for it. That there is not only lack of unity, but attack and rebellion by many of those who indicate they are “reader-believers” should not be surprising to those who have read Jesus’ warning.

And those who most often make untrue statements on e-mail lists, as I have indicated above, typically present their arguments in clichés, utilizing short quotes which are often taken out of context, and most often focus on minutiae, rather than considering the issues in the breadth and depth appropriate to adequately viewing and analyzing the situation. No one is going to get a clear view from such limited snapshots, placed in distorted frames. We may note that there is a direct relationship with limitation of viewpoint and error. This is why it is important to expand our viewpoint, and understand ever larger frames of reality. To do this we have to actually explore reality, and make choices about it based on our increasing contact, and expanding view of it, rather than our pre-existent personal desires.

Freewill, Choice-making, and the Individual

Controversies represent an opportunity for each of us to make freewill value/meaning choices, since each of the different viewpoints in a controversy represents a meaning value that differs from the one embodied by

(continued next page)

“opposing viewpoints.” Having different, but harmonious viewpoints doesn’t cause controversy. Controversy only occurs when there appear to be different views about the exact same matter, and this is always because there are directly competing meaning values inherent in the conflicting viewpoints. In such conflicts, these are not “equal” but merely different values. Instead, at least one meaning value is always most superior, and one is always most inferior, and all others fall somewhere in between.

If this weren’t the case, there would be no difference between “good” and “bad”. Some things are better than others, and it’s up to us to figure this out. The fact of conflict gives us the opportunity for choice-making regarding the value range, for ourselves. We may choose for greater or lesser truth, or greater or lesser divine ideal expression, in each and every such controversial situation with which we are confronted in our lives. Often there are many meaning values at issue in a controversy.

Quite often, we as humans fail to come to see the actual meanings being represented in a situation, through insight, and settle for reacting to the vehicle that brings

them to us for consideration, instead. We may reject all manner of people and situations before we finally come to realize that the meaning conflict can only be resolved within one’s own self. It is then that we may finally come to discover and make choices about these values themselves, instead of rejecting the stream of reality that time appears to present to us. When we do finally resolve such conflicts, by addressing them within ourselves, the external conditions which were merely representative of the conflicts, dissolve.

We continue to get chances to do this, unless we consistently use them all up, and have so valued not choosing, or choosing what opposes God or reality, that that’s what we ourselves represent—non-choice or non-reality. We increasingly reduce our own reality range through such functions, until there’s nothing left to reduce. This process is the opposite of growth. We lose the gift of freewill and reality itself, sometimes in limited respects, but if we choose this consistently, at some point it represents exhaustion of choice possibility.

Although we may sometimes dislike being presented

(continued on page 12)

You just never know

Hello all,

Going to share a little experience I had today, hope it adds some cheer to the day.

The last couple of days I have been preoccupied with my daughter’s birthday. Sheila died over 2 years ago, and I have been having trouble establishing a ritual to commemorate her birthday. She would be 28 today. I have no family here with me in Idaho, so I used this day for the last two years to reflect on Sheila, her brother and myself when the three of us would get together for their birthdays.

This year I decided to DO something different. I was bound and determined to establish a simple ritual, wasn’t clear what it would be, but knew I’d come up with the strength to wish Sheila a happy birthday somehow appropriately. Maybe a cake, a banner, and maybe even some flowers and silly hats. Something Sheila would appreciate.

I thought and prayed about it, and before I knew it February 10th is here. I still hadn’t done anything. Man, this is tougher than I thought.

While doing my stretches this morning I came to the conclusion I’d buy a cake, and voiced this

affirmation to my wife Barbara. I thought I would probably celebrate alone since Barb had not met Sheila, and in the past it was a pretty difficult subject.

A few minutes later Barb asked me to come in the kitchen. There on the table was the prettiest cake, sitting next to a beautiful planted primrose, and a candle burning on each side. Needless to say, I cried and cried hard. Barb held me and I cried happy tears for the first time in a long, long time. I wrote out a HAPPY BIRTHDAY SHEILA on a piece of paper and we both signed it with love.

It turns out Barb went to the store last night and bought the birthday preparations and hid them from me until this morning. She did not know what I was going to do for today. Sheila would love it!

I’ll never know if I would have had the strength to follow through or not. All I do know is Barb’s action turned a very difficult day into an amazingly wonderful day, from beginning to end.

This was a wonderful, selfless act of kindness Barb carried out. Thank you and I love you Barb!

