

May 4, 1990

Lee J. Cook (Ms.)

2513 25th Street
Telephone: 806-744-2664

Lubbock, Texas 79410

John D. Hay
1002 Mapleton Avenue
Boulder, Colorado 80304

Re: Enclosed paper titled **The Grand Universe Educational System**

Dear Mr. Hay:

I read with great interest the various letters, etc. regarding the unfortunate conflicts between the Urantia Foundation and the (old) Urantia Brotherhood.

However regrettable these various misunderstandings between the two organizations may be, these misunderstandings will never shake my confidence in the accuracy of the teachings in **The URANTIA Book**. I feel confident that these conflicts will be resolved in due time in a satisfactory manner.

Which brings me to the enclosed subject paper. I worked on this paper for several months, mostly at night and on week-ends. (I might note at this point that my extremely low income most effectively prohibits me from sending significant amounts of cash support to the Urantia Foundation. Therefore, I found it necessary to find another method of "serving the cause.") The purpose of the paper is to stimulate interest in **The URANTIA Book** so that the reader of the paper will be encouraged to read the entire **URANTIA Book** for himself.

I sincerely hope that you can make the paper available to persons whom you feel might be (or should be) ready to view the teachings in this remarkable book in a positive manner.

Enclosed is a copy of the cover letter that I have been sending to the area coordinators of the **Fifth Epochal Fellowship** after I have talked with them by telephone.

Sincerely,

Lee Cook

Lee Cook

Enclosures: 2

Attention: Area Coordinators of the Fifth Epochal Fellowship

From: Lee J. Cook

2513 25th St.
Telephone: 806-744-2664

Lubbock, Texas 79410

To:

Re: Enclosed paper The Grand Universe Educational System

Dear

In accordance with our telephone conversation several days ago, I am very happy to mail you a copy of the subject paper.

I worked on this paper for **months and months** in my spare time (mainly at night and on week-ends). Fortunately, I have access to a computer, which made the task considerably easier.

However, the day has finally arrived when I can get down to the fun part: namely, distributing the paper.

I call your attention to following items.

1. **Objective of paper:** To encourage people to read *The URANTIA Book*. Everyone accepts the fact that we all must die. Further, it has been my observation that most people believe that when they die they will go to heaven or to a similar place as provided by their religion.

Question: What happens after we get to heaven? How will we spend our eternity? Most religions seem to be a bit vague on that question. Surely most people have asked themselves this question at one time or another.

The enclosed paper provides a brief summary of the **Grand Universe Educational System** beginning on our planet of origin and extending to Paradise. If people can be persuaded to read the enclosed paper, perhaps they will be encouraged to read the entire *URANTIA Book*.

2. A copy of this paper has been submitted to the Trustees of the Urantia Foundation.
3. The pages are not stapled together so that if you wish to make copies of the paper, there will be no holes in the pages.

4. The following information regarding the author of the paper (Lee Cook) is submitted:

A. Age: 61

Marital status: widow

B. Occupation: I work for Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.

I might mention that at this time I work only half-time, which means that I exist (subsist, really) on an extremely low budget. As it is presently impossible for me to contribute significant amounts of money to the Urantia Foundation and to the Fifth Epochal Fellowship, I looked around for another method of "serving the cause."

C. Educational background:

University of Houston:

B.B.A., cum laude, 1960; major, Accounting.

M.B.A., 1962, major, Economics.

Mathematics, 27 semester hours. (Years ago, it was my big ambition to teach mathematics at the college level and to write books about mathematics.)

5. It was in the early 1970's that I became a devoted student of *The URANTIA Book*. I found the book totally fascinating from the day that I began to read it.

6. Now that my paper is ready for distribution, I plan to explore the possibility of making the paper available to terminally ill patients. It occurs to me that when a person is dying by the day, he will have ample time to ponder the question "What happens to me when I die?"

7. To the computer buffs: This paper was prepared using software WordPerfect Version 5.0. Font: Courier 10 pt. 12 pitch. I can arrange to send a floppy disk containing the paper for anyone who would like to have the paper on disk.

Your comments regarding my paper, both by letter and by phone, will be appreciated. Please call my attention to any errors that you find.

Sincerely,

Lee J. Cook

Enclosure: Paper titled *The Grand Universe Educational System*

THE GRAND UNIVERSE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Source: *The URANTIA Book*

LEE J. COOK
2513 25th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79410
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January 1990

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THE GRAND UNIVERSE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

The URANTIA (You-RAN-shah) Book

The material for this paper has been taken almost entirely from *The URANTIA Book*. *The URANTIA Book* was written in the middle 1930's and was first published in 1955. It is published by the Urantia Foundation in Chicago, Illinois.

The 196 papers in *The URANTIA Book* were written by a group of celestial personalities and put into the English language by a technique authorized by their superiors. [354, 648. Page numbers refer to *The URANTIA Book*.]

In many instances, I have attempted to assist the reader of this paper by including the pronunciation of words which may be new to him. Also, brief explanations of proper names, etc., have been provided in many instances when I felt that the additional information would be helpful. Example: Michael of Nebadon (Jesus of Nazareth)

The URANTIA Book contains four parts: The Central and Superuniverses; The Local Universe (of Nebadon); The History of Urantia (our planet); and The Life and Teachings of Jesus.

1. OUR PLANET URANTIA (You-RAN-shah)

The planet on which we live is called Urantia. It is planet number 606 in our system of Satania (Sah-TANE-ee-ah), and 5,342,482,337,666 is the registry number of our world in the catalogue of inhabited worlds on Uversa [the capital of our seventh superuniverse of Orvonton] and on Paradise [Paradise is the geographic center of our Grand Universe.]. [Note the ending digits 666 in the registry number 5,342,482,337,666. Is this the origin of that mysterious number 666 mentioned in the Book of Revelation? (Rev.13:18)] Each inhabited planet is presided over by a Planetary Prince. The Planetary Prince of Urantia, Caligastia (Cal-i-GAS-tee-a), a brilliant personality, was the chief executive of our planet for about 300,000 years until he followed Lucifer into rebellion about 200,000 years ago.

