

The Universe As We Now Know It

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Originally, I had in mind giving a talk on superfinite, subabsolute integrations of primordial space potency and transcendental emergent spirit on the third outer space level. But the planning committee for this mini-conference insisted that that topic has been presented so many times that it would probably produce boredom and restlessness. So I decided to talk on a more specific topic: "the universe as we now know it." When I refer to "the universe as we now know it," I am referring to us as the readers of *The URANTIA Book*, although I will briefly touch upon our contemporary scientists' present viewpoints on the universe.

Since this speech will be only about thirty minutes in length, I will necessarily present only an overview of the universe of universes. This presentation will be circular in the positive sense in that I will begin with a reference to the philosophic concept of the I AM and return to it at the end of the speech.

1. The Overall Design of the Grand Universe

At the center of the universe the Isle of Paradise is located; it is surrounded by the eternal universe of one billion, enormous, perfect worlds—Havona. Of course, Paradise and Havona are shielded optically by the dark gravity bodies and are, therefore, unknown to present day scientists. Havona is encompassed by the seven superuniverses, and, farther out, by the four outer space zones. Beyond this master universe, the philosophers of the universe postulate a limitless, never-ending "Cosmos Infinite."

Paradise and Havona are eternal; the superuniverses exist in time and space; the outer space zones transcend time and space; and the actualization of the Cosmos Infinite, once begun, will proceed throughout all future eternity.

The universe will eventually exist on all seven levels of reality [1162-1163]:

1. Incomplete finites (wherein we find ourselves now)
2. Maximum finites (the perfection of supremacy)
3. Transcendentals (the nature of the eventuating realities of the outer space zones)
4. Ultimates (the final stage of the actualization of the master universe)
5. Coabsolutes (the projection of master universe realities beyond its boundaries)
6. Absolutes (the limitlessness of the personalities or presences of the seven absolutes of infinity, consisting of the Universal Father, the Eternal Son, the Infinite Spirit, the Isle of Paradise, the Deity Absolute, the Unqualified Absolute, and the Universal Absolute)
7. Infinity (the seventh level of reality). Infinity will probably never be existent in finality; it will forever continue to be progressively manifested in the ever-enlarging Cosmos Infinite.

This description of reality is largely a mortal viewpoint upon the potentially limitless universe, seeing that we mortals begin in incomplete finitude and progress inward, onward, upward, and then outward through and into the other six levels of reality. Other viewpoints are possible, such as the Paradise perspective of progressive outward expansion through the actualization of potentialities. The Havona natives view service as home and host to fellow Havona natives and to superuniverse ascenders and Paradise descenders. The philosophic perspective views the progressive modification, qualification, and limitation of reality from its original I AM level down from infinity, through absoluteness and ultimacy, to supremacy. And finally, experiential deity views reality as progressing through the actualization and

perfectionization of God the Supreme, God the Ultimate, and God the Absolute.

2. The Size and Age of the Universe

At this universe moment, the grand universe, the domain of the seven superuniverses is more than halfway actualized; the outer space zones consist mostly of physical energy; and the Cosmos Infinite is entirely potential.

The master universe is understatedly very big and the grand universe is, to say the least, very old. Were the grand universe the size of an orange, the master universe would be two-thirds the size of the moon. The Cosmos Infinite will extend limitlessly.

The number of stars in the master universe is approximately equal to the number of glasses of water in all the oceans of our world. In the grand universe there will eventually exist about seven trillion inhabited worlds comparable to Urantia. To get a sense of the size of that number, imagine a football field covered with copies of *The URANTIA Book* to the depth of four books. Seven trillion would be close to the number of individual letters and punctuation marks in all those books.

The grand universe is likewise very old. Christ Michael of Paradise was created by the Universal Father and the Eternal Son long, long ago, but not in eternity; Michael received extensive training on Paradise and throughout Havona; he came to proto-Nebadon four hundred billion years ago. The emergence of the basic physical energies of Nebadon were organized about one trillion years ago. Nebadon is local universe number 611,121 in a future finite cosmos of 700,000 such universes; thus, by far, most of the local universes are older than Nebadon. The creation of a local universe takes at least a trillion years; and, of course, their creation has been staggered throughout the history of the grand universe; they were not created simultaneously. I have done some speculative arithmetic and I quickly get into octillions of years as a conservative approximation of the age of the grand universe. It is probably much older than that.

Urantia scientists approximate the age of the universe as between fifteen and eighteen billion years, a decided improvement over six thousand years, the estimation of some ultra-orthodox religionists of theological history.