Take care all,

Les Tibbals



Evolution, Cooperation, Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Fatherhood

To the ongoing internet study group
(urantial@urantia.org), Mark Nadler wrote:

“I’m a complete novice to *The URANTIA Book* so that if this question seems too daffy forgive me. The Book seems to promote respect for science – which I agree with – and emphasizes the evolutionary development of Urantia. The few posts I have read from this [internet discussion] list seem to speak a lot about brotherhood, sisterhood, etc. The conflict I see in all of this is as follows: my reading of evolutionary biology is that evolved organisms are incapable of expressing anything but selfishness. What we might interpret as an altruistic act between two evolved organisms is in fact either an act of inclusive fitness or reciprocal altruism – both of which are forms of selfishness. Cooperation is only possible because, ultimately, it involves a private gain to the cooperator. If all of this is correct, then what hope is there for “true” brotherhood, sisterhood, etc. (My own observation is that even blood brothers and sisters have a hard time expressing the “hood” part of their relationship.) Even the acts of motherhood and fatherhood have a selfish foundation. If my arguments are correct, then shouldn’t we be promoting a more reachable and biologically sound foundation for future generations of Urantia citizens to pursue than brotherhood, sisterhood, fatherhood, etc.

Mark A. Nadler mnadler@ashland.edu

Bill Kelly (billk@nicoh.com) responded:

Dear Mark,

I think your question is appropriate coming from someone who does not yet know the structure of reality that the Urantia Book describes. The book definitely agrees with you that biologically evolved organisms are incapable of anything but selfishness. Therefore it attributes altruism to the presence of God within us in the Thought Adjusters who prod us to make altruistic choices. As you read the book these things will become clearer. By the way, are you in any way related to Ira Nadler, M.D.? She is a friend of mine from past years.

I have recently written an essay on “the brotherhood of man” which may have some relevant thoughts.

Here it is...

Thoughts on the Brotherhood of Man

Bill Kelly, USA

In a world whose most changeless fact may be the fact of change we are confronted with the task of re-evaluating the value of the truths of the past. This is necessary, unless change for the sake of change is inherently valuable, because new truth must be measured against the old truth that it would seek to replace. Truths must always be compared in their truth status to Truth, that is, we must ask if these truths can still be regarded as “true” in the new situation that every passing moment brings us. One of these truths, found in almost all societies and religions, is the concept of the “Brotherhood of Man.”

For some people this phrase is unacceptable because of its “sexist language”. It bespeaks a long history of male chauvinism and must capitulate to sisterhood as the watch word before its value can be assessed. Others reject it as a hopelessly outmoded idealism on a planet torn by ethnic wars, racial struggles, economic injustices, environmental destruction, and human stupidity. It is a concept that has been tried and found wanting and has been relegated to the lowly status of an impossible ideal rather than a vigorous and substantial human reality.

I do not want to deal with the feminist agenda in this essay, not because I disagree with their assessment or find fault with their complaint, but because I wish to transcend the limitation of sexist language of either gender to get to the essential affirmation of the original concept, that there is a family reality to humanity. Can this concept be defended and its implications realized?

Robert Blye in his book, “The Sibling Society” reaches the conclusion that human societies world-wide are becoming devoid of the vertical dimension of authority which used to reside in the authority of the traditional patriarchal family. Fathers have disappeared from their families in alarming numbers either because of out of wedlock pregnancies or in divorce and desertion. The result, he says, is a society of siblings without fathers or mothers and without the sense of authority that the intact family lent, not only to its own reality, but to other institutions of society as well. We are siblings, but we are really not brothers or sisters because we have no father, and sometimes no mother. This siblinghood is not the brotherhood of man or the sisterhood of woman.

The main reason that the brotherhood of man has failed as a concept, I believe, is due to its equation with the species *homo sapiens*. A naturalistic, biological, or cultural basis for brotherhood is not enough to grasp sufficient commonality among the diverse peoples of this planet as to compel brotherhood devotion. What is missing is the *family* concept.

Human fraternity comes most easily in blood families, less easily in mixed or step families, then tribes, etc. This brotherhood acknowledgment is possible because of the

biological family structure of parents and children.

But humanity/brotherhood based on blood ties between all human beings is too abstract an idea for most people. Racial, cultural, ethnic, class and gender differences seem to belie any serious notion of being of “one blood” when gazing upon the myriad variations of humanity. When looking at people through the lens of these differences it simply is not true that “all men are created equal”. Nor does it seem convincing that all humankind is fundamentally related beyond the “dead level” of species identification.

Since brotherhood or sisterhood is a family term it requires parenthood to be convincing. If I am your brother or if you are my sister we must have at least one parent in common. Otherwise the term is meaningless, at least as long as we remain at the biological, cultural, racial-ethnic or socio-political level in our thinking. This is why such an understanding can only be idealistic at best and why it has not succeeded in revolutionizing humanity’s interactions.