Some of us may find it difficult to

believe that in the vast stretches of space there might be other inhabited planets very similar to ours. However, a Universal Censor tells us that we humans are members of an almost infinite family of worlds, but that our planet "is just as precisely administered and just as lovingly fostered as if it were the only inhabited world in all existence." We are also told that "only the Universal Father knows the location and actual number of inhabited worlds in space; he calls them all by name and number." (165-167, 182-183)

2. THE GRAND UNIVERSE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

A Bird's Eye View

"The immensity of the far-flung creation of the Universal Father is utterly beyond the grasp of finite imagination; the enormousness of the master universe staggers the concept of even my order of being. But the mortal mind can be taught much about the plan and arrangement of the universes; you can know something of their physical organization and marvelous administration; you may learn much about the various groups of intelligent beings who inhabit the seven superuniverses of time and the central universe of eternity." [The preceding statement was written by a Perfector of Wisdom. The Perfectioners of Wisdom, classed among the Paradise Sons of God, are a specialized creation of the Paradise Trinity, and are designed to personify the wisdom of divinity in the superuniverses. There are seven billion Perfectioners of Wisdom in existence, and one billion are assigned to each of the seven superuniverses. (128, 214, 215)]

The Grand Universe educational system for mortals begins on their planet of origin and extends to Paradise itself, the dwelling place of our Universal Father. "There is a long, long road ahead of mortal man before he can consistently and within the realms of possibility ask for safe conduct into the Paradise presence of the Universal Father. Spiritually, man must be translated many times before he can attain a plane that will yield the spiritual vision which will enable him"

to see the Universal Father. (62)

However, "settle in your philosophy now and forever: To each of you and to all of us, God is approachable, the Father is attainable, the way is open; the forces of divine love and the ways and means of divine administration are all interlocked in an effort to facilitate the advancement of every worthy intelligence of every universe to the Paradise presence of the Universal Father." The mortal ascension program "is a part of the circuit of the seven superuniverses . . . You can depend upon being translated from sphere to sphere, from the outer circuits ever nearer the inner center, and some day, doubt not, you shall stand in the divine and central presence and see him, figuratively speaking, face to face . . ." (63, 64)

"The real purpose of all universe education is to effect the better coordination of the isolated child of the worlds with the larger realities of his expanding experience." (43) In our local universe of Nebadon, of which Michael of Nebadon (Jesus of Nazareth) is now the sole Sovereign Ruler, the divine plan of education, fundamentally, provides for our assignment to a task, and at the same time, we receive instruction from highly qualified teachers who instruct us in the ideal and divine method of performing our assignment. (412)

Therefore, for ages to come we mortals shall be striving for the perfection of intellect, spirit, and personality form. The keynote of the whole universe educational system is character acquired by enlightenment: our level of training and our work assignments provide the opportunity for experience. Mortals learn that the wise use of enlightenment and experience builds character. (342, 412)

The Universal Father has spared neither time nor effort in the provision of every possible facility for the intensive and extensive education of his children. For example, if a certain training world requires billions upon billions of highly qualified teachers, these teachers are provided. According to a Brilliant Evening Star "the entire universe is one vast school." (412; Section 4, The Ascending Mortals, pages 340-344)

3. JERUSEM, SATANIA

(Je-ROO-sem, Sah-TANE-ee-ah)

Jerusem is the capital of our system of Satania. At the present time Satania has 619 inhabited planets similar to ours. When our system is fully developed, it will contain about 1,000 inhabited planets. Each system is ruled by a System Sovereign, a primary Lanonandek (La-NON-an-deck) Son. Lucifer was the chief executive of Satania until he instigated the Lucifer Rebellion about 200,000 years ago. (392-395)

"The universe of Nebadon began its existence with exactly twelve million Lanonandeks . . . these Lanonandeks, especially the primary order, are the most able and versatile of all local universe administrators. In executive ability they are excelled only by Gabriel and his unrevealed associates." (392-393. That is, Gabriel's associates are unrevealed to us at this time.)

"The administrative center of Satania (Jerusem) consists of a cluster of architectural spheres, fifty-seven in number --Jerusem itself, the seven major satellites, and the forty-nine subsatellites. Jerusem, the system capital, is almost one hundred times the size of Urantia . . . Jerusem's major satellites are the seven transition worlds, each of which is about ten times as large as Urantia, while the seven subsatellites of these transition spheres are just about the size of Urantia."

Mortal ascension candidates begin the training of mind and the education of spirit on their planet of origin (Urantia, in our case). However, the day will arrive when it is time for us to proceed to Jerusem to continue our intellectual and spiritual training. You will recall that in John 14:2, Jesus makes the statement, "In my Father's house are many mansions . . ." In II Corinthians 12:2, Paul speaks of one being caught up to the third heaven.

The Mansion World Teachers [billions upon billions of glorified cherubim and sanobim (SAN-oh-bim)] "engage in individual, group, class, and mass teaching." The schools of the mansion worlds are organized in three general groups of one hundred divisions each: the schools of thinking, the schools of feeling, and the

schools of doing." Jerusem has seven worlds which are devoted to the training of ascending mortals, and each of these seven worlds is encircled by seven satellites. All fifty-six of the worlds encircling Jerusem are used in the training of ascending pilgrims, but it is the seven satellites of world number one which are specifically known as the mansion worlds. [The term heaven, as used on Urantia, has sometimes meant these seven mansion worlds, the first mansion world being called the first heaven, and so on . . .] The majority of surviving mortals will reawaken on one of these seven mansion worlds. (166, 167, 174, 340-344, 551)

The First Mansion World

[The material for the following discussion of the seven mansion worlds has been taken primarily from Paper 47, *The Seven Mansion Worlds*, pages 530-540. The author of Paper 47 is a Brilliant Evening Star.]

The Brilliant Evening Star tells us: "On the mansion worlds the resurrected mortal survivors resume their lives just where they left off when overtaken by death... The very center of all activities on the first mansion world is the resurrection hall, the enormous temple of personality assembly . . . On mansion world number one (or another world in case of advanced status) you will resume your intellectual training and spiritual development at the exact level whereon they were interrupted by death. Between the time of planetary death or translation and resurrection on the mansion world, mortal man gains absolutely nothing aside from experiencing the fact of survival. You begin over there right where you leave off down here."

