

THE SERVANTS OF THE FATHER'S SERVANTS

by

N E A L    W A L D R O P

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[The following is an edited version of comments given at the end of a question-and-answer session held on February 3, 1990 in Phoenix, Arizona. The other Trustees agree with the general spirit and approach, but the exact opinions and interpretations are those of the author.]

The Trustees of URANTIA Foundation sympathize with the thrust of the many questions which, in effect, have asked why all this had to happen and why so many harsh words have been exchanged. To be quite frank, the Trustees do not understand that either.

We still do not know what the "emergency" was in July 1989. Three individuals had resigned from their previous duties as Trustees, but that was a matter of their own personal decisions. There was no crisis of a substantive nature, nothing relating to policy or management issues that the Foundation was addressing. To the contrary, the work of the Foundation was proceeding smoothly. So, once again, we do not understand why all this occurred.

In the long run, the Trustees hope to develop closer relations between the Foundation and readers of The URANTIA Book on regional and local levels. We think this will be a long-range benefit of these tumultuous events. We know that the seraphim and other unseen associates frequently bring about unexpected benefits from circumstances which at first seem difficult. In addition, we believe that the experience of having dealt with this crisis will help the Foundation work out a superior plan for the new URANTIA Brotherhood Association, one that will make it less easily politicized and more likely to concentrate on its spiritual mission.

In a fundamental sense, our policies as the Trustees of URANTIA Foundation are based on our understanding of what The URANTIA Book is and why it was given to our world. If we had no clear view of that, then all this administrative detail, all these social arrangements, would serve no useful purpose.

In describing the spiritual epochs on a normal planet, the author of Paper 52 does not mention any instance of revealed truth being put forward as a book. So, then, what is The URANTIA Book? We are compelled to consider it an emergency ministry, an emergency revelation. The fact that we have this book at all is quite strange, as compared with what occurs on a normal planet.

Why did our planet's spiritual government decide to put forward a book? The only logical conclusion is that they did so because our planet was suffering from a spiritual emergency. That emergency was REAL. It was not concocted, as was last July's crisis between URANTIA Foundation and the former Brotherhood.

Our planet's spiritual emergency had to do with the decadence of civilization. It had to do with totalitarianism. It had to do with the failure of established religions to meet the spiritual needs of individuals. It had to do with the fact that Jesus' real teachings were not being understood.

For all these reasons, and undoubtedly for yet others also, the spiritual hierarchy of our planet decided to sponsor a book. It may have taken them hundreds of years to work out the best way to do that. And after they succeeded, it became the duty of URANTIA Foundation to preserve the book they gave us. Why? Not because we like books, want to build libraries, or are fond of giving business to printers -- but because the teachings contained in The URANTIA Book are truly important.

What shall we do with the profoundly moving teachings that the revelators wove into in The URANTIA Book's two thousand pages? Shall we memorize them intellectually and parrot them to each other, as if it were crucial to know that there are exactly seven mansion worlds and that the spiritual being assigned to administer an inhabited planet is called a Lanonandek Son? I submit to you that these facts are not ESSENTIAL. What IS essential is the spiritual transformation of all mankind.

In the second paragraph on page 598 of The URANTIA Book, a Mighty Messenger tells us that "The brotherhood of man is, after all, predicated on the recognition of the fatherhood of God." He goes on to state:

The quickest way to realize the brotherhood of man on Urantia is to effect the spiritual transformation of present-day humanity. The only technique for accelerating the natural trend of social evolution is that of applying spiritual pressure from above, thus augmenting moral insight while enhancing the soul capacity of every mortal to understand and love every other mortal.

That is what The URANTIA Book is, spiritual pressure from above. And our mission is a spiritual one. In the final analysis, we have to find a way for the people of our planet to take these teachings into their hearts and change the way they think and live -- not merely learn some assortment of selected facts.

Now how do we achieve this as a group of believers? We are not to foster a religion, we are to foster spiritual growth in each individual. We are to do this in some way that transcends our planet's religious traditions, which are identified with specific races, or cultures, or languages, or nations. We have to present the teachings of The URANTIA Book, make them available to all races and all peoples of mankind, in a way which suggests that these teachings are universal -- not particularly linked to Western culture or Christianity or the white race. That is absolutely crucial. It is a precondition for the effective spiritual transformation of our world.

We believe that the Foundation's policies of minimal organization, proper procedure, and slow growth are entirely necessary. What we are discussing is an extended process that will require many generations, several centuries, or even a millennium.

In round numbers, it took three hundred years for Christians to work out a stable framework, from the death of Jesus to the proclamation of Christianity as the Roman Empire's state religion. Three hundred years!

The teachings of The URANTIA Book are far more complex and immeasurably more sweeping. It may take far longer than three hundred years for most human beings to accept them.

We must be patient. Our goal is not a book, but the spiritual transformation of our entire planet. The book we are using is merely a means to an end. We are the servants of the Father's servants, and time is nonexistent on Paradise.