3. Urantia's Place in the Universe

There are 88,879 local universes newly or yet to be created, and, I reiterate, our local universe is already about a trillion years old. We know that Nebadon is approximately one third in manifestation now, consisting of more than three million inhabited worlds already in existence, and there will be an eventual total of ten million worlds in our completely realized local universe. Michael of Salvington will have reigned as a Master Son for over two-thirds of the time required for the creation of his local universe. Through love and mercy he has triumphed over three system rebellions and has completed all seven of his bestowal missions relatively early in the actualization of his local creation. Universe speculation has it that any future rebellion in Nebadon would be tolerated as have the past three by Michael and the Ancients of Days. However, it is very likely that any such rebellion would collapse after a brief time because the Nebadon community is so consolidated against rebellion by the experience of having observed the evil fiasco and disastrous results of the Lucifer and prior rebellions in this local universe.

Urantia is the 606th inhabited world in Satania, and Satania is the 24th system in Norlatiadek, which is the 70th constellation in Nebadon, the 84th local universe in Ensa, the 3rd minor sector in Splandon, the 5th major sector in Orvonton, the 7th superuniverse in the grand universe. In the seven superuniverses, more than five trillion Urantia-like inhabited worlds are in existence out of a future seven trillion. Thus the grand universe is by far more actuality than not. Grandfanda, of origin in superuniverse number one, was the first planetary mortal to reach Havona—long, long, ago.

4. Urantia's History

We do not know how long it takes for a local universe to evolve to perfection. Urantia is one billion years old physically and has been inhabited by mortals since the days of Andon and Fonta, about a million years ago. Things went well for Urantia as an inhabited planet for, say, 800,000 years—most of its human history—when the Lucifer Rebellion broke out about 200,000 years ago. Our Planetary Prince, Caligastia, joined the rebellion, and our Material Son and Daughter, Adam and Eve, defaulted in their mission

about 35,000 B.C. Machiventa Melchizedek sojourned on our world for a century about four thousand years ago. Michael, as Jesus, terminated the Lucifer Rebellion while on his final bestowal on Urantia some two thousand years ago. *The URANTIA Book*, the fifth epochal revelation of truth to our planet, was published in 1955. We have yet to host an Avonal Son on a magisterial mission and we are presently in our Postbestowal Son Age, which may last for 10,000 to 100,00 years.

The readership of *The URANTIA Book* is just getting organized and unified for its planetary mission. The project of translating *The URANTIA Book* into many languages has begun and several complete translations have already been completed, preparing Urantia for a future world spiritual renaissance. In the future Urantia will benefit from the successive visits of groups of Trinity Teacher Sons, and our world will eventually be inaugurated into the first stage of light and life, the first of seven such light-and-life ages.

5. The Stage of Light and Life

Anova is the oldest planet in our system and is in an advanced stage of evolution. On a planetary neighbor of ours there is a nation whose development is somewhat ahead of the industrialized nations on Urantia. There are probably many light-and-life planets in Nebadon, no doubt vast numbers in Orvonton, while in superuniverse number one there are almost certainly more than a billion such perfected worlds associated in one minor sector—a Mighty Messenger implies that there exist one hundred local universes in light and life comprising one minor sector, and there are probably many more local universes in the first superuniverse. It is almost certain that there exist light-and-life local universes in other superuniverses [consider 635.4]. Let us bear in mind that there exist planets in superuniverse number one which exceed the octillion-years mark in their evolutionary history—plenty of time to have achieved the seventh stage of light and life.

6. Our Future

We do not know the future length of Urantia's fifth (*The URANTIA Book*) epoch. We can only speculate about when Trinity Teachers will first arrive, when we will go into light and life, and how

long it takes to progress through the seven planetary stages of light and life. But eventually Nebadon, Orvonton, and the grand universe will be settled in light. The Supreme Being will emerge as a unified experiential deity and the first experiential trinity, consisting of the Supreme Creator Personalities, the Architects of the Master Universe and God the Supreme, will form.

We mortals will ascend to Paradise, serve as finalizers in other superuniverses, and thereafter head out to actualize universes in the four outer space zones of the master universe (it is widely believed), an undertaking for which our long experience in Supremacy, on Havona, and on Paradise will have prepared us.

Eventually, the master universe will achieve completion and perfection, and God the Ultimate will emerge, completely unified, forming with God the Supreme and the Consumator of Universe Destiny, the second experiential trinity.

The three trinities—one existential and two experiential—will coordinate in the Trinity of Trinities. The three experiential deities—God the Supreme, God the Ultimate, and God the Absolute—will functionally associate. And the I AM will begin to be re-unified as the actualization of the Cosmos Infinite continues to progress throughout the final and unending universe age.

The I AM—the original hypothesis—will increasingly become the I AM—the limitlessly realized. And it must humble and gratify all of us to know that our souls will fuse with a fragment of this same pre-Paradise-Trinity and this post-Trinity-of-Trinities I AM, thereby guaranteeing for us a destiny absolute in value and limitless in scope.

Please join me in praising and thanking our Paradise Parent for the love and wisdom he is manifesting toward us in the pursuit of his eternal and purposive plan wherein we have been granted the blessing of a meaningful and real participation.