["Sleeping Survivors: All mortals of survival status, in the custody of personal guardians of destiny, pass through the portals of natural death and, on the third period, personalize on the mansion worlds. Those accredited beings who have, for any reason, been unable to attain that level of intelligence mastery and endowment of spirituality which would entitle them to personal guardians, cannot thus immediately and directly go to the mansion worlds. Such surviving souls must rest in unconscious sleep until the judgment day of a new epoch, a new dispensation, the coming of a son of God to

call the rolls of the age and adjudicate the realm, and this is the general practice throughout all Nebadon (NEB-ah-dahn, our local universe of origin). It was said of Christ Michael (Jesus) that, when he ascended on high at the conclusion of his work on earth, 'He led a great multitude of captives.' (Rev.7:9) And these captives were the sleeping survivors from the days of Adam to the day of the Master's resurrection on Urantia." (You-RAN-shah) (341)]

"There are no royal roads, short cuts, or easy paths to Paradise." Therefore, on mansion world number one we begin our remedial training. "Almost the entire experience of mansion world number one pertains to deficiency ministry. Survivors arriving on this first of the detention spheres present so many and such varied defects of creature character and deficiencies of mortal experience that the major activities of the realm are occupied with the correction and cure of these manifold legacies of the life in the flesh on the material evolutionary worlds of time and space." These defects and deficiencies must be corrected before we can be advanced to the higher mansion worlds. We must permanently eradicate such personality traits as procrastination, equivocation, insincerity, problem avoidance, unfairness, and ease seeking. Fortunately, our Mansion World teachers are practical and sympathetic teachers, wise and understanding instructors, able and efficient guides. "From them you will learn to let pressure develop stability and certainty; to be faithful and earnest and, withal, cheerful; to accept challenges without complaint and to face difficulties and uncertainties without fear." (555)

The Second Mansion World

"It is on this sphere that you are more fully inducted into the mansonia (man-SOHN-ee-ah) life. The groupings of the morontia (moh-RAHN-shah) life begin to take form; working groups and social organizations start to function, communities take on formal proportions, and the advancing mortals inaugurate new social orders and governmental arrangements." Mansion world number two "provides for the removal of all phases of intellectual conflict and for the cure of all varieties of mental disharmony."

"A newly developed and suitably adjusted

morontia (moh-RAHN-shah) body is acquired at the time of each advance from one mansion world to another. . . . you will be able to see your spiritual associates of the lower orders as soon as you are delivered from the limited vision of your present material eyes and have been endowed with a morontia (moh-RAHN-shah) form with its enlarged sensitivity to the reality of spiritual things." (107) As we progress from one mansion world to the next higher world, our bodies are newly developed and re-keyed (advance-tuned), and our human ranges of light reaction so extended that we are enabled to see an increasing number of celestial personalities. (436, 494, 544, 545) ["The personalities and other-than-personal entities now functioning on Paradise and in the Grand Universe constitute a well-nigh limitless number of living beings. Even the number of major orders and types would stagger the human imagination, let alone the countless subtypes and variations." (330)]

The Third Mansion World

"Mansonia (man-SOHN-ee-ah) the third is a world of great personal and social achievement for all who have not made the equivalent of these circles of culture prior to release from the flesh on the mortal nativity worlds. On this sphere more positive educational work is begun. The training of the first two mansion worlds is mostly of a deficiency nature --negative--in that it has to do with supplementing the experience of the life in the flesh. On this third mansion world the survivors really begin their progressive morontia (moh-RAHN-shah) culture. The chief purpose of this training is to enhance the understanding of the correlation of morontial mota (MOH-tah) and mortal logic, the coordination of morontia mota and human philosophy. Surviving mortals now gain practical insight into true metaphysics. This is the real introduction to the intelligent comprehension of cosmic meanings and universe interrelationships."

The Fourth Mansion World

"On the fourth mansonia (man-SOHN-ee-ah) the individual ascender more fittingly finds his place in the group working and class functions of the morontia (moh-RAHN-shah) life. Ascenders here develop increased appreciation of the broadcasts

and other phases of local universe culture and progress." On this world the pilgrims of time fully learn to "participate in social activities" which are based "neither on personal aggrandizement nor on self-seeking conquest . . ."

I might mention at this point that on the mansion worlds we must learn the languages of our system of Satania (Sah-TANE-ee-ah) and Nebadon (NEB-ah-dahn: our local universe of origin).

The Fifth Mansion World

"Having mastered the local universe language before leaving the fourth mansion world, you now devote more time to the perfection of the tongue of Uversa (You-VUR-sah, the capital of our seventh superuniverse of Orvonton (Or-VAHN-tahn)) to the end that you may be proficient in both languages before arriving on Jerusem with residential status. All ascending mortals are bilingual from the system headquarters up to Havona (Ha-VOHN-a). And then it is only necessary to enlarge the superuniverse vocabulary, still additional enlargement being required for residence on Paradise."

"On the fifth mansonia (man-SOHN-ee-ah) you begin to learn of the constellation study worlds A real birth of cosmic consciousness takes place on mansonia number five. You are becoming universe minded. This is indeed a time of expanding horizons. It is beginning to dawn upon the enlarging minds of the ascending mortals that some stupendous and magnificent, some supernal and divine, destiny awaits all who complete the progressive Paradise ascension, which has been so laboriously but so joyfully and auspiciously begun."

The Sixth Mansion World

On this world surviving mortals "receive their first lessons in the prospective spirit career which so immediately follows graduation from the morontia (moh-RAHN-shah) training of the local universe (Nebadon) The assistant System Sovereign makes frequent visits to this world, and the initial instruction is here begun in the technique of universe administration. The first lessons embracing the affairs of a whole universe (that is, our local universe of Nebadon) are now imparted."

"This is a brilliant age for ascending mortals and usually witnesses the perfect fusion of the human mind and the divine Adjuster (better known to Bible students as the indwelling Spirit) . . . The union of the evolving immortal soul with the eternal and divine Adjuster is signaled by the seraphic (se-RAFF-ic) summoning of the supervising superangel for resurrected survivors and of the archangel of record for those going to judgment on the third day; and then, in the presence of such a survivor's morontia (moh-RAHN-shah) associates, these messengers of confirmation speak: 'This is a beloved son in whom I am well pleased.' In Paper 47, we mortals are told that "This simple ceremony marks the entrance of an ascending mortal upon the eternal career of Paradise service . . . You really pass from the mortal state to the immortal status at the time of Adjuster fusion . . ."

[Compare the preceding simple ceremony with Matthew 3:13-17, which describes the baptism of Jesus. Also see pages 1504-1506 and Section 2, The Baptism of Jesus, pages 1510-1512. Although Jesus did not fuse with his divine Thought Adjuster, the Adjuster was personalized and made the chief of his kind throughout the entire local universe of Nebadon.]