But what if there really is a “brotherhood/sisterhood” of humanity, not just an ideal but a fact! On what basis could this assertion be made? I reply, on the basis of a spiritual unity and a spiritual commonality of origin, nature, and destiny.

I believe that our origins are not just biological but include the gift of personality coming from God, the First Source and Center. Our personalities are unique but have a Divine origin. This gives us “personality dignity” as we are all derived from the Father/Mother of all personalities. This fraternity of personality is our first commonality.

Our nature is both human and divine, that is, we are natural animals endowed with a Fragment of Divinity in our minds, a piece of God, as it were. We have a common spiritual Parent in this “piece of God” making us all His children spiritually and not merely by biological creation. Our relationship to God is in the family model. He(She) is our Father(Mother), we are His(Her) children. And because we have a common Parent we are sisters and brothers.

This basis for a new understanding of the brotherhood of man is consistent with the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. It transcends the “chosen people” attitude of most world religions. It is not based on the belief that we are children of the devil but children of a benevolent Creator/Father. And it does provide us with true spiritual equality despite any differences due to heredity or environment.

Finally, a common destiny awaits all humanity, based on the purposes of God. Individually, if we choose, we can meet our Parent upon completion of the grand adventure of the ascension career which is open to all who will undertake it. To know God and to become like Him is the goal of our entire existence. This adventure is only barely begun in this mortal life. Its enthralling fulfillment entails eternity.

A common destiny awaits this planet as well, the destiny of Light and Life, often termed Utopia. Many people are becoming convinced of a spiritual awakening on this planet even in the midst of apparent overall decline in some areas. The sense of isolation that has pervaded the past toward our place in the universe and the heart of God is changing. A sense of cosmic citizenship is emerging in many people’s minds beyond the boundaries of traditional religion.

“Well”, someone may say, “all this would be wonderful if it is true. How can I be sure this is not just another pipe dream? Where can I look for evidence?”

Look around you at what is happening in the world, not the focus of the media, which is usually negative, but in other places. Take a look at *The URANTIA Book* for commentary on these concepts. But most of all look within. Listen to your heart. Take time to meditate and seek stillness of soul. Remember that Elijah didn’t hear the voice of God in the thunder or the fire, in the loud outside arena. He heard a “still small voice” guiding him. So can you. So can I. We can contact that God Fragment.

If we could look at our fellow human beings beyond the surface and see them as persons like ourselves and vessels of a divine Presence instead of merely clever animals or variously annoying factors in our daily interaction equation, we would have a start on understanding the brotherhood of man, this family of God.

It has been put it this way:

All human kind are one vast family
 this world our home
 We sleep beneath one roof
 the starry sky
 We warm ourselves before one hearth
 the blazing sun
 Upon one floor of soil we stand
 and breath one air
 and drink one water
 and walk the night
 beneath one luminescent moon
 The children of one God we are
 and brothers of one blood
 and members in one worldwide
 Family of God

I believe that the “family of God” is a fact, not just an ideal. I also have experienced the amazing difference it makes when I view another person as truly my spiritual sibling. My brother, my sister, I invite you to join me in this perception!

(*Why this Revelation, continued from page 9*)

with these opportunities at the time they come along, if we knew the opportunity we were really being presented, we would realize that these represent our gateway to survival, growth, and a larger reality—through adopting, and indeed, becoming the superior and more divine meanings, than those we had and were before. These very situations are our opportunity for soul growth.

We have been given the gift of freewill so that we will have the possibility of choosing God, and divine values. Therefore, it is important to dig through the superficial representations of reality, to incisively determine the meaning values that the material representations of meanings—the symptoms or side effects of true reality—represent. We are handicapped because we cannot automatically see meaning directly. We are blind in this respect. But we may develop our insight better, through choices that represent cooperation with Thought Adjuster/Controller activity, if we wish to “see”.

Failure to make a choice is a choice itself, but it indicates a choice against freewill, and a reduction in one’s own freewill choice expression range. When selecting among variable values, we have the opportunity to:

- Make a negative choice. Not choosing—non-use of choice, or withdrawal, and passivity, represents the negative range of choice-making.
- Make positive choices. These choices can be negatively positive such as the choice to be against something or someone. Or positively positive—these represent the choice to align and support what is a positive value, among all the values being represented. I believe this is what Jesus’ choices represent.

Choices not acted upon represent a failure of completion of the choice. Once a value is clearly decided upon in mind, failure to express it positively in reality means instead that one has agreed to the expression that has been made otherwise in the reality activity area where one participates. Action though is not only “doing” something, it may be actively choosing to “not do” something, and not doing it, on purpose, in favor of positive expression that is being made, that has a positive value.

