

AN EXPLANATION OF
THE **FOREWORD** TO
THE URANTIA BOOK

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BACKWARDS

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An adventure through the looking glass, one individual's humble attempt to explain and interpret the Absolutes; the beginnings of the beginning, the instant, we finite beings speculate, "when God was alone."

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AN EXPLANATION OF THE
FOREWORD TO *THE URANTIA BOOK*
— BACKWARDS

by
Justine Lamphiere

EXPLANATIONS Honolulu, Hawaii U.S.A.

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FOREWORD 1

DEDICATION

To William Samuel Sadler, Jr. My teacher, friend, confidant, and brother. A mortal who attained super-mortal thinking processes, one who had reached the level of the cosmic mind. A patient and generous individual who gave his time and wisdom, without hesitation, to anyone who wished to comprehend The URANTIA Papers.

—Behold the man

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BRIEFING

At one point in her trip through the looking-glass, Alice finds the Jabberwocky poem. At first she can't read it at all. It seems to be in a foreign language. Then she realizes that since this is a looking-glass world she must hold the poem to a mirror. The poem she reads in the mirror, however, is still bizarre and unfamiliar. "Somehow it seems to fill my head with ideas, only I don't exactly know what they are."

—Lewis Carroll,
Through the Looking-Glass

Life must be lived forwards, but it can only be understood backwards.

—Soren Kierkegaard

NOTATION

"Looking-Glass" has been used not only by Lewis Carroll in his fantasy, *Alice in Wonderland*; another popular author, John Le Carre', also used it in the title of a thriller novel, *The Looking Glass War* (Coward-Mcann, Inc., 1965). In more recent events, the term "Looking-Glass" became a specter of nuclear holocaust as the operational name (now unclassified) of a group of airborne command and control commanders, *Battle Staff*, who fly around the world and perform a Post Attack Command and Control mission (PACCS). These military men, in the air or on alert in hardened bunkers, have to be at all times, minutes after a warning, ready for action. Their mission is communication after a nuclear strike which may make normal radio waves ineffective. After a strike, a nuclear charge saturates the atmosphere where radio emissions usually bounce in various directions depending on frequency. *Post Attack Command and Control* has an ominous connotation, but it is a reality that hostilities between nations continue to exist, and such devices and weapons may be necessary. Airborne Command Posts are real, and are now in service. C₃, which stands for Command, Control and Communication, is now the cornerstone of all tactical and strategic operations, whether in war games or in the terrible eventuality that these devices would be actually used.

The year of this publication is significant: 1991 is a *palindrome*, the only such year in the twentieth century. The significance, of course, is that the year's digits read the same either forward or backwards. I have had this concept for many years but it took a palindromic year to make me sit down and write it. I have to do it before my adventure in the evolutionary cycle is over.

I hope, by using Alice and the looking-glass, I have not perverted the facts nor diminished the truth. I would not want the abrogation of truth to be a result of this dissertation on a difficult portion of a wonderful story. Please take it with a grain of salt, so to speak. It is my story...and I am stuck with it.

—The author

PART ONE

BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE BEGINNINGS

One of the greatest teachers of The URANTIA Papers, Mr. William S. Sadler, Jr., called "Bill" by those close to him, would often proclaim that to teach the PAPERS was an exercise in futility. One can only *unify one's ignorance*.

In keeping with this view, I shall attempt to unify the ignorance of the author and reader. If you take all sixteen pages of the Foreword to *The URANTIA Book* in context, you might become pretty well confused. However, after going through the Papers several times, your ignorance becomes unified, and the lights come on one by one, until you really comprehend what the Divine Counselor (the presenter of the Foreword) is trying to convey.

I shall attempt to unify the reader's ignorance with an explanation that deals with a champagne bottle, corks, and plates, which can be understood by alcoholic and teetotaler alike.

I choose to remain anonymous in this attempt, as I do not take credit for what Bill Sadler taught me in the eight years he was my mentor. It was his encyclopaedic knowledge of *The URANTIA Book* that allowed me to attain a level of comprehension which I have dubbed the "Bill Sadler level," a grade of intelligence that no doubt is giving the Mansion World Teachers a headache and a run for their teaching ability.

Come along on this ride to "Never Never Land" as Alice went through the looking glass. We shall travel to pre- eternity times, through the looking glass before time, space, things, meaning, values and life itself existed.

We are going to travel on this adventure with a time line, with full knowledge that there was never any time when these transactions took place. We will devise an unusual time scale which starts not with the number 1 or zero, but with minus one, as a symbolic pre-time (for demonstration purposes only).

We will also start on page 6 of *The URANTIA Book* rather than page 1, because all who understand their native language can comprehend the first page of the Foreword (provided that a valid translation in that native language exists). It is the second page that gives one a real test of intellectual challenge.

The full purpose of The URANTIA Revelation is Orientation: Who God is, who man is, and where all this is taking place. To make things simple, we need to be time and space oriented.

Bill Sadler often referred to the “zero age” when describing the Universe Ages. For this demonstration, however, I shall refer to the *minus zero age* or *minus one*. Here is a representation of that concept:

-1	0	1	2	3	4	?
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Now, let's get to the gist of page six that we will start with. The author of this Foreword speaks of a *transaction*—a transaction of momentous magnitude, because what we have is a real jail break. Escape from *infinity tension*. What is the escape plan? WILL, it is free will!

Only the Universal Father would devise an escape plan based on free will. This same free will is offered to every living person in the Universe of Universes; it is tantamount to a bank draft written on the Bank of Eternity, payable in immortal life, if it is the free will of the bearer to cash it in.

Let's take a hard look at page 6, paragraph one. This is a concession made to us, as we view everything with position and time. The same two elements, position and time, are essential to celestial navigation.

Let's take inventory of this transaction called “achievement of Deity liberation” from the fetters of unqualified infinity through the exercise of inherent and eternal free will.

We have one absolute in the -1 age of the time line: the *I AM*. (*The I AM is the Infinite; the I AM is also infinity* P. 1152:6). For the purpose of this exercise, let's picture a bottle of champagne. It does not have to be even good champagne, but in order to picture it, let us make it French champagne. This bottle of good French champagne is unique because this bottle will always be full, no matter how much of its contents is poured.

[T]he concept of the *I AM* connotes *unqualified infinity*, the undifferentiated reality of all that could ever be in all of an infinite eternity. In an existential concept the *I AM* is neither deified nor undeified, neither actual nor potential, neither personal nor impersonal, neither static nor dynamic. No qualification can be applied to the Infinite except to state that the *I AM is*. [T]he philosophic postulate of the *I AM* is the universe concept which is somewhat more difficult to comprehend than that of the Unqualified Absolute (P. 1153:1). Thus we shall stay with the champagne bottle and its infinite supply of *Infinite Stuff*. The bottle of wine is reactive to whatever a Qualified Absolute does. We are jumping around on our time line, but consider the physical law of motion that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. For every act of the Qualified Absolute there is a non-deity response from the Unqualified Absolute. As we progress to the comprehension of total Deity function, attributes and nature, we shall also recognize another physical law, which is the law of the conservation of energy.

With this mind's eye picture of the bottle of champagne, we pop the

cork. This is the escape from divinity tension by the exercise of free will. The Unqualified Absolute was an I AM prior to this transaction. Now the Qualified Absolute is the First Source and Center (Deity Absolute?). But we have a problem; our cork, which is infinite and absolute, speaks in a different language than the bottle. We need a translator, a unifier, thus the *Universal Absolute*. So another cork must appear on the scene: the absolute interpreter and unifier of the two absolutes, qualified and unqualified. Our inventory now includes the wine bottle, full of infinite material, the cork as a Qualified Absolute, and another cork as the interpreter, the Universal Absolute!

At this point in our time line, or on our trip through the looking glass, the first cork, which has will, creates a co-deity equal, the Eternal Son. The repercussion, or the non-deity response, in bringing forth the Eternal Son is the Isle of Paradise, The Absolute Machine! Now we have three corks, and a plate. The first cork now has a son and becomes eligible to be a father; thus, the First Source and Center, and the Qualified Absolute is also the Universal Father of the Eternal Son. Together, they bring into being the third person of Deity, the Infinite Spirit. The non-deity repercussion was the Central and Divine Universe of Havona. The three persons of Deity—Father, Son and Spirit—through a choice of will, decide to incorporate and file their articles of incorporation as *Undivided Deity, Inc.* This is also known as The Paradise Trinity, the original Trinity, as there will be more and more associations as the ages advance.

We have just gone into the ZERO Age, the Age of Havona.

We take inventory again, and find four corks and a plate, signifying the Eternal Isle of Paradise, and a large platter representing the central universe, Havona. We have our original wine bottle filled with the absolute stuff that is used by the absolute machine, Paradise, to make things in the Universe of Universes. All the equipment is ready for the greatest construction project that could ever be conceived. The large plate sits in the

center of an even larger platter, which signifies The Central Universe of Havona. Now we run out of large enough symbols to describe our primitive version of this transaction, but we can get a handle on the absolutes, and the I AM and The First and Second and Third Sources and Centers.

Why do we need absolute material for the absolute machine? Just as a paper mill needs pulp, a foundry needs iron ore, an internal combustion engine requires fuel and oxygen in combustible proportions, the Isle of Paradise necessitates the absolute "stuff" to construct the Universe of Universes. This is because of the Will of the Universal Father, the First Source and Center and also the Qualified Absolute, as he qualified himself by his free will choice.

If we look at page 4, Part III of *The URANTIA Book*, we can see that total infinite reality is in seven phases.

1. The First Source and Center
2. The Second Source and Center
3. The Third Source and Center
4. The Isle of Paradise
5. The Deity Absolute
6. The Universal Absolute
7. The Unqualified Absolute.

This all came out of our original champagne bottle, and the bottle is still full. The first three phases of the inventory listed above are persons with will! Paradise is an absolute, but an absolute machine. The last three absolutes are a result of the division of infinity tension, the breakout discussed earlier, by the exercise of will, from the very source of all will.

The first three sources and center are Deity; the last four are not, but they are divine. The personal is distinct from the non personal, the deity reaction from the non-deity holds true through *The URANTIA Book*. The text and message of The URANTIA Papers are, in like manner, consistent

within themselves, and the story will stand on its own merits.

At this point, it is appropriate to talk about God. On page 3, Section II of *The URANTIA Book*, we find various attributes of God. This narrative will attempt to simplify this definition to something we can comprehend, like the bottle of wine, the corks, the plate and the platter. We know that the first sentence on the very first Papers of Book states: *[T]he Universal Father is the God of all creation, The First Source and Center of all things and beings. First think of God as a creator, then as a controller, and lastly as an infinite upholder.*

The final sentence in *The URANTIA Book* states: *[W]hen all is said and done, the Father idea is still the highest human concept of God.* Since the authors of the Papers use the terms "Father idea" and "human concept," it can be assumed that there is more to God than a Father, a Creator, a First Source, a Controller, and an Infinite Upholder.

Just for demonstration purposes, let us visualize a cube. Everyone who played with blocks as a child knows what a cube is. Our cube is unusual in that it not only has six facets, but it also has substance; that is, the center of the cube is an entity, giving us seven attributes. Anyone who doubts that a cube has six facets, take the time to count them. In our cube, one facet is designated UF or *Universal Father*. In your mind's eye, mark this one side of the cube with UF, so you can easily identify that facet of the cube. This is the father face, which always points towards his personal creations, regardless of where they may be in the universe of universes.

You may wonder how this face can point to all living, personal beings at the same time. I do not know, but I am sure that the direction finding device is either the bestowal of personality by the Father, or the Infinite Spirit for the Father, or the magnetic attraction toward the Father fragments, the Thought Adjuster, the Mystery Monitors. What I am certain about is that this facet of God (that is, God the Father) is discernible by all creatures

that are either personality bestowed, or thought adjuster dwelling within the human mind or both! Now we have five other facets and the stuff of the cube itself to consider. That is easily explained by the definition of God on Page 4 Paragraph 2, where seven different meanings for God are discussed.

The Papers instruct us (Page 4, Paragraph 2): *[T]he term GOD always denotes personality. Deity may, or may not, refer to divinity personalities.*

The word GOD is used in these papers with the following meanings:

1. *God the Father* — The UF face of our imaginary cube
2. *God the Son* — The ES face of our imaginary cube
3. *God the Spirit* — The IS face of our cube
4. *God the Supreme* — The GS face of our cube
5. *God the Sevenfold* — The G-7 face of our cube
6. *God the Ultimate* — The GU face of our cube
7. *God the Absolute* — The inside of the cube (the stuff)

On page 5, paragraph 1, we are instructed: *[God], as the First Source and Center, is primal in relation to total reality — Unqualifiedly. The First Source and Center is infinite as well as eternal and is therefore limited or conditioned only by volition.*

For the purpose of this explanation, let us consider that volition and will are one and the same. Thus we can now entertain the idea of the cork popping out of the bottle by volition, or will.

The Papers go on to state: *[God] — the Universal Father — is the personality of the First Source and Center and as such maintains personal relations of infinite control over all coordinate and subordinate sources and centers. Such control is personal and infinite in potential, even though it may never actually function owing to perfection of function of such coordinate and subordinate sources and centers and personalities.*

If this were a geometric exercise in mathematics, we would have a proof that the UF facet of our imaginary cube is that face the Universal Father, The First Source and Center, shines always to his created personalities. However, if his other created sources of lower status and future eventuation perform this function as well, as perfectly as if UF himself had performed them, then the other sources may function in lieu of the Universal Father. In other words, we are getting into the delegation of personalities other than the Father, functioning for the Father, because the Father created them to function in perfection.

We now have in our inventory of extraordinary items the bottle of champagne, the four corks (one called the Universal Absolute as a translator/interpreter), the plate as the Eternal Isle, and the large platter as the central and divine universe (Havona). There are also other personalities created to function for the Father as well as the Father can function, because they were created in perfection. Such examples are the seven Master Spirits, the Perfections of Days that administer the Central and Divine Universe, and many others. We have to continually remind ourselves as we travel through the looking glass that these differentiations are not a finite reality, but a philosophic concession so that we can get "a handle on them."

And let's not leave out our imaginary cube. We can always go back to it to see that GOD is a lot more than a Father, but, to his son, the Father facet is the one we can best understand as finite creatures. After all, *[t]he father idea is the highest human concept of God.* We are getting ready to jump into time and space, a place where we feel comfortable and at home, as the first event in recorded history is now about to dawn.

We have so far traveled through the static, potential, associative and creative functions of Total Deity Function. This is stated on page 2, paragraph 3. We are getting ready to go into the function number 5—*Evolutional*. Before we fasten our seat belts and take off on this adventure, we must be cognizant of one thing. God the Father, The First Source and Center, can

and does create, eventuate, and bring forth perfected personalities and universes and base headquarters. We know this as we know there is the Isle of Paradise, the Central and Divine (and perfect) Universe of Havona, the perfect Havona natives, the perfect subordinates of The Universal Father who can function in his stead as he would function, if he so willed them to function. Now we are going to slow this creativity process down, unravel the revolutions, *so that creation takes place in time!* This is now called EVOLUTION. Would not Charles Darwin be proud?

The Papers instruct us that if, as a Finaliter, we were to study the historic records of all creation, we could not find any act prior to the creation of the twenty-one Ancients of Days. This is where history begins in the Universe of Universes, although we went through the looking-glass to find out what took place prior to this ancient history.

One must ask, why would God, as a Father, as an Infinite Creator, want to bother with evolutionary experiments? We know he can create perfected beings and things. But he can not, as a Perfect Absolute, know what it is like to be imperfect. If we peruse page 3, paragraph 4, we find all the phases and forms of perfection. Take a hard look at the seventh level. Just as a parent can live vicariously through the growth of his children, the Universal Father can, through his children, his sons, live vicariously in the reality of imperfection, through reflectivity, through his bestowal of personality, and through the mystery monitors, the direct fragments of the Father. This great and wonderful Universal Father is probably a gambler, as well as a loving Father. He has willed, in his plan, the most spectacular game plan ever devised. As the grantor of personality and free will, the God of free will is going to allow animal origin beings to grow in the evolutionary universes (the seven super-universes) with their option, to make their supreme decision, to love God and to do his will. No one is forced to do this. The Universal Father is not a tyrant; he will take no personality unless it willingly makes the free will choice to be "perfect even as HE is perfect on Paradise."

As the Papers spell out, with great clarity: "The race for perfection is on" and on worlds such as URANTIA, where the Spirit of Truth is a gift of the Creator Son and the coming of the Father Fragments is universal, the race includes each and every personality of normal mind. There is no entrance fee, no application, no discrimination of race, color, creed or national origin. It is open to all, and here is where we are issued the draft written on The Bank of Eternity, signed and endorsed by The Universal Father Himself, good for Eternal Life. But it is our choice, our free will decision to negotiate this draft, on the Bank of Eternity.

We are about to jump off into the most magnificent adventure in the story of creation, the evolutionary story or entry into the FIRST UNIVERSE AGE.

We no longer can use symbolic bottles and platters or dishes. The next step in the Father's plan is too enormous to symbolize: the seven super-universes, together with Havona (the Central Universe), is termed the Grand Universe.

We will not go into the magnitudes, the astounding size of this vast system of stars, planets, blazing orbs, dark gravity bodies and architectural worlds. This was already accomplished by Bill Sadler in his *Study of The Master Universe*.

What do we need to start an evolutionary universe? The elements that are necessary are space potency, gravity, and the "spark" of life, the initiator that will start off the evolutionary cycle. We also need administration, adjudication, and architects, builders, controllers and observers. Just as a mortal applies for a building permit, a Creator Son also must have his universe plans approved. We know that the Seven Super-Universes are basically identical in material form, but different in nature and spirituality because of the natures of the different Master Spirits.

Away out into the Superuniverse level of creation (which revolutions were slowed down to become evolutionary), we have a new element. This new and intriguing function is GROWTH! There is not any growth in Havona; Havoners do not grow, for they are created in perfection. The only experience a Havoner can ever receive is that which is given to him by those who graduate from the evolutionary universes. One may speculate that this experience does something to the perfected beings, just as the bestowal missions of the Creator Sons do something to their masterful ways of being the Gods of the Local Universes.

The giant and marvelous game plan of the Universal Father in the gamble to allow creatures to participate in the planned perfection of the Master Universe is a sound and proven system of events. The question one must ask is, "Does the Universal Father grow as a result of all of this activity?" One would think so, but only in the experiential sense, through reflectivity, through the experiential and transcendental trinities, and through the close and loving association of the mobilizing Corps of Finality, and of course the growth of the Supreme Being. Growth is the catalyst that will actualize and finalize the Supreme from all that was potential in God the Supreme and the Almighty Supreme.

If creatures of time and space are to administer the vast outer space levels at some future time and in transcended space, when those beings of animal origin will be the ministers of love, mercy and ministry to the new and transcendentalors in the new genesis of the four outer space levels, then the growth will continue, even after all of the seven superuniverses are completely settled in light and life. One can then assume that growth will never cease, until all that is from The Father becomes one with the Father, and the completion of the Master Universe synthesizes with the ONE and ORIGINAL I AM. Would this add a fifth cork to the symbolic descriptive items used in this dissertation? Or would all of the items merge, synthesize into the original I AM?

PART TWO

AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE BEGINNINGS

"This is not the end, but perhaps, it is the end of the beginning"....

—Rt. Hon. Winston Spencer Churchill,
delivered on November 10, 1942 to
the Mansion House United Kingdom

When Grandfanda first approached the outer circuits of Havona, what a change this must have been for the perfect Havona Natives, to see the product of the ascension scheme finally arrive on the shores of the Perfect, Central and Divine Universe.

The Papers instruct us that as mortals from the evolutionary worlds we must traverse the rungs of the ladder as outlined in **God the Sevenfold**. Let us look at that.

1. The Paradise Creator Sons.
2. The Ancients of Days.
3. The Seven Master Spirits.
4. The Supreme Being.
5. God the Spirit.
6. God the Son.
7. God the Father.

What is important about this approach to Deity? The Papers tell us that this sevenfold Deity personalization in time and space enables mortal man to attain the presence of **God who is spirit**. This is the ladder in this

Universe Age which all ascenders must climb in order to make their sub-infinite penetration of the Absolute. This is far as we can go, at least in this Universe Age.

We have discussed the functions of total Deity, but not the nature of Deity. Concerning the three persons of Deity, Father, Son and Spirit, the natures are *love, mercy and ministry*.

We have only the natures of the Three Persons of Infinity. Now let us venture into the natures of Deity.

PAPER 118 (p. 1294, paragraph 1) tells us: *CONCERNING the several natures of Deity, it may be said:*

1. *The Father is self-existent self.*
2. *The Son is co-existent self.*
3. *The Spirit is conjoint-existent self.*
4. *The Supreme is evolutionary-experiential self.*
5. *The Sevenfold is self-distributive divinity.*
6. *The Ultimate is transcendental-experiential self.*
7. *The Absolute is existential-experiential self.*

Now the authors of the Papers give us the first clue in our quest for the Absolute! They go on to relate: *[W]hile God the Sevenfold is indispensable to evolutionary attainment of the Supreme, the Supreme is also indispensable to the eventual emergence of the Ultimate. And the dual presence of the Supreme and Ultimate constitutes the basic association of subabsolute and derived Deity, for they are interdependently complemental in the attainment of destiny. Together they constitute the experiential bridge linking the beginnings and the completions of all creative growth in the master universe.*

This is my explanation of the rungs in the ladder (the Sevenfold approach to Deity) and the ultimate mortal achievement, at least in this Universe

Age of a sub-infinite penetration to the Absolute! Are you still with me?

At this time it would be appropriate to talk about God the Supreme, the Almighty Supreme and the Supreme Being. These names may sound the same, but they are not the same.

GOD THE SUPREME

God the Supreme is a personality. He is present and resides in Paradise. God the Supreme is real. He may not be complete, and he did have a beginning, so this Deity is not Infinite although he is close enough to being so. God the Supreme is the father, so we speak of The Supreme Being, and the Almighty Supreme is the mother of the Supreme Being. The Supreme Being is the embryo of these two powerful and mighty forces working in the finite evolutionary universes.

God the Supreme, The Almighty Supreme, and the resultant Supreme Being are absolutely necessary in the game plan that The First Source and Center (remember him? See page 9 of this dissertation) devised when he willed that there would be creature participation with the creators. We can substantiate this by looking at PAPER 117, page 1278, paragraph 1, which states: *[T]o the extent that we do the will of God in whatever universe station we may have our existence, in that measure the almighty potential of the Supreme becomes one more step more actual.* This Messenger continues: *[T]he will of God is the purpose of the First Source and Center as it is potentialized in the three Absolutes, personalized in the Eternal Son, conjoined for universe action in the Infinite Spirit, and eternalized in the everlasting patterns of Paradise. And God the Supreme is becoming the highest finite manifestation of the total will of God.*

We are further advised that should we ever achieve the full living of the will of God (emphasis by the author), this is equal to all time/space

creations being settled in light and life (the full completion of growth; all potentials would become actuals). Then, the Almighty Supreme (the Evolutionary Deity in the Grand Universe), the deity potential of Supremacy, would be factualized in the emergence of the divine personality of God the Supreme. (In layman's terms, the completion of the growth of the Supreme Being.)

What does this mean to us common folk? It would mean that all inhabited worlds (of which there are seven trillion) would be settled in light and life; all systems of inhabited worlds, all constellations of inhabited worlds, all local universes, all minor and major sectors and all seven of the super-universes, settled in light and life. In other words, no more growth, as all potentials would be actualized. Would this mean there would be no more bearing of offspring in the inhabited worlds? I think so. Would this mean that there would no doubt be any use for the detention worlds? The lower mansion worlds of system training and education? I think so.

If I am correct in my assumption, that growth will cease, what is left? We have ignored the mobilizing forces in the four outer space levels. It must be that ascendant beings from the primitive planets—who master the circles are repersonalized in the morontia life, matriculate through the University of Time and Space, graduate in the higher schools of the College of Eternity, and muster into the Corps of Finality—must be destined to work in the outer space levels. The training course in this masterful plan is complete and replete. Finaliters are capable of performing all of the functions that are delegated to them, as they have found God and know his will, just as perfected beings now perform the functions and will of The Universal Father, in his name, as HE would, because he created them to function as such. The difference is that they were created as journeymen, and mortals must start as apprentice ministers of the First Source and Center.

The most moving statement in the PAPERS, in this author's opinion is: *[W]ITH God the Father, sonship is the great relationship. With God*

the Supreme, achievement is prerequisite to status—one must do something as well as be something.

Some readers probably will not give this the attention or importance that this writer does, but this is the BIG PICTURE. This is three dimensional, this is CINEMASCOPE, *because this is what it is all about!* WE, mortal human beings, are endowed with personality by the Universal Father, indwelt by the Father Fragment, the Thought Adjuster, the Mystery Monitor, and are recipients of the Spirit of Truth. We have all the equipment, and sophisticated equipment it is. We have everything. What must we do about it? Just give the Universal Father the love he craves, the source of love, and try to do his will. Nothing more, or nothing less. So easy, so simple, so real and true and beautiful and good. Is it worth the price? Of course it is. Do not attempt to ignore this important, decent, pure, wonderful, gracious, glorious, fantastic, supernal, sublime, beautiful duty to the Father of Fathers, Creator of Creators. It is so easy. Andon did it, Fonta did it, Amadon did it...we can do it! And those who really want to do the will of the Father, the wonderful and merciful Universal Father, can and will...Do It!

You may be wondering what I am trying to portray. I am attempting to show you the BIG picture. Barnum and Bailey stated in their boastful advertising, "The Greatest Show On Earth." This is more than that: "The Greatest Show in the Universe of Universes." Come one, come all—it is a gift of God, The Universal Father, The First Source and Center of all things and beings. Will you not take a chance? Buy your ticket? Take a ride on the ride of your life, and lives to come? If you refuse, you are truly a fool! A victim of the forces of darkness, the group of Caligastia and his crowd, those who dare to fall in love with themselves. What a pity, since this show is real, living, eternal, and involves those attributes of total finite reality, TRUTH, BEAUTY and GOODNESS.

UNIVERSE LEVELS OF FINITE REALITY

We have come to the reality of all finite reality: Truth, Beauty and Goodness. It seems appropriate to take a hard look at these words, these meanings and these values.

Truth, Beauty and Goodness are the totality of finite reality, but they are more than that. They are the guide posts, the road signs, the map coordinates, the direction, the distinction, the totality of what we mortals, we humans, can understand about the Universe of Universes, about the plan of The First Source and Center, the love of the Universal Father, the mercy of the Eternal Son, the ministry of the Infinite Spirit, the law of the Paradise Trinity, the Growth of the Supreme Being, the specter of the Creator Sons and their creative ministers, the revelation of God to Man, and the Love of man to God. This is what it is all about. This is the Foreword Backwards. It is so simple, so pure, so innocent, so real, so loving, so good, so true, so beautiful, to thing, meaning, and value, to fact, idea, and relation, so important and so unimportant. I can only conclude this dissertation in this way: When all is said and done, the Father idea is the highest human concept of God.

We have jumped from the First Universe Age to the Fourth! But a lot of activity has taken place in between. You will recall our time line, the one that starts at MINUS ONE and goes to FOUR followed by the question mark. Let us explore the question mark. What do you imagine goes on there? My feeling, my gut reaction to the ? AGE.

We have seen potentials actualized. We have seen the Unqualified Absolute become Qualified. We witnessed the Will of the First Source and Center become the Father of Fathers, the Universal Father of the Eternal Son, and together the Creator of the Creator Son, the Michaels, our one and only, Christ Michael, the Master Son of Nebadon. All I can say to all

this creative, evolutionary, and other reactions to the I AM, the UN CAUSED CAUSE, is — WOW!

I predict and assume that after the Fourth Universe Age, the age of the question mark, we shall all become one with the I AM. We shall become part of the Father of Fathers, The First Source and Center, the Infinite of Infinities, that UN CAUSED CAUSE, and return to that which created us in the first place, when God, The Father, the Absolute of Absolutes, was possibly alone, and desired to play Nintendo Games with all there was, with all he had, and with all his love!

I could go on and on and on.... But I choose not to. There is so much to say and so little time and place to say it. I would like to write a dissertation like my brother, Bill Sadler, but that took most of his adult life, and my adult life is almost over. I would hope a new, refreshing and noble soul, a person who has the "right stuff" will come on board and finish this theory of the beginning of the beginnings. But my time is short, and my hour has come. Please hear me, you Urantians of 1991, the year of our palindrome. Come forth, take your place in the Universe of Universes, be not afraid, fear not, The God of Evolution shall grow because of your effort. The Supreme Being and you are one.

We have read, and hopefully learned, from Paper 56 (the most spectacular feat in writing, Universal Unity, my favorite Section 10), TRUTH, BEAUTY, and GOODNESS. The last line in this paper says everything.

[T]o finite man truth, beauty, and goodness embrace the full revelation of divinity reality. As this love- comprehension of Deity finds spiritual expression in the lives of God-knowing mortals, there are yielded the fruits of divinity: intellectual peace, social progress, moral satisfaction, spiritual joy, and cosmic wisdom. The advanced mortals on a world in the seventh stage of light and life have learned that love is the greatest thing in the universe — and they know that God is love.

Love is the desire to do good to others.

This paper was presented by a Mighty Messenger, one who was involved in (and remained steadfast in) the very first rebellion in Time and Space. It is my desire and homage to this tremendous author and philosopher, to meet him one day with Bill Sadler, and have a nice talk. I would really like that, because I have a real respect and admiration for this personality. We are instructed in the Papers that highest comprehension of finite reality is Truth, Beauty and Goodness. Let us explore this reality and see if we can find out more about these three elements.

TRUTH = THING = FACT
 BEAUTY = MEANING = IDEA
 GOODNESS = VALUE = RELATION

Does this mean that Truth is equal to Fact? Not necessarily, as we can learn from page 555, paragraph 1, that one can be technically right as to fact and everlastingly wrong in the truth.

I would speculate that the equal signs would be more representative of reality if they were arranged as follows:

TRUTH	THING	FACT
BEAUTY	MEANING	IDEA
GOODNESS	VALUE	RELATION

The above arrangements is in a group that expresses reality of the whole, rather than the part. Unlike mathematical equations, these words can not be arranged and re-arranged and keep their meanings, values, truth, beauty, goodness, ideas, and relationships. They depend on each vertical grouping to be the whole. We also are instructed that health, sanity and

happiness are the integrations of Truth, Beauty and Goodness as they are perceived in human experience. I feel it would be appropriate for the reader to go back to page 43, paragraph 5 for a review of these groupings.

Irrespective of the revelatory knowledge one can obtain from reading The URANTIA Papers, if you do not apply this knowledge to your everyday living, it is wasted. Health, sanity and happiness are the fulfillment of all human endeavor. We are instructed that, of health we know a good deal, of sanity we can do much, but of happiness we have realized truly very little.

Happiness is like riding the crest of a wave, as any surfing enthusiast can relate. But beware of the crash! If we were all happy, ecstatic, blissful all the time we would have nothing to compare this euphoria with. We could not recognize it.

The highest level of happiness that any mortal can obtain is to reach a level of cosmic consciousness and God-consciousness. Once an individual is certain about God, they can handle anything.

DE-BRIEFING

Now it is time to get all of our little parts to this puzzle together. We have the four corks, the champagne bottle, the plate on a large platter, the cube; and we have run out of symbols that can be used for demonstration purposes. It may be simple but it is true, and it does give one a "feel" for the events that took place before the record.

There is one more topic that this dissertation neglected; that is Power-Personality Synthesis. *The Study of Master Universe* covers this in depth, and I really like Bill Sadler's explanation of the yolk and the cytoplasm of an egg. His theory, which I accept, is that all Universe Building consists of nuclear and cytoplasmic construction, but in personality, the synthesis would really be a scrambled egg.

Why do we deal with this subject? It is basic to the experiential deity and evolutionary trinities. Mind is struggling for mastery of matter through the mediation of spirit, taking place where personality is involved.

We have come a long way in the Foreword, and have not even covered all of the sixteen pages, but we covered a lot of ground on our imaginary trip into never-never land. There is a lot more; in fact, there is as much as you could ever digest in this life, and more in the next. But we can only do our very best, one day at a time, and sincerely hope that this is enough to satisfy the will of the Father.

THE END OF THE ENDINGS

We have gone through at least a dozen pages of the Foreword of *The URANTIA Book*, in a simple manner designed to allow the reader to get a grasp on what happened in the beginning and what is going on now. The Papers invited us to speculate on what may take place in future time and transcended space. I would like to give this a personal, but best, estimate on the ending of the end.

We have seen that everything originated in the beginnings of the beginning with the original I AM—*The Unqualified Absolute*, which I represented with a champagne bottle, and four corks to delineate the escape from divinity tension and the corporate structure of the original Paradise Trinity.

We are instructed that there will be more Trinities and that there will be other formations of Personalized Deity that will function as the Universe of Universes gets farther along in completion. I speculate that there will come a time when all will be fully built, approved by the Universe Building Inspectors, certified by the Architects of the Master Universe, counter signed by the Seven Master Spirits, and conjoined by the Supreme Being, God the Ultimate and the God the Absolute. This seems to leave the whole show, the greatest show in the Universe of Universes, over. But it is not really over. At this point in the grand scheme, all that is complete, having attained Perfections as the Will of God, will have a new and final phase. All that has been created, eventuated, evolutionalized, grown, and finalized will come back to the very source of their origin. (In symbolic terms, this means that all corks, the plate, and the platter will return into the champagne bottle.) We shall then all become one with the Infinite Creator, Upholder, Controller, First Source and Center of all things and beings. It appears to be the only solution to this story, since any other speculation would require a companion Master Universe, and I could not even begin to imagine that.

The end of the beginning

TWISTING THE DRAGON'S TAIL

The writer of this explanation is working in new and unexplored areas of thought. It would be appropriate to tell you a little about this person who would dare to take on such an ambitious assignment of attempting to explain the ABSOLUTES OF INFINITY.

In 1945, a group of physicists, engineers, and technicians holed up in a secret base at Los Alamos, New Mexico and led by the brilliant physicist, J. Robert Oppenheimer, experimented with fissionable materials, Uranium 235 and an isotope called Plutonium 239. These dedicated workers were attempting to calculate how much energy they would generate on a slug of pure Uranium being shot down a gravity trapeze device to effect a critical mass. They also attempted to measure how much radiation and energy would be generated when two spheres of P₂₃₉ were brought to miniscule proximity. This experiment was entitled "Twisting the Dragon's Tail." As it was dangerous and innovative, it could result in the production of two types of mass destruction heretofore never dreamed by any nation. Their "twisting of the dragon's tail" resulted in the creation of two aerial bombs, one named FAT MAN and the other TALL BOY. These two nuclear bombs were the only ones we had in early August of 1945. Had Japan not surrendered unconditionally, the lead time for a third atomic bomb would have gone into September of the same year.

When I started this "Explanation of the FOREWORD - BACKWARDS," I knew I was working in new territory. I had felt this terrible responsibility in every line I wrote. As a serious student of The URANTIA Papers for over thirty-five years, I have asked in many instances, "Why do they say that? What does this or that mean?"

In effect, I "twisted the Dragon's Tail." I did it, and I am pleased that I did. Some will say I am all wrong, but this cannot be true, because nothing is ever all wrong or all right. But I did do it in my lifetime. So

the concept is new and original with this author. After reading *The URANTIA Book* over forty times, I've gotten a feel for what is in it. Bill Sadler helped me immensely as I was able to pick his brain for eight years. Having a mind akin to a data processor, I am able to call up ideas, quotes, concepts easily by using the Function 10 key on my word processing program and in my own personal mind. Having this knowledge has not made my life a bed of roses; on the contrary, it has made it more difficult, and painful at times, but I never for one moment ever considered abandoning my personal promise. I shall continue this pledge for the rest of my days on this ball of mud we call URANTIA, 606 of Satania.

I am, when all is said and done, just a **Soldier of the Circles** following his light, as God gave me that light to follow. I did discover many things. In the depths of despair, I found some peace through the love of God the Father. I also know that my unflinching faith in the Universe of Universes, orderly events take place. And if I am lucky, or challenged enough, to be called to the Judgement Halls of Mansonia (and for this, I agree to wait for space available, wait-listed, fly on the least desirable seat on that seraphic transport), then I have a chance to be rid of the animal indolent vestiges that have plagued me throughout my life as an evolutionary will creature, conceived on URANTIA and nurtured by *The URANTIA Book*. I shall never regret this experience, even though it did not provide me with everlasting joy and ethereal bliss. It gave me a lot of trouble, as my temporal existence constantly fought with my divine endowments. But I always knew who was correct. It is one thing to know the *Papers*, but quite another to live the conceptual truths therein. But I am still trying and I am challenged. I still think of the brigand on the cross next to the Master on Golgotha, who made his supreme decision at the eleventh hour, and was promised by Jesus that "he also would be with him in Paradise."

I am now in the position to give everything and ask for nothing. I know in my heart, mind and soul that the work is important although the self is not. I repeat that each day in my prayers and worship to the Creator

of Creators, the Infinite Controller, the Father of the Eternal Son and the Infinite Spirit, the co-creator of the Original Michael, and the subsequent 700,000 Creator Sons.

If you read this *URANTIA Book*, what won't you read? It certainly has more then anyone could ask for. And because there are many strange and unique presenters of each Paper, it is like enjoying beautiful music. You can, you know, without having the slightest idea who wrote it.

All in all, I lived a long life, with *The URANTIA Book* at my side during most of my adult existence. I haven't found eternal bliss, but I have discovered truth, I can recognize beauty, and I do respond to goodness. But what is most important about this is: I know that God loves me, and I love God...I am a son.

If I have twisted the Dragon's Tail, so be it. All nuclear weapons must have an initiator to start the chain of events that detonates high explosives, causes implosion in a sphere of pure P₂₃₉, effects critical mass, and starts thermonuclear burning of the L₂, to become one with the atmospheric hydrogen. I am the initiator of this conceptual dissertation of the Foreword of *The URANTIA Book*, and it is my idea, my story. As I said in the beginning...I am stuck with it.

—The author

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I	Time line events and narrative
APPENDIX II	Illustrations of Beginnings of the Beginning (Cork and Bottle Demonstration)
APPENDIX III	<i>Champagne</i> , A History of the Wine and Its Significance in This Dissertation
APPENDIX IV	After Words

APPENDIX I

T I M E L I N E	AGE	Event or Narrative	Level of Deity Function
	-1	THE I AM Unqualified Absolute The corked bottle	-1 1. <i>Static</i>
		The ONE UN CAUSED Qualified Absolute Cork pops out of the Champagne Bottle	-1 2. <i>Potential</i>
		Appearance of the Universal Absolute. Comes now the Second Source & Center, the Eternal Son. Non-Deity response the Isle of Paradise. God is now a Father. 3 corks, 1 bottle, and a plate!	-1 2. <i>Potential</i> 3. <i>Associative</i>
0	Appearance of 3rd Deity The INFINITE SPIRIT (non-Deity reaction) The Central Universe Father, Son & Spirit incorporate: Undivided Deity, Inc. or The Paradise Trinity 4 Corks + 1 full bottle; a large plate surrounded by a gigantic platter THE AGE OF HAVONA	0 ZERO AGE or AGE OF HAVONA 3. <i>Associative</i> 4. <i>Creative</i>	
0+	Architects of the Master Universe 7 MASTER SPIRITS Force Organizers Original Michael GOD THE SUPREME	0+ ZERO PLUS AGE 4. <i>Creative</i> 5. <i>Evolutional</i>	

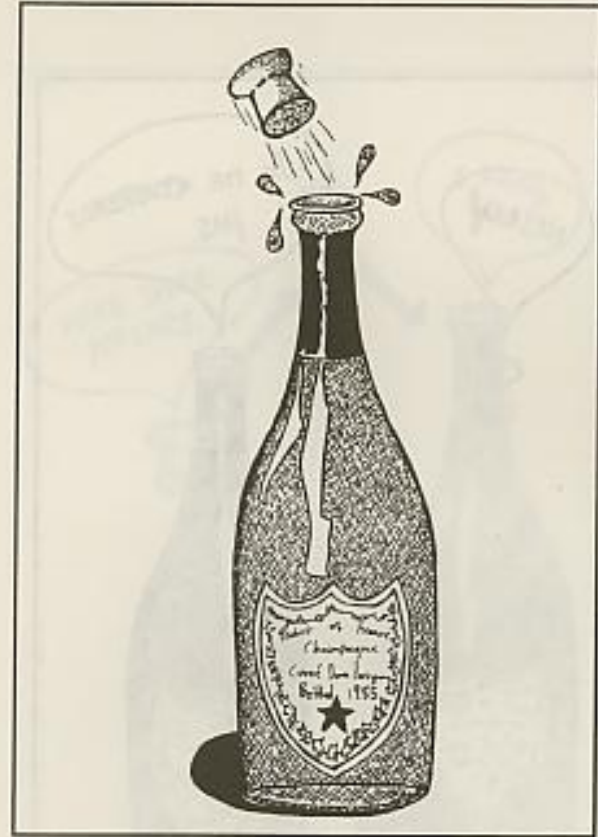
	Event or Narrative	Level of Deity Function
1	Creator Sons + Creative Spirits + Chief Executive (Gabriel) initiate headquarters worlds for Local, Constellation, Systems the setting for planet building. Appearance of Thought Adjusters. Grandfanda arrives on the shores of HAVONA. First inhabited world achieves status of light and life, first system rebellion. TABAMANTIA becomes member of <i>Corps of Finality</i> .	FIRST UNIVERSE AGE 5. <i>Evolutional</i> 6. <i>Supreme</i> MAJESTON the first creation of The SUPREME Being.
1+	Architects of the Master Universe and Force Organizers work in outer space levels	7. <i>Ultimate</i>
2	Stabilization of the 1st Outer Space level. Appearance of "life." Transcendental level 1, Finalizers go to "work" in ministry administration, and adjudication of the University of Time & Space in OUTER SPACE LEVEL. No. ONE (an extension branch of the College of Eternity).	2nd UNIVERSE AGE BEGINS Grand Universe settled in Light and Life — Growth is over in 7 superuniverses. 6. <i>Supreme</i> 7. <i>Ultimate</i>
3	First outer space level settled in light & life. "Life" appears on 2nd outer space level; 3rd & 4th Outer Space levels complete! Growth is over! Potentials are actualized, all settled in Light & Life!	<i>Trinity of Trinities</i> Return to the I AM 4 ?
4		
?		

APPENDIX II

Illustrations of Beginnings of the Beginning
(Cork and Bottle Demonstration)



Champagne bottle with cork wired
....signifies the I AM
The Unqualified Absolute



Cork pops out of bottle of champagne,
...signifying the Escape from Divinity Tension.

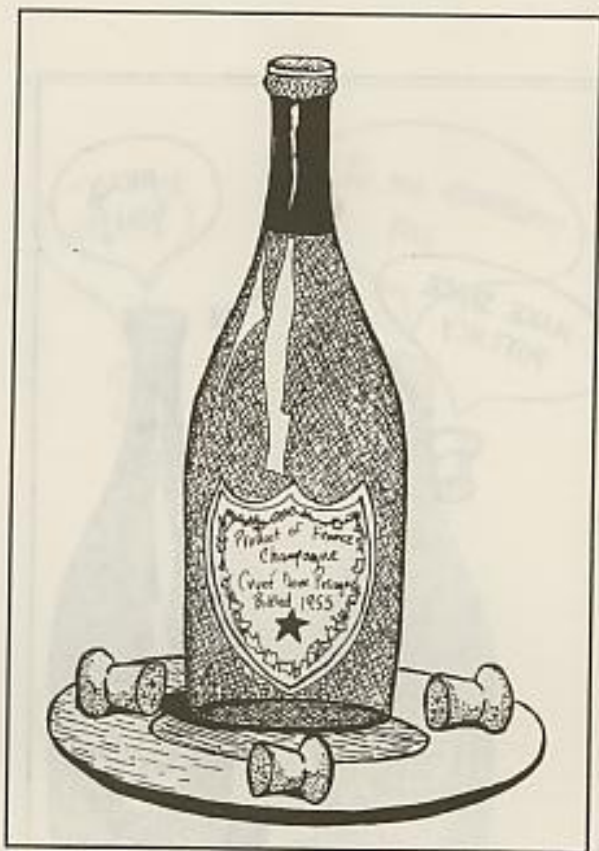
Cork is now *Qualified Absolute*...The UN CAUSED CAUSE.
The bottle is the *Unqualified Absolute*; it was the I AM.



Qualified Absolute attempts communication with the *Unqualified Absolute*; No response, incomprehensible.



Appearance of the second cork. The Universal Absolute. The *Qualified* and *Un-Qualified Absolute* can now do business.



Three corks and a plate.
...signifies creation of co-deity equal, *Eternal Son* (cork)
and the non-deity response, the *Isle of Paradise* (plate)



Four corks, a plate and a platter.
...signifies bringing into being the third person of Deity,
Third Source and Center, the *Infinite Spirit* (cork)
and the non-deity response *Havona* (platter).



Everything depicted returns to the I AM.
 ...signifies the end of the endings, "It is finished!"

APPENDIX III

Champagne, History of the Wine and Its Significance in This Dissertation

cham-pagne: (according to reference information, [Webster's New International Dictionary and the Encyclopedia Britannica] we find the following information; this is paraphrased to avoid litigation by C.C. Merriam Co. Webster and the University of Chicago, their heirs and assigns).

Champagne is a straw white or pale gold wine that has been allowed to ferment a second time by the turning of the original vessel (bottle) producing a gas and a sediment which is removed by tilting the bottle downward and freezing the end and removing it on the original cork. Liqueur is added to change the individual blends. Champagne, in France, is the official name of this wine if it is brewed with grapes from a specific region, the boundaries of which are well defined. The effervescence and sparkle of the wine are most famous in Champagne. Other nations who are producing this unique drink have used the name *Champagne*, but only wine from the grapes of the Champagne district in France may truly be called *Champagne*.

This sparkling wine was discovered by a Benedictine Monk of Hautvilliers at the end of the seventeenth century. Dom Perignon has been one of the finest and most sought after brands of champagne. The earlier the vintage of the brew the finer. I picked 1955 (see drawings) since it is a good year for Champagne and a good year for The URANTIA Papers.

I mean no disrespect in using this wine as a symbol for the *Unqualified Absolute*, The *I AM*. It is merely for illustrative purposes.

Champagne is unique! It is unique in its discovery, it has a unique taste, and its method of growing and brewing its grapes in France is unique. The URANTIA Papers are also unique. They are unique on 606 of Satania, they are unique in time and space, and they will undoubtedly be unique in eternity!

After Words

In ending this discourse on the Foreword, it should be understood that comprehension of the Absolutes of Infinity can only be fully digested in infinity itself. Very little has been written about the Deity Absolute and for good reason. The Deity Absolute for all practical purposes is the Qualified Absolute. A Censor proclaims that: *he loves and worships God the Father; and he respects and honors the Deity Absolute.* (P. 116:6)

When the URANTIA papers become available in the world where Buddhism is revered, there will be greater comprehension of the Absolutes. In the Christian world, however, this will still be a misunderstood concept. Bill Sadler once stated it this way. Consider an academician who is invited to give a discourse on the workings of the stock exchanges in the Western financial regions to Bantu tribesmen in Africa. When the lecture is on ordinary and common shares, preferred and convertible preferreds, bonds, warrants, rights and other issues that are traded daily as equity instruments, the translator of this lecture will probably state that there is no word in Bantu for common stock, convertible preferred, or any of the other issues heretofore mentioned. The authors of The URANTIA Papers were beset with the same dilemma to enlighten finite mortals with the concepts of Divinity in the words of English language.

I have thus attempted to explain in a simple manner the Foreword of *The URANTIA Book*. In so doing, I may have committed the following errors of reasoning.

1. I may have failed to perceive the final and complete evolutionary goal of either personality attainment or cosmic destiny.
2. I may have committed the supreme philosophical blunder of oversimplifying cosmic evolutionary reality, thus leading to distortion of facts, to the perversion of truth, and to the misconception of destinies.

The Censor goes on to speculate on the possibility of finaliters partially attaining the Deity Absolute. "...but even if they should, still in the eternity of eternities the problem of the Universal Absolute will continue to intrigue, mystify, baffle, and challenge the ascending and progressing finaliters, for we perceive that the unfathomability of the cosmic relationships of the Universal Absolute will tend to grow in proportions as the material universes and their spiritual administration continue to expand." (PP. 116-117) By this discourse, however, if ten, twenty, or even a hundred beings attempt to study and perhaps comprehend the Foreword, then my attempt, humble as it may be, is a success.

Only infinity can disclose the Father-Infinite.