[A Mighty Messenger temporarily attached to the staff of Gabriel of Salvington observes: "Fusion with a fragment of the Universal Father (a Thought Adjuster) is equivalent to a divine validation of eventual Paradise attainment, and such Adjuster-fused mortals are the only class of human beings who all traverse the Havona (Ha-VOHN-a) circuits and find God on Paradise. To the Adjuster-fused mortal the career of universal service is wide open. What dignity of destiny and glory of attainment await every one of you! Do you fully appreciate what has been done for you? Do you comprehend the grandeur of the heights of eternal achievement which are spread out before you?--even you who now trudge on in the lowly path of life through your so-called 'vale of tears'?"]

"But still are these brilliant beings more or less material; they are far from being true spirits;" humans are becoming "more like supermortals, spiritually speaking, still a little lower than the angels." Ascending mortals are "truly becoming marvelous creatures . . . The

shadow of the mortal nature grows less and less as these worlds are ascended one by one. You are becoming more and more adorable as you leave behind the coarse vestiges of planetary animal origin. 'Coming up through great tribulation' serves to make glorified mortals very kind and understanding, very sympathetic and tolerant." (Rev. 7:13-17)

The Seventh Mansion World

On world number seven we will receive instruction from many teachers. "Any discernible differences between those mortals hailing from the isolated and retarded worlds (such as our planet of origin, Urantia) and those survivors from the more advanced and enlightened spheres are virtually obliterated during the sojourn on the seventh mansion world. Here you will be purged of all the remnants of unfortunate heredity, unwholesome environment, and unspiritual planetary tendencies. The last remnants of the 'mark of the beast' are here eradicated." (Rev. 16:2, 19:20, and 20:4)

On the seven mansion worlds we must complete the unification of the evolving mortal personality before we can be advanced to Jerusem.(494) When all the required lessons are learned, there "begins the formation of classes for graduation to Jerusem. You have gone from world to world as individuals, but now you prepare to depart for Jerusem in groups . . . The personnel of the seventh mansionia (man-SOHN-ee-ah) assemble on the sea of glass to witness your departure for Jerusem with residential status. You will soon be welcomed on the receiving field of the headquarters world as Jerusem citizens."

During our sojourn on Jerusem we achieve the "willingness to submit the self to the disciplines of group activities and coordinated undertakings . . ."

"John the Revelator saw a vision of the arrival of a class of advancing mortals from the seventh mansion world to their first heaven, the glories of Jerusem. He recorded: 'And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire; and those who had gained the victory over the beast that was originally in them and over the image that persisted through the mansion worlds and finally over the last mark and trace, standing on the sea of glass, having the harps of God, and singing the

song of deliverance from mortal fear and death." (Rev.15:2) ["Perfected space-communication is to be had on all these worlds; and your anywhere reception of such communications is made possible by carrying the 'harp of God,' a morontia (moh-RAHN-shah) contrivance compensating for the inability to directly adjust the immature morontia sensory mechanism to the reception of space communications."]

"Paul also had a view of the ascendant-citizen corps of perfecting mortals on Jerusem, for he wrote: 'But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the grand assembly of Michael (Jesus) and to the spirits of just men being made perfect.'" (Hebrews 12:22)

On the mansion worlds [our stepping stones to the spheres on high] the seraphic (se-RAFF-ic) evangels will help us to choose among the optional study routes to Paradise. If we have a choice of two or more equally advisable routes, we may select the one that most appeals to us. However, "you are not given unrestricted choice as to your future course; but you may choose within the limits of that which the transition ministers and their superiors wisely determine to be most suitable for your future spirit attainment." (552)

"Though you will have earnest and progressively difficult tasks to perform on the morontia (moh-RAHN-shah) training worlds of Nebadon (NEB-ah-dahn, our local universe of origin), you will always be provided with regular seasons of rest and reversion." (282, 435)

(Paper 47, The Seven Mansion Worlds, pages 530-540; Paper 48, The Morontia (Moh-RAHN-shah) Life, pages 541-558; Paper 44, The Celestial Artisans, pages 497-508; Paper 46, The Local System Headquarters, pages 519-529)

Educational Benefits of the Lucifer Rebellion

According to a Mighty Messenger, "The Urantia peoples are suffering the consequences of a double deprivation of help in this task of progressive planetary spiritual attainment. The Caligastia (Cal-i-GAS-tee-a) upheaval precipitated world-wide confusion and robbed all subsequent generations of the moral assis-

tance which a well-ordered society would have provided. But even more disastrous was the Adamic default in that it deprived the races of that superior type of physical nature which would have been more consonant with spiritual aspirations." (382)

Until about 200,000 years ago, Lucifer was the System Sovereign of Satania (Sah-TANE-ee-ah). Lucifer, a brilliant primary Lanonandek (La-NON-an-deck) Son of Nebadon, "had been a high counselor of his group, and was distinguished for wisdom, sagacity, and efficiency . . . when commissioned by the Melchizedeks (Mel-KIZZ-uh-decks), he (Lucifer) was designated as one of the one hundred most able and brilliant personalities in more than 700,000 of his kind . . . Lucifer and his first assistant, Satan, had reigned on Jerusem for more than five hundred thousand years when in their hearts they began to array themselves against the Universal Father" and against the universe government of Michael of Nebadon (Jesus). The past 200,000 years have indeed been a dismal period in the history of our planet. Small wonder that we humans on Urantia (You-RAN-shah) are pursuing such a "checkered and irregular course!" Lucifer deluded himself into believing that rebellion against the universe government in Salvington (SAL-ving-ton) would actually be good for the system of Satania (Sah-TANE-ee-ah). And with his "infamous Declaration of Liberty," Lucifer "launched his orgy of darkness and death." (601-604)

Two hundred thousand years later, we are still reaping the harvest of Lucifer's folly. The celestial authors of *The URANTIA Book* describe our planet as a "sin-stricken, evil-dominated, self-seeking, isolated world . . ." However, the "Melchizedeks (Mel-KIZZ-uh-decks) now teach that the good resulting from the Satania (Sah-TANE-ee-ah) rebellion is more than a thousand times the sum of all the evil." (619, 629)

What are some of the educational benefits accruing to humans as the result of living on an isolated planet under such spiritually retarded conditions? We are told that "It may turn out, eventually, that mortal creatures hailing from the worlds quarantined in consequence of rebellion are extremely fortunate. We have discovered that such ascenders are very early intrusted with numerous special assignments to cosmic undertakings

where unquestioned faith and sublime confidence are essential to achievement." It may be that the constant frustration of coping with Lucifer's legacy of self-assertion, self-deception, self-exaltation, evil, and sin has made us wise far beyond our years. (Section 6, Planetary Culture, and Section 7, The Rewards of Isolation, page 578.)

[For a better understanding of the horrendous and far-reaching consequences of the Lucifer Rebellion, see the following papers:

Paper 53, The Lucifer Rebellion, pages 601-612; Paper 54, Problems of the Lucifer Rebellion, pages 613-620; Paper 50, The Planetary Princes, pages 572-579; Paper 66, The Planetary Prince of Urania, pages 741-753; Paper 67, The Planetary Rebellion, pages 754-762; Paper 51, The Planetary Adams, pages 580-588; Paper 74, Adam and Eve, pages 828-838; Paper 75, The Default of Adam and Eve, pages 839-846]

4. EDENTIA, NORLATIADEK

(Ee-DEN-shah, Nor-LASH-a-deck)

Upon the completion of our education and training in Jerusem, we are advanced to Edentia, the headquarters of our constellation of Norlatiadek. "Each constellation has an architectural headquarters sphere and is presided over by three Vorondadek (Voh-RAHN-da-deck) Sons, the Most Highs." (All headquarters worlds are "architectural spheres, space bodies specifically constructed for their special purpose;" that is, all architectural spheres are constructed according to plans and specifications. Architectural spheres, such as those constructed for Salvington and Edentia, are "lighted, heated, and energized by methods which make them quite independent of the suns of space.") Our constellation of Norlatiadek contains 100 systems, and a constellation, when fully developed, will contain about 100,000 inhabited worlds. (166, 167, 174, 456)

"The government of your constellation (Norlatiadek) is situated in a cluster of 771 architectural spheres, the centermost and largest of which is Edentia, the seat of the administration of the Constellation Fathers, the Most Highs of Norlatiadek. Edentia itself is approxi-

mately one hundred times as large as your world. The seventy major spheres surrounding Edentia are about ten times the size of Urania, while the ten satellites which revolve around each of these seventy worlds are about the size of Urania."(485)

"The number of Vorondadeks (Voh-RAHN-da-decks, the Most Highs) varies in each local universe, just one million being the recorded number in Nabadon. The Vorondadek Sons excel all orders of universe sonship in stability of purpose and in divinity of judgment." The Vorondadek Sons "embody the highest administrative wisdom, coupled with the most farseeing and intelligent loyalty, of all the orders of the Local Universe Sons of God."(389, 390, 488)

Edentia (Ee-DEN-shah) has its "seventy satellites of socializing culture and training, on which ascenders sojourn upon the completion of the Jerusem regime of personality mobilization, unification, and realization."(174) In addition to these seventy satellites, there are 700 minor worlds. "These 700 minor worlds are technical spheres of practical education in the working of the entire local universe and are open to all classes of intelligent beings. These training schools of special skill and technical knowledge are not conducted exclusively for ascending mortals, although morontia (moh-RAHN-shah) students constitute by far the largest group of all those who attend these courses of training."(493)

In Edentia (Ee-DEN-shah) we enter the schools of ethics, administration, and social adjustment.(551) "Your sojourn on Edentia and its associated spheres will be chiefly occupied with the mastery of group ethics, the secret of pleasant and profitable interrelationship between the various universe and superuniverse orders of intelligent personalities. ... on the constellation training worlds you are to achieve the real socialization of your evolving morontia (moh-RAHN-shah) personality."(494) "The higher you ascend in the scale of life, the more attention must be paid to universe ethics. Ethical awareness is simply the recognition by any individual of the rights inherent in the existence of any and all other individuals. But spiritual ethics far transcends the mortal and even the morontia (moh-RAHN-shah) concept of personal and group relations."(300)

Two special colleges on Edentia are maintained by the Melchizedeks (Mel-KIZZ-uh-decks). "One, the emergency school, is devoted to the study of problems growing out of the Satania (Sah-TANE-ee-ah) rebellion. The other, the bestowal school, is dedicated to the mastery of the new problems arising out of the fact that Michael (Jesus) made his final bestowal on one of the worlds of Norlatiadek (Nor-LASH-a-deck). This latter college was established almost forty thousand years ago, immediately after the announcement by Michael (Jesus) that Urantia had been selected as the world for his final bestowal." (486)

The Bible tells us that the Most Highs do not rule in the hearts of men; they rule in the kingdoms of men. Daniel knew of these matters when he explained: "the Most High (i.e., the Most High observer stationed on our planet) ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will." (Daniel 4:25) ["Urantia is one of the isolated worlds of Norlatiadek (Nor-LASH-a-deck), and a Vorondadek (Voh-RAHN-da-deck) observer has been stationed on the planet ever since the Caligastia (Cal-i-GAS-tee-a) betrayal . . . pending the restoration of normal status."] "The Constellation Fathers are little occupied with the individuals of an inhabited planet, but they are closely associated with those legislative and law-making functions of the constellations which so greatly concern every mortal race and national group of the inhabited worlds. (390, 488, 491) 'He removes kings and sets up kings.' 'The Most Highs rule in the kingdoms of men.' In the affairs of men's hearts the Universal Father may not always have his way; but in the conduct and destiny of a planet the divine plan prevails; the eternal purpose of wisdom and love triumphs." (51)

Citizenship on Edentia (Ee-DEN-shah)

"After graduation from world number seventy, ascending mortals take up residence on Edentia (Ee-DEN-shah). Ascenders now, for the first time, attend the 'assemblies of Paradise' and hear the story of their far-flung career as it is depicted by the Faithful of Days, the first of the Supreme Trinity-origin Personalities they have met." [The Faithfuls of Days, high Trinity-origin personalities, are the "Paradise advisers to

the rulers of the one hundred constellations in each local universe. There are seventy million Faithfuls of Days . . ." in the Grand Universe.] (213, 495)

It is in Edentia (Ee-DEN-shah) that we must exert a real effort to work happily and efficiently with various groups of individuals. We mortals will "serve in varied capacities . . . in conjunction with the constellation program concerned with group, racial, national, and planetary welfare." (495; Paper 43, The Constellations, pages 485-496)

(Please go to the next page.)

5. SALVINGTON, NEBADON

(SAL-ving-ton, NEB-ah-dahn)

Salvington is the headquarters of our local universe of Nebadon, and it is from Salvington that Michael (Jesus) rules his local universe. When Jesus said that "All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth" he was referring to the local universe of Nebadon of which he is now the sole Sovereign Ruler. (Matt.28:18) The Grand Universe organization plan calls for 700,000 local universes, each of which is ruled by a Creator Son of the order of Michael. There are presently more than 700,000 Creator Sons in the Grand Universe. Our Creator Son, Michael of Nebadon, is better known to us as Jesus of Nazareth.

Each Creator Son is required to incarnate seven times in the likeness of his created creatures, and it was our planet Urantia (You-RAN-shah) that he selected for his seventh and final incarnation. "In the final bestowal a Creator Son appears as a member of one of the higher mortal races on some inhabited world, usually as a member of that racial group which contains the largest hereditary legacy of the Adamic stock which has previously been imported to upstep the physical status of the animal-origin peoples." (239) "The bestowal of a Paradise Son on your world was inherent in the situation of closing a planetary age; it was inescapable, and it was not made necessary for the purpose of winning the favor of God. This bestowal also happened to be the final personal act of a Creator Son in the long adventure of earning the experiential sovereignty of his universe." (60)

(166, 167, 174, 357-359; Section 5, Bestowal of the Paradise Sons of God, pages 227-228; Section 6, The Mortal-Bestowal Careers, pages 228-230; Section 4, The Michael Bestowals, pages 239-240; Paper 20, The Paradise Sons of God, pages 223-233; Paper 21, The Paradise Creator Sons, pages 234-242; Paper 33, Administration of the Local Universe, pages 366-373; Paper 35, The Local Universe Sons of God, pages 384-395; Paper 119, The Bestowals of Christ Michael, pages 1309-1322; Paper 120, The Bestowal of Michael on Urantia, pages 1323-1331)

There are presently 3,840,101 inhabited planets in our local universe of Nebadon (NEB-ah-dahn). [As mentioned earlier, *The URANTIA Book* was written in the middle 1930's.] The Grand Universe organization plan projects about ten million inhabited planets for a local universe when it is fully developed. (166, 167, 174) [A Brilliant Evening Star of Nebadon tells us that there are 647,591 architectural spheres in our local universe of Nebadon. Architectural spheres are not evolved spheres: they are constructed according to plans and specifications. (416)]

In Salvington we enter the schools of philosophy, divinity, and pure spirituality. "Salvington . . . is surrounded by ten university clusters of forty-nine spheres. Hereon is man spiritualized following his constellation socialization." (174, 387, 551) (Section 6, Celestial Overseers, pages 412-413, provides a concise summary of the Nebadon educational system.)

"On the universe headquarters itself (Salvington) are numerous Melchizedek schools, the colleges of the Universe Sons, the seraphic universities, and the schools of the Teacher Sons and the Union of Days. Every possible provision is made to qualify the various personalities of the universe for advancing service and improving function." (412)

The Melchizedek (Mel-KIZZ-uh-deck) Worlds

The Chief of Archangels tells us that "The Melchizedeks occupy a world of their own near Salvington (SAL-ving-ton) . . . This sphere, by name Melchizedek, is the pilot world of the Salvington circuit of seventy primary spheres, each of which is encircled by six tributary spheres devoted to specialized activities. These marvelous spheres . . . are often spoken of as the Melchizedek University. Ascending mortals from all the constellations of Nebadon (NEB-ah-dahn) pass through training on all 490 training worlds in the acquirement of residential status on Salvington. (387)

The sphere Melchizedek (Mel-KIZZ-uh-deck) "is the common meeting ground for all beings who are engaged in educating and spiritualizing the ascending mortals of time and space. To an ascender this

world is probably the most interesting place in all Nebadon. All evolutionary mortals who graduate from their constellation training [in Edentia (Ee-DEN-shah)] are destined to land on Melchizedek (Mel-KIZZ-uh-deck), where they are initiated into the regime of the disciplines and spirit progression of the Salvington educational system." (Section 3, *The Melchizedek Worlds*, pp. 387-388) [It was Machiventa (Mack-i-VEN-ta) Melchizedek who incarnated in the likeness of mortal flesh on Urantia (You-RAN-shah) during the time of Abraham, and who was locally known as the Prince of Salem because he presided over a small colony of truth seekers residing at a place called Salem. (389) Machiventa Melchizedek incarnated 1,973 years before the birth of Jesus and lived on our planet for 94 years. (389, 1015; Gen.14:17-24; Paper 93, Machiventa Melchizedek, pages 1014-1026)]

The Vorondadek (Voh-RAHN-da-deck) Worlds

"The second group of seven worlds in the circuit of seventy primary spheres surrounding Salvington comprise the Vorondadek planets. Each of these spheres, with its six encircling satellites, is devoted to a special phase of Vorondadek activities. On these forty-nine realms the ascending mortals secure the acme of their education respecting universe legislation" (i.e., our local universe of Nebadon, of which Salvington is the capital). (391)

"The ascending mortals have observed the legislative assemblies as they functioned on the headquarters worlds of the constellations, but here on these Vorondadek worlds (in Salvington) they participate in the enactment of the actual general legislation of the local universe under the tutelage of the senior Vorondadeks (Voh-RAHN-da-decks). Such enactments are designed to co-ordinate the varied pronouncements of the autonomous legislative assemblies of the one hundred constellations. The instruction to be had in the Vorondadek schools is unexcelled even on Uversa [You-VUR-sah, the capital of our seventh superuniverse of Orvonton (Or-VAHN-tahn)]. The ascending pilgrims will be introduced to numerous new activities on these worlds of study and practical work." (Section 7, *The Vorondadek Worlds*, page 391)

The Lanonandek (La-NON-an-deck) Worlds

"The third group of seven worlds in the Salvington circuit of seventy planets, with their respective forty-two satellites, constitute the Lanonandek cluster of administrative spheres. On these realms the experienced Lanonandeks belonging to the ex-System Sovereign corps officiate as administrative teachers of the ascending pilgrims and the seraphic (se-RAFF-ic) hosts. The evolutionary mortals observe the system administrators at work on the system capitals, but here they participate in the actual co-ordination of the administrative pronouncements of the ten thousand local systems . . . These executive colleges are excelled only by the administrative schools of Ensa." [EN-sah. The capital of our minor sector of Ensa is Uminor (You-MY-nor) the Third, discussed in Section 6 of this paper.] (394)