Even if one has made a “positive-positive” choice, it may be considered negative, as mentioned above, due to non-action related to the meaning value chosen. Acting upon such a “positive-positive” choice represents the “second-mile” idea expressed by Jesus. We shouldn’t stand there dumb. We should try to find a way to contribute something positive in each and every situation.

And positive-positive choices are embodied by the

“golden rule” expressed by Jesus, as described in *The URANTIA Book*—treating others not only as a loving brother, but even as a kindly and loving father, considering the actual needs of each and all of his children, sometimes when they themselves are too ignorant to know what is best for them, and bearing with them through all their troubles and failures—always returning good for evil, and acting with mercy and understanding. Such choices and acts are those aspired to by those who have discovered the “kingdom of heaven” within.

Most often the choices we notice expressed in controversy are of the “positive-negative” type; those of people who have decided to be against something else, and assert themselves personally in opposition. Those making such expressions have to that extent still failed to understand and embrace the value of positive choice-making. We may assist by representing the positive value ourselves to those who have not yet found it. And this represents such a positive-positive choice.

Actions to attempt to stop others from using their freewill represent positive-negative choice-making. Indeed, action valuing the freewill God has bestowed upon others, through our own personal self-restraint in opposing them, even if others are using freewill in ways we may know are unwise and evil, is a positive choice, since it values God’s will in granting freewill to others, allowing them time and assisting them to develop and learn to use it for its intended purpose, itself.

By responding to others’ positive-negative choices in a positive-negative manner ourselves, we demonstrate our adoption of this as the value *we* have adopted and embody. By instead valuing their freewill expression and development, we uphold this value, which is a positive one. This should not be confused with passively standing by while we observe that someone has chosen to enact evil on purpose, to attack or assert themselves against someone else, or others.

In such situations, if we as individuals observe such an activity in progress, we might best serve—if we are able—by mercifully intervening during the time such an activity is occurring, even as a parent would temporarily restrain a child to keep him from doing damage to his siblings, and himself, once he has demonstrated he actively intends to do so. This most greatly benefits the person who has made such a choice to act in this manner against another, or others, since by so acting, it is clear he has begun a course spiritually destructive to himself. Through temporary restraint his negative development is delayed, giving him more time to reconsider his choice-making. But once the situation has passed, it is not up to us to do anything further regarding judgment or punishment.

While this mercy is rightfully our personal work, there are functions of social justice and authority which are necessary, when persons continue to fail to apply these

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values to themselves, and their lack of integrity and personality dissolution affects the whole of which they are a part. While we enjoy freedom inside our own minds to assert all manner of efforts and control, if we fail in this task, sooner or later dealing with our lack of integrity defaults to agencies outside ourselves. This progressively defaults to greater agencies, at higher levels, until real justice is fully administered, to the degree it has failed to be applied at any lower levels.

If we will fail in becoming fair and merciful ourselves, fairness and mercy is eventually dealt to us, both for our benefit, and that of all other beings. Otherwise, there would be unlimited default of reality, and the universe and God himself would dissolve. But this is not possible, since it is not God's will. God is fair and merciful, and loving in all his ways, and He maintains integrity and unity. At some point, if we will not utilize the freedom we have been temporarily granted to gain this control over ourselves, but instead have consistently failed to use it or abused it by applying it towards other purposes than this intended one, it is returned to those who will use it responsibly, who do demonstrate superior values, and will administer such matters with true love, justice and mercy uniformly, for the benefit of us and of all beings.

The universe career is hard work. The lazy need not apply. But it gets easier the more we exercise. We become stronger at each thing we do, and are better able to face the next larger task. The way the exercise of freewill works, is that every choice reinforces the value in us that we choose for. Those who value anger, and hate, and make angry and hateful expressions, become more angry

and hateful. Those who value love, and make loving expressions, become more loving. And so on. We each represent a mix of all the values we have chosen and acted upon thus far.

We are the administrators of the values that flow from us, according to these choices. And the responses and "reality" we find in our limited frames—that we appear to receive from outside us—are most often directly related, and a reaction to, what we ourselves have demonstrated according to the values we have embraced. This is increasingly the case as our choices accumulate. This is why it is important to take care and demonstrate the best qualities we can envision in each choice and act. We need to choose the best quality, the best value, in each situation, and let quantity and speed of attainment attend to itself. As we make better choices, we become more powerful, and can accomplish faster and more easily that which previously we found hard. But we don't get to that state merely by wishing or whimsical imaginings that we are already there. It is accomplished by the hard work of gaining control of ourselves.

Human Choice, and the Fifth Epochal Revelation

It is no wonder that there is profound controversy so soon related to the Urantia Book. There are competing values with great differentials. Many values that are the standard in operation for people and groups now are in great contrast with those presented in *The URANTIA Book*. There is always conflict when there is such a meaning/value truth contrast represented in reality. Jesus

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Evolution and Brotherhood

Here is my view of brotherhood etc., in light of biological development. I call it the three stages of evolution:

Life on this planet began in a very simple fashion. A living thing had no choice but to behave the way it was designed. Even its options, that is, the way it could react to stimuli, were limited. At this stage, its consciousness was totally DEPENDENT on its mechanical programming.

As this same life evolved, became more specialized and advanced, it moved from the dependent stage of consciousness closer and closer to the INDEPENDENT stage. With the evolution of Andon and Fonta, animal life successfully adjusted to a higher level of existence. Free will now meant that, although man was still dependent on his environment, he was independent in terms of how he could respond to that environment. He could choose to do whatever he wanted, although his 'free will' was still very much influenced by basic animal instincts and fears.

Today, more and more people are courting or even entering into the third stage of evolutionary development: the INTERDEPENDENT stage of consciousness. In this stage, people not only recognize their independence, but now their interdependence on other people and things.

Although all living things have always existed in an interdependent environment, from an individual viewpoint, this reality has not been appreciated until man's own consciousness evolved to the point where he could recognize this. That is why, in my opinion, some people reveal brotherhood / sisterhood / fatherhood in their lives while others still cling to the lower but more familiar independent attitude.

We may be the product of animal ancestry, but we are also the proof of spiritual enfranchisement. So, it is true, much of what we see in the world today is the result of biological influences, but much also is the result of our progress toward spiritual attainment. It depends on what part of the evolutionary line of development we happen to be on.

Jim Lengyel

indicated he would not bring peace, and this is why. While his revelation uplifted so many personally, and even thereby had an effect on the social state of humans, many in his time, and since then, have chosen other values than he revealed, and many still are. Can you imagine what one single person truly representing these values as he did, living now, could do?

Besides whatever personal values we are each working out related to ourselves, the nature of the current controversies related to groups and the Fifth Epochal Revelation appear to embody exactly the meaning/value conflicts that were in operation in each and every previous revelational default. The same problems remain unresolved. These sticky wickets are described in great detail, and we are told just what the most troublesome areas are for us.

I believe we are given, by this particular revelation, in the manner of its conveyance and with all its specific attributes, an opportunity to individually and collectively utilize our freewill to finally overcome these previous failures. Since we may choose either for good or for evil, things could go either way, both individually and collectively. If we didn't have the possibility of failure, there would likewise be no possibility for success. Therefore, the success or failure of this revelation on earth, as well as the success of the revelation for each of us individually, pivots on our actual personal choices. Good will not be forced on us in opposition to our will, except as we may come to the crossroads of universal justice/mercy. We are enjoying the time lag of justice, and still have plenty of time to make choices, and correct our course and direction.

It appears we, as a planetary species, are early in the process related to this revelation, although the weeds of controversy have quickly sprouted in the rich soil of superior conflicting truth values. We are frequently warned to seek spiritual values, and not to focus on mere material and social goals. Consider what the goals of this revelation are, or might possibly be. The word revelation means something that is revealed. In *The URANTIA Book* we are informed that what is revealed is truth—relative truth in this case—in the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

The URANTIA Book says this about The Papers:

The Urantia Papers. The papers, of which this is one, constitute the most recent presentation of truth to the mortals of Urantia. These papers differ from all previous revelations, for they are not the work of a single universe personality but a composite presentation by many beings. But no revelation short of the attainment of the Universal Father can ever be complete. All other celestial ministrations are no more than partial, transient, and practically adapted to local conditions in time and space. While such admissions as this may possibly detract from the immediate force and authority of all revelations, the time has arrived on Urantia when it is advisable to make such frank statements, even at the risk of weakening the future influence and authority of this, the most recent of the revelations of truth to the mortal races of Urantia. [1008: 5]

The Papers are indicated as being a presentation of truth. That which presents something is not the thing it

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Food For Thought

“Judas met defeat in his battles of the earth struggle because of the following factors of personal tendencies and character weakness:

1. He was an isolated type of human being. He was highly individualistic and chose to grow into a confirmed “shut-in” and unsociable sort of person.
2. As a child, life had been made too easy for him. He bitterly resented thwarting. He always expected to win; he was a very poor loser.
3. He never acquired a philosophic technique for meeting disappointment. Instead of accepting disappointments as a regular and commonplace feature of human existence, he unfailingly resorted to the practice of blaming someone in particular, or his associates as a group, for all his personal difficulties and disappointments.
4. He was given to holding grudges; he was always entertaining the idea of revenge.
5. He did not like to face facts frankly; he was dishonest in his attitude toward life situations.
6. He disliked to discuss his personal problems with his immediate associates; he refused to talk over his difficulties with his real friends and those who truly loved him. In all the years of their association he never once went to the Master with a purely personal problem.
7. He never learned that the real rewards for noble living are, after all, spiritual prizes, which are not always distributed during this one short life in the flesh.”

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presents. And we are told that such revelational ministrations are adapted to local conditions in time and space.

Increasingly, I have come to see the parallels between these current matters of controversy and the earlier defaults, in the specific, and related to the underlying values at issue in the controversies. And I believe that much of the particular information that we are given in this regard—the special adaptation indicated—is designed to help us understand these particular value meanings. Otherwise, why would descriptions of the previous revelational events be relevant for other than a quick mention, as historical data, if at all? We are surely **not** told about more things, than we **are** told about. And the selection of what we are told does not appear the least bit random.

At the least, the fact that the method of conveying the truth of this revelation, through a material conveyance mechanism which we must first mentally extract and then lend our life to for real expression, rather than being directly represented by a living being who embodies truth, allows for the full development of the controversies, and subsequent choice-making activity, for all of the values not yet resolved, that might not occur otherwise.

And what better way to also let us compensate for earlier deficiencies? After all, we collectively, as a species, killed the last living form of expression of epochal revelation, the personal representation of God the Father expressed in the life of Jesus. It would seem appropriate that we receive now this “dead” conveyance mechanism, and need to bring it to life before we may enjoy its truth.

What ironic justice we are provided. I do not think we may proceed, as a species, to have our isolated status removed, and receive further “living” revelations, until we choose for “life” and “truth” and what is spiritual, rather than what is dead, material, and devoid of truth itself, since our species failed in this manner, and has not yet compensated for this deficiency.

In addition, there are ample opportunities, minus observable personal representation of the Father, since we received just written materials instead, for issues of the Lucifer rebellion to take form, so that each and all of us may each form choices regarding the values involved. Will we question and criticize the revelational plans through evolutionary adoption of truth, the ways indicated in *The URANTIA Book* as intended for us, and in accord with God’s will for ascendant creatures?

Will we accept His will, and His ways for us, or will we seek to elevate our positions and attempt group rule, claim personal liberty, and reject divine guidance in the course of doing so? Will we decide to replace the plans of evolution and revelation with our human goals instead? Will we adopt rebellion and revolution as our values and assert ourselves to gain rights and control of temporal and material matters? Or will we patiently work for cooperation and unity, universal ideals and eternal values, resting on our faith in God, knowing that all will unfold in time, according to God’s will, rather than our personal human wills. Will we embrace spiritual liberty, true freedom, or will we instead seek personal liberties?

Since it appears we are confronted with choosing among the still troublesome values left from the Lucifer

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About Your Library

The URANTIA Reference Library (ANZURA) has now been established in a small room in the Foundation Office at 7 Walsh Street, Narrabeen, and a very rich collection of material is beginning to build up thanks to contributions from readers of *The URANTIA Book*. Trevor and Kathleen Swadling and Neil Francey have also added a wealth of interesting books, newsletters and tapes, all of which we soon plan to document on a computer dedicated to the library.

Please feel free to come to the library and browse the material, which currently includes delights such as a series of 28 cassette tapes of presentations given by William Saddler Jr. at *The URANTIA Book* readers conferences in 1958 and 1959. These are absolutely riveting listening for any well-versed reader of *The URANTIA Book*, as they contain William Saddler Jr’s consolidated understanding of a lifetime’s association with the Book. He takes us through from the forward of the book to the evolution of the Master Universe, using easy-to-understand examples to explain some of the more difficult concepts. For example, can any of you picture

the amazing distances involved in the Master Universe... “*The Grand Universe consists of the Central Universe of Havona and the Seven Super Universes. The evolution of all seven Super Universes in “light and life” will see the full development of the Supreme Being as a personal experiential identity. Now, let us compare the size of the Grand Universe with that of a tennis ball. We can then compare the First Outer Space Level to the size of a small room in which the tennis ball is suspended in the middle...*” To find out where this analogy leads, come and listen to the tapes!

In the latter tapes dealing with the life of Jesus, we also gain some insights into how William Saddler Jr. has applied the messages of *The URANTIA Book* in his own personal development and his life’s work—thoroughly recommended listening.

We are also accumulating a wealth of study aids—excellent for lesson or presentation planning.

Please feel welcome to visit, and continue to send your donations to URANTIA Reference Library (ANZURA) at P.O.Box 609, Narrabeen NSW 2101, Australia.

rebellion, it might seem to follow that until we each and all do so, we will likewise held back from planetary progress. We are clearly told these values are a difficult problem for us. Problems don't go away until you deal with them. We must choose, each of us, whether we will adopt the values of Lucifer's so-called "liberty", self-assertion of rights, rebellion, rejection of the evolutionary scheme, and many others, or the competing values that these reject—the divine values.

And will we value "dead" revelation, mere material flotsam, more than "living" revelation, living truth itself? Will we become personal revelations of the greater truth we have so generously been given access to, and which is not ours personally until we acquire it through sharing it in our lives? Or will we instead choose to abandon the development of a higher level of personal religion, so we can busy ourselves placing claims and attempting to exert our control over trinkets, talismans, and "sacred" objects, even books, instead of sacredly dedicating our lives to living truth, and the will of God? Which are material goals, and which are spiritual? Which are the superior values?

We have a lot of hard work to do in performing and demonstrating these choices. So far, most of us can't even tell the difference between a real thing, and a symbol for it. We are so profoundly ignorant that we often mistake a mere meaning carrier for the meaning itself.

We do not escape choosing meaning values, merely

because some mechanism of their representation and conveyance to us has passed in time. They just keep being carried to us in new forms. Eternal values and spirit meanings are not time-constrained, even if we are until we adopt such eternal values. Each choice not enacted in accordance with God's will in time, requires progressive "perfecting." And just as with our personal advancement, planetary advancement, no doubt, contains these same stringent requirements. But there will be no planetary social advancement if the people who make up society fail to hold up its weight due to their mental and spiritual weakness. If we will have power, truth, beauty and righteousness, we must first do our part to create it in ourselves. This is our realm. The rest has already been attended to, and is none of our concern, unless we have truly done this work and can bear this load, first. Indeed, it appears we are in a period of testing, and perfecting.

Will we be up to the challenge, or will we break our children's children's grandchildren's hearts, as ours are broken reading of the sad times of Adam and Eve, and of the brutal murder of Jesus? Ah, the ignorance of impatience, religious self-righteousness, and all the "good" intentions that those who participated in these events had. I'm sure any one of these could explain to you, at the time, why what they did was clearly justified in their own minds. And they counted themselves, at the time, just the one to judge that it was.

(continued on page 18)

but the Truth is ever present and raining down

Something inside of me says that the real revelation *The URANTIA Book* is trying to inspire, that revelation which will represent most accurately the fifth presentation of epochal truth to the world, is that of people living with (a) the knowledge of their relationship to God, not in theory, but as an actuality, (b) an awareness of their citizenship in a universe filled with benevolent creatures that are all part of one family, (c) a recognition that they already reside within the kingdom of heaven due to these realizations, and (d) have a purpose to live faithfully trying to identify their lives with truth, beauty and goodness, continually challenging themselves to further define reality on successive levels with love, mercy and ministry characterizing their desire for knowledge and wisdom.

The Urantia Papers cannot truly build this momentum in and of themselves. They need people willing to challenge the concepts and try them out in their lives. Some people are doing this without having ever read *The URANTIA Book*, and that tells me that the fifth epochal revelation is occurring to people without the book, so the book alone does not represent this revelation. It is the

source book, but the truth is ever present and raining down on this world to those who will receive it. Michael's and the universe's revelations to this world shall not fail—they do not place all their efforts in one place.

The kingdom of heaven is now and the time to proclaim it was yesterday and every day since. Michael is here, present and ready to transform this world through the lives of those who believe in him and rely on the truth that love is the basis for all action. If those who truly believe in the gospel will rise up and challenge the complacency of this world, will stand firm for truth and make it known when fear, cowardice, or the status quo try to cast it aside, will act always with love and mercy in their manner, will simply be fifth-epochal humans, living their creed with faithfulness, then the world cannot help but change.

We can promote a book as part of the effort of our lives to spread truth, but the real transformation will occur when those who believe will act on those beliefs in the everyday affairs of their lives—when they will be Michael's spirit in action.

Bob Devine

A letter from the Trustees of URANTIA Foundation

January 24, 1997

Dear Reader of *The URANTIA Book*,

As many of you know, the Trustees invited several Fellowship members to the Foundation office on Saturday, January 11, to discuss issues of mutual concern. We suggested that the meeting have a “theme” rather than an “agenda”. The theme proposed was Understanding—first on an individual basis and then on an organizational level. We then hoped to start formulating plans for the future. The Fellowship representatives accepted this proposal.

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Steve Dreier, Gard Jameson, Marilyn Kulieke, Harry McMullan and Mo Siegel from the Fellowship, Tom Burns, Georges DuPont, Richard Keeler and Pat Mundelius from the Foundation.

All of us agreed at the end of the day that it had been a very worthwhile meeting. There were genuine feelings of friendship and there was a true desire to work out acceptable solutions to shared problems. All of us recognized, at the beginning and again at the end of the day, that we do share the same ultimate goal concerning *The URANTIA Book*.

There were many topics under discussion during the day, most of which were not considered in great detail. However, we did conclude the meeting in agreement concerning several issues. These are as follows:

1. *Reader Referrals: The Foundation will refer readers to study groups where the focus of the group is the study of The URANTIA Book, where the study group is a-political during the meeting and where the study group wishes to have reader referrals.*
2. *Communications: There would be every effort made to have open and frequent communications between the Fellowship and the Foundation, including more meetings.*
3. *Respect for Each Organization: There will be no derogatory remarks about the respective organizations. When leaders speak, it would be helpful if they would first identify if they are speaking for the group or as individuals.*
4. *Lawsuits: No lawsuits will be entered against each other without prior meetings to discuss problems. If at all possible, these meetings would include a face-to-face meeting.*
5. *Contact: Make all reasonable efforts to be in touch with each other when any problems first surface.*
6. *Projects: Look for joint project-opportunities.*

We began and ended the meeting with meditation and prayer for wisdom in solving these mutual problems. We have agreed to meet again in the next few months. We will keep you informed and we thank you for your continued prayers.

Sincerely,

The Trustees of URANTIA Foundation

(*Why this Revelation, continued from page 16*)

For those who are not familiar with the previous revelations, and revelational defaults, I invite you to read those sections of *The URANTIA Book* or read them again, if you are. The sections on the Lucifer Rebellion, and subsequent Caligastia default and discussion of real religion, false and true liberty are of particular note, as is the expression of the life of Jesus. Some, but by no means all of the values which appear at issue, and which I believe we will each and all have to decide upon at some point, if we choose for the universe career, are:

- adherence to selfish personal and personal group's loyalties vs. loyalty to the Universal Father and His Will
- self liberty vs. self restraint (self control), true liberty
- self assertion, asserting personal rights vs. chosen adherence and cooperation with divine plans, programs, divine hierarchical universal dominance, and respect of the freewill prerogative and for actual freewill
- pride of self, self's mind vs. humility and recognition of one's actual position in the universe
- attempts to exert control over others vs. serving them
- lower order being group rule vs. cooperation with rule from above
- revolution and rebellion vs. evolution augmented by relative revelation
- valuing self's will over God's will, and the freewill he has bestowed on other freewill creatures
- impatience vs. patience (attempts to speed revelational and ascendancy plans, personally or at higher levels). We may note impatience is indicated in *The URANTIA Book* as "spirit poison"—sounds important to understand, and to work on ourselves, personally
- taking license (excessive or undue freedom or liberty—breaking the law falls in this category) vs. justice/mercy (combined function at higher universal levels—split function at lower levels, with the person adopting position of mercy, and justice being a function of social authority)
- interpreting the outgrowth of effects (including a swell of apparent "successes" in choosing time-space and material ideals over spiritual ideals) in the short term, due to the time lag of justice, as an indication that one has surmounted these values, even though one (group or person) has not, in reality
- (falsely) elevating self's position (pride in self) alleging it is necessary and appropriate, due to no perception of personal representation of God vs. having faith in God, and His will

- ascending evolutionary being proceeding in opposite direction of evolution—attempting to assert control out and down (over others and the outward manifestation of reality), rather than progressing inward and upward—inherent in this is the value differential of controlling self and self's personal responsibilities vs. attempting to exert personal control over others and their affairs and activities
- short range time and space limited views (ignorant views of value—inability to discern spiritual values from material ones) vs. eternal views and divine values

I hope we will each consider these values carefully, and that we will together pursue our journey inward and upward to our Universal Father.

Anyway

**People are narrow minded and self-centered.
Love them anyway.**

**If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.
Do good anyway.**

**If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.
Succeed anyway.**

**The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.**

**Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.
Be honest and frank anyway.**

**The biggest men with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men with the smallest minds.
Think big anyway.**

**People favor underdogs, but follow only top dogs.
Fight for some underdogs anyway.**

**What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.
Build anyway.**

**People really need help, but they attack you if you help them.
Help people anyway.**

Give the world the best you have and you will get kicked in the teeth.

Give the world the best you've got anyway.