

*Dan Massey - Rec'd 11/1/78 - No indication  
to whom it was sent*

## GUARDING THE FIFTH EPOCHAL REVELATION

### Challenges in the Defense of the URANTIA Book

In the guise of an appeal for unity in fellowship, an attack has been launched against the URANTIA Book. Since our brothers of the Houston Society are the unwitting vehicle of this attack, "let the spirit power resident in all the brethren arise to banish that error and proclaim the truth." Moreover, let a clear declaration of loyalty to truth disperse the clouds of emotion which confuse and confound the thinking of men who desire to be free.

Michael's triumphant completion of his seventh and final bestowal on Urantia has permanently settled the supreme destiny of this planet. One day, Urantia will attain an era of Light and Life. The outpouring of the Spirit of Truth at Pentecost has provided the potential foundation for this achievement. For two thousand years, this spiritual potential has progressively actualized. The establishment of the remembrance supper as a sacrament of mortal and divine communion and fellowship activates the mechanism by which the brotherhood of man is eventuating.

In communicating with spirit, the mortal mind is handicapped by a poverty of ideas and a shortage of fearless, logical thought. Intellectual evolution provides a tedious and uncertain ascent from ignorance to humanistic metaphysics. The light of the Spirit of Truth provides the sincere individual a guide through the thickets of sophistry to direct knowledge of spirit realities and cosmic responsibilities; however, such knowledge is relative to the evolutionary intellectual origins of the person concerned. Honest men of similar cultural heritage will still interpret the guidance of the Spirit in varying and apparently contradictory ways.

The Urantia Book comes to us now as a revelation of truth to the entire planet. While a degree of literal leisure, mental development, and spiritual humility seems necessary to appreciate its message, nevertheless that message is written for us in plain English, and is accessible without the need for extreme psychic attunement or spiritual development. The text of the Book presents the faith of the true Jesuson, free from moral and metaphysical barnacles. At the same time the text of the Book reveals specific things, meanings, and values which comprise the universes of matter, mind, and spirit so that our minds are endowed with a richness of ideas which are defined by reference to the usage in the text. Beyond all this, the text of the Book, through its lucid, logical and fearless exploration of the consistent relations of the concepts it reveals, teaches us how to think more accurately and how to understand more clearly the orderly progression of relationships which characterizes sincere reason, illuminated by truth.

The power and importance of the Book thus derive from three sources: 1) the fourth epochal revelation, here restated as the religion of Jesus; 2) the fifth epochal revelation, the augmented presentation of universe fact which explains and clarifies the mechanisms of Jesusonian faith; and 3) the mode of presentation, which exemplifies the application of truth to intellectual function, even as the life of Jesus exemplifies the application of truth to spiritual action. For mortal man, in the twentieth century, the Book is a gift to the human mind, even as Jesus' life is a gift to the human spirit.

In recognition of these facts, it is of utmost importance that the text of the Book be preserved inviolate and, given this, that distribution of the text be restricted to authentic, true copies. These duties are the responsibility of each and every individual who comprehends the epochal significance of the Book, to be acted out according to the Father's will and the light of truth. The trustees of Urantia Foundation have the chief responsibility for these functions. To fulfill this responsibility, they have obtained time-limited protection of the text of the Book as a literary property and now are in the process of obtaining further protection for the trade and service marks associated with the present mode of distribution of the Book. While this latter protection will exist as a monopoly without time limitation, it will not prevent unauthorized reproduction of the text of the Book. It will, however, assure that the Foundation can unambiguously identify all copies of the Book which it authorizes by use of the protected trade and service marks.

The unlimited monopolization of these marks must be subject to the same good judgement which the trustees now endeavor to exercise in the protection of the text of the Book under the copyright laws. The Licensing Agreement is a mechanism for this additional protection. Those who protest this choice of mechanism are free to invent and propose a viable alternative for achieving the same functions.

Meanwhile, the time limit on copyright protection is running out. Fewer than 100,000 books have been printed and disseminated on a planet of four and a half billions. Copies exist in only two of several hundred languages. The task of Urantia Foundation is far from fulfilled--it has hardly even begun.

The proposed trademark monopoly leaves the dawning spiritual consciousness of all men wholly unfettered and allows all who will to call themselves "Urantians" or to name their planet "Urantia". On the other hand, it also provides a mechanism for preventing misguided individuals from flagrantly misrepresenting their organizational affiliations. Whether or not it concurs in the Licensing Agreement, the Houston Society, as a fraternal organization, is free to pursue its religious

purpose according to the light of truth as perceived by its members.

Confusion arises unless we clearly distinguish the text of the Urantia Book from the truth of the Urantia Book. Truth is a living reality which can be acted out, even by men everywhere who read, converse, and freely associate, through fortitude, foresight, diligence, and exemplary lives to dramatize and project the truth of the Urantia Book and its implications. On the other hand, the text of the Urantia Book is a static, literal reality, a factual portrayal of truth in time, truth of and for our epoch. As such, the text is primarily valuable as an ideal suggestion of truth, a high intellectual concept which points the mortal mind, with the aid of the Spirit of Truth, towards the domain of true spirit realities. Each of us recognizes that the text could be presented in a way which would seem to make it more readily accessible to ourselves; however, we also learn from experience that our personal interpretations often make it less readily accessible to our fellows of different cultural heritage.

Through its monopoly of the trade and service marks, Urantia Foundation will be able to assert a standard of identity for the text of the Book, guaranteeing its availability to future generations for as long as it is needed for the adventure of planetary uplift. While the Spirit is the vehicle for dissemination of the truth of the Book, and while the Spirit can lead us to the intelligent protection of the text, we must realize the real possibility of wholly non-spiritual, materialistic attacks on the textual integrity of the teachings. It is literally true--nothing is sacred to a materialist.

In order to fill its literal, protective role, the Foundation must be able to act quickly and decisively, and must be able to assign responsibilities to its trustees with confidence that they will be discharged effectively. These facts require that the executive power of the Foundation be concentrated in the hands of a rather small, closely affiliated working group. The members of this group must be chosen for their ability and willingness to take any and all necessary actions to defend the continuing integrity of the text of the Urantia Book. The continuing assurance that only individuals of such understanding and commitment will hold positions as trustees requires that their selection be entrusted exclusively to those individuals who unambiguously share this high dedication. There is only one legally constituted body of such individuals on this planet at this time--the trustees of Urantia Foundation. Therefore, although there are surely other students of the Book who are equally as committed to the preservation of the text as the present five trustees, the absence of a mechanism for their direct identification precludes their direct participation in the processes of trustee selection at this time. The trustees of Urantia Foundation should not surrender any of their autonomous authority to any organization or group of individuals which

cannot provide equal or better protection for the text of the Book.

The suggestion has been made that the trusteeship of the Foundation be opened to the participation of representatives freely elected by Urantians everywhere. This suggestion must be clearly separated from the other suggestion with which it has been linked--that the executives of the Urantia Brotherhood make some representation for the membership at large. Simple, political mechanisms exist for bringing about this latter transformation, if desired. On the other hand, Urantia Foundation is, rightly, a self-perpetuating encapsulated body, rendered immune to ordinary forms of political action by the nature of the Declaration of Trust under which it is created.

The organizational form of Urantia Foundation can only be changed by the consent of the trustees. A mechanism is suggested for obtaining such consent--if it is not given, the "rebelliousness of free men" will cause the "fellowship of men" to be "factionalized, fractured, and lost." Since Urantia Foundation cannot, should not, embark on premature experiments in democracy, how are these schismatic forces to be neutralized? This must be done by loving explanation of the needs which motivate apparently authoritarian actions, and by dependence on the Spirit of Truth to illuminate the right way in the mind of each of our fellow believers.

In the final analysis, Urantia Foundation is dependent on the continued goodwill and appreciation of its mission for the support which enables it to perform that mission. Five men cannot personally defend the integrity of the Book, except in a symbolic and executive capacity. The legal organization of the Urantia Brotherhood is, on the other hand, committed primarily to fraternal purposes, achieved through spiritually guided political mechanisms. As a fraternal organization, the Brotherhood cannot simultaneously fellowship all interested students of the Book, while effectively supporting the Foundation's conservative, protective role. The day may be drawing near when the majority of students of the Book do not perceive the critical importance of the preservation of the unadulterated text.

Our brothers in Houston have raised the issue of the potential liability of Brotherhood members for alleged wrongful acts of the trustees of Urantia Foundation. The further growth of the Brotherhood, depending upon circumstances, may require that the membership be afforded the protection of incorporation, with consequent limitation of liability. The trustees of Urantia Foundation are already so protected, in recognition of their personal vulnerability in the performance of their duties.

If all potential defenders of the Urantia Book cloak themselves in the protection of anonymous incorporation, how will the Book be defended in time of challenge? Indeed, we may hope

and pray that a united outpouring of support will come from thousands of our spirit-led fellows. On the other hand, in fulfilling its purely material function of protecting the text of the Book, the Foundation must be assured of a minimum level of committed support for its general and specific policies and actions. The real problem arises because the Foundation is, necessarily, required to seek to enforce a monopoly position.

The enforcement of a monopoly traditionally requires a form of organization more powerful than simple incorporation. Supporters of monopolies traditionally form groups which are, technically, termed syndicates. Members of such syndicates, as general partners of the enterprise, forego many legal limitations of liability for their actions and commit their full resources to the prudent accomplishment of the goals of the monopoly. Such a form of organization is entirely appropriate for the accomplishment of specific material goals, such as the preservation of the text of the Urantia Book.

Jesus drew an analogy to this concept when he distinguished between the role of apostle and that of disciple. The apostle commits all of his personal prerogatives to service of the brotherhood of man. It is the later confusion of spiritual and material realities which led directly to the authoritarian attempts of certain misguided individuals personally to appropriate the keys of the kingdom in Christian theology.

The organizational challenge which lies before us today is to find a mechanism by which those who fully appreciate the epochal significance of the Urantia Book to the cultural development of this planet can commit themselves to the unlimited support and protection of the Book, while also guaranteeing the individual spirit-led believer the opportunity to grow spiritually without limit, in the brilliant light of the fifth epochal revelation.

Such a challenge must be met by evolutionary development of the existing formal and de facto structures, not by revolutionary upheaval--opening the gates of decision to political chaos. The presence of the Spirit within each of us is sufficient to show the way for these necessary developments. In the meantime, we must "possess our souls in patience" as we await the maturation of these potentials.

Dan Massey  
Member at Large, URANTIA Brotherhood

12-16 Ellery St., #502  
Cambridge, MA 02138

617-661-7747