"While serving as training spheres for ascending mortals, the Lanonandek (La-NON-an-deck) worlds are the centers for extensive undertakings having to do with the normal and routine administrative operations of the universe. All the way in to Paradise the ascending pilgrims pursue their studies in the practical schools of applied knowledge--actual training in really doing the things they are being taught. The universe educational system sponsored by the Melchizedeks (Mel-KIZZ-uh-decks) is practical, progressive, meaningful, and experiential. It embraces training in things material, intellectual, morontial, and spiritual." (Section 10, *The Lanonandek Worlds*, pages 394-395)

As we journey toward our Paradise goal, we constantly acquire added knowledge and improved skill. "The entire ascendant plan of mortal progression is characterized by the practice of giving out to other beings new truth and experience just as soon as acquired. You work your way through the long school of Paradise attainment by serving as teachers to those pupils just behind you in the scale of progression." (339) In fact, we "are not reckoned as having possessed" ourself "of knowledge and truth until we have demonstrated our ability and . . . willingness to impart this knowledge and truth to others." (279, 280)

Up to this point, we advancing pilgrims of time have been under the jurisdiction of Michael of Nebadon (Jesus), the Sovereign Ruler of our local universe of Nebadon. But now, as we depart Salvington (the capital of our local universe of Nebadon), we leave our local universe of origin and become the wards of the super-universe rulers, the three Ancients of Days. "From this point on, the status of the ascending mortal is forever settled. Superuniverse wards have never been known to go astray." (178, 342; Paper 33, Administration of the Local Universe, pages 366-373)

6. UMINOR THE THIRD, ENSA

(You-MY-nor The Third, EN-sah)

Uminor the third is the capital of our minor sector of Ensa. "One hundred local universes (about 1,000,000,000 inhabited planets) constitute a minor sector of the superuniverse government; it has a wonderful headquarters world, wherefrom its rulers, the Recents of Days, administer the affairs of the minor sector." Each minor sector is ruled by three Recents of Days. (166)

Regarding the Recents of Days, "There are just twenty-one thousand of these personally glorious and divinely efficient Trinity personalities. They were created simultaneously, and together they passed through their Havona (Ha-VOHN-a) training under the Eternals of Days." (211)

"The Recents of Days have a corps of associates and assistants similar to that of the Perfections of Days" (the rulers of the major sectors. The major sectors are discussed in the next section of this paper.). "In addition they have assigned to them enormous numbers of the various subordinate orders of celestial beings. In the administration of the minor sectors they utilize large numbers of the resident ascending mortals, the personnel of the various courtesy colonies, and the various groups originating in the Infinite Spirit" (God the Spirit). (211)

The seven training spheres surrounding Uminor the third are the entrance schools of our superuniverse of Orvonton. Here we receive training in the physical and administrative techniques of our superuniverse. The administration of the

rulers of a minor sector is concerned "mainly with the physical control, unification, stabilization, and routine coordination of the administration of the component local universes." (174, 181)

One of the major concerns of the governments of the minor sectors is the great physical problems of the superuniverse. "The universal plan for the maintenance of equilibrium between matter and energy necessitates the everlasting making and unmaking of the lesser material units. The Universe Power Directors have the ability to condense and detain, or to expand and liberate, varying quantities of energy." (175) In Uminor (You-MY-nor) the third we will study in detail the problems of force control and energy regulation. We must be familiar with some of the methods used in the manipulation and regulation of the master circuits of universe energy.

For example: (1) How do the Mechanical Controllers bring about the segregation, directionization, and intensification of the physical energies and the equalization of the pressures of the interplanetary circuits? (2) The Energy Transformers are "skillful in their efforts to insulate the planets against the powerful energy streams passing between gigantic planetary and starry neighbors." How do the Energy Transformers maintain universal energy balance, or power equilibrium? What are their methods? ["The Seven Master Spirits are the creators of the Universe Power Directors and their associates, entities who are indispensable to the organization, control, and regulation of the physical energies of the Grand Universe." (189; Rev.3:1; Rev.5:6; Section 8, Energy Control and Regulation, pages 175, 176; Paper 29, The Universe Power Directors, pages 319-329)]

Note: Ten Master Physical Controllers "are now stationed on Urantia, and one of their most important planetary activities is to facilitate the departure of seraphic (se-RAFF-ic) transports." (326; Section 2, The Satania Physical Controllers, pages 456-458)

7. UMAJOR THE FIFTH, SPLANDON

(You-MAY-jor the Fifth, SPLAN-dahn)

After completing our studies on Uminor the third, we proceed to Umajor the

fifth, the headquarters of our major sector of Splandon. "One hundred minor sectors (about 100,000,000,000 inhabitable worlds) make one major sector. Each major sector is provided with a superb headquarters and is presided over by three Perfections of Days, Supreme Trinity Personalities." We are entered only upon the registry of our major sector of Splandon; however, we will have to pass through all ten of the major sectors in our superuniverse of Orvonton (Or-VAHN-tahn).(166, 174, 211)

There are 210 Perfections of Days in the Grand Universe. Perfections of Days (and Recents of Days, the rulers of the minor sectors) "are designed by the divine Trinity for the fulfillment of certain specific duties; and they are qualified to serve with perfection of technique and finality of devotion."(207)

Umajor (You-MAY-jor) the fifth "is surrounded by the seventy spheres of the advancing intellectual training of the superuniverse" of Orvonton [Or-VAHN-tahn. Our training in Uversa (You-VUR-sah), the capital of Orvonton, is discussed in Section 8 of this paper.](174)

"The work of the pilgrims of time on the worlds surrounding a major sector headquarters is chiefly of an intellectual nature in contrast with the more physical and material character of the training on the seven educational spheres of a minor sector and with the spiritual undertakings on the four hundred ninety university worlds of a superuniverse headquarters."(211)

"The courts of the Perfections of Days are constituted much as are those of the Ancients of Days except that they do not sit in spiritual judgment upon the realms." (Ancients of Days are the rulers of the superuniverses, discussed in the next section of this paper.) "The work of these major sector governments has chiefly to do with the intellectual status of a far-flung creation. The major sectors detain, adjudicate, dispense, and tabulate, for reporting to the courts of the Ancients of Days, all matters of superuniverse importance of a routine and administrative nature which are not immediately concerned with the spiritual administration of the realms or with the outworking of the mortal-ascension plans of the Paradise Rulers.

The personnel of a major sector government is no different from that of the superuniverse."(181)

8. UVERSA, ORVONTON

(You-VUR-sah, Or-VAHN-tahn)

There are seven superuniverses in our Grand Universe. "Ten major sectors (about 1,000,000,000,000 inhabitable planets) constitute a superuniverse. Each superuniverse is provided with an enormous and glorious headquarters world and is ruled by three Ancients of Days" [the joint chief executives of a superuniverse government](166). "Uversa, the headquarters of Orvonton, your superuniverse, is immediately surrounded by the seven higher universities of advanced spiritual training for ascending will creatures. Each of these seven clusters of wonder spheres consists of seventy specialized worlds containing thousands upon thousands of replete institutions and organizations devoted to universe training and spirit culture wherein the pilgrims of time are re-educated and re-examined preparatory to their long flight to Havona. The glory, grandeur, and perfection of the Orvonton capital surpass any of the wonders of the time-space creations."(175, 178)

There are only 21 Ancients of Days (Supreme Trinity Personalities) in the Grand Universe. "Their creation is a past event; no more are being personalized." The Ancients of Days, designed and created by the divine Trinity, "were all trinitized at the same time. They represent the beginning of the personality records of the universe of universes, hence their name--Ancients of Days. When you reach Paradise and search the written records of the beginning of things, you will find that the first entry appearing in the personality section is the recital of the trinitization of these twenty-one Ancients of Days."(207, 209) [In the far-flung Grand Universe, only the Ancients of Days "are invested with the high powers of final executive judgment concerning the eternal extinction of will creatures. And all three Ancients of Days must participate in the final decrees of the supreme tribunal of a superuniverse."(210)]

On the 490 magnificent study worlds of Uversa, we shall receive the same thorough training in superuniverse management that we had received earlier in local universe management. "Before spirit mortals reach Havona, their chief study, but not exclusive, occupation, is the mastery of local and superuniverse administration." These study worlds are the "finishing schools of the universes of time, presenting the preparatory course" for the seven circuits of Havona. Much attention is "devoted to the final training and spiritual culture of the ascending souls of time . . ." (181, 211, 274, 317, 342)

During our sojourn on Uversa, we will be assisted in our educational efforts by the Havona Servitals (SUR-veh-tals). "The Havona Servitals are the joint creative work of the Seven Master Spirits and their associates, the Seven Supreme Power Directors." (273) The Havona Servitals "serve on the study worlds encircling the headquarters spheres of the seven superuniverses, the worlds devoted to the final training and spiritual culture of the ascending souls of time who are preparing for advancement to the circuits of Havona. . . . the last report of Uversa (You-VUR-sah) indicates that almost 138 billion servitals (SUR-veh-tals) were ministering on its 490 satellites. They engage in an endless variety of activities in connection with the work of these educational worlds . . ." On Uversa "they are your companions; they have come down from your next career (Havona) to study you and to inspire you with the reality and certainty of your eventual graduation from the universes of time to the realms of eternity." (274)

On our planet, humans can many times hide their true character from fellow humans with a combination of clever words and good acting. However, in the spiritual world, our soul is laid bare to those celestial beings who require an accurate appraisal of our character and abilities. "On Urantia, you grotesquely essay to read character and to estimate specific abilities, but on Uversa we actually do these things in perfection." The Tertiary Seconaphim (TER-ti-ar'y Se-CAHN-a-fim) "weigh trustworthiness in the living scales of unerring character appraisal and when they have looked at you, we have only to look at them to know the limitations of your ability to discharge

responsibility, execute trust, and fulfill missions. Your assets of trustworthiness are clearly set forth alongside your liabilities of possible default or betrayal." (316) Further, "The real nature of any service, be it rendered by man or angel, is fully revealed in the faces of these seconaphim (seck-oh-RAFF-ic) service indicators, the Sanctities of Service. The full analysis of the true and of the hidden motives is clearly shown. These angels are indeed the mind readers, heart searchers, and soul revealers of the universe. Mortals may employ words to conceal their thoughts, but these high seconaphim (se-CAHN-a-fim) lay bare the deep motives of the human heart and of the angelic mind." (316)

As departing graduates of Uversa, we will be "dispatched for Havona (Ha-VOHN-a) direct from the shores of Uversa (You-VUR-sah)."

(Page 175; Paper 15, The Seven Superuniverses, pages 164-183; Paper 30, Personalities of the Grand Universe, pages 330-344; Paper 25, The Messenger Hosts of Space, pages 273-284)

9. HAVONA

(Ha-VOHN-a)

We are told that "The billion worlds of Havona are directly administered by the Eternals of Days, one such Supreme Trinity Personality presiding over each of these perfect spheres." (166) The Eternals of Days "number exactly one billion, one for each of the Havona spheres. They are the off-spring of the Paradise Trinity, but like the Secrets of Supremacy there are no records of their origin." (208)

"In the eternity of the past, upon the personalization of the Infinite Spirit the divine personality cycle becomes perfect and complete. The God of Action is existent, and the vast stage of space is set for the stupendous drama of creation --the universal adventure--the divine panorama of the eternal ages." (90) "The God of Action (the Infinite Spirit) functions and the dead vaults of space are astir. One billion perfect spheres flash into existence." (91) The architecture, lighting, and heating, as well as the

biologic and artistic embellishment, of the Havona spheres, are quite beyond the greatest possible stretch of human imagination. You cannot be told much about Havona; to understand its beauty and grandeur you must see it. But there are real rivers and lakes on these perfect worlds."(156) "Every world is a place of everlasting beauty and is wholly unlike any other world in the central universe."(209) "... there is nothing in common between the worlds of Havona. Every one of these planets is an original, unique, and exclusive creation; each planet is a matchless, superb, and perfect production."(159)

"Not only will you find undreamed-of changes confronting you as you advance from circuit to circuit in Havona, but your astonishment will be inexpressible as you progress from planet to planet within each circuit. Each of these billion study worlds is a veritable university of surprises. Continuing astonishment, unending wonder, is the experience of those who traverse these circuits and tour these gigantic spheres. Monotony is not a part of the Havona career."(159)

"These worlds provide the stimulus of all human impulses towards the attainment of true spirit values on the highest conceivable reality levels. Havona is the pre-Paradise training goal of every ascending mortal. Here mortals attain pre-Paradise Deity--the Supreme Being. Havona stands before every will creature as the portal to Paradise and God attainment."(162) "By the time an ascendant mortal begins the exploration of these heavenly worlds, he has already attained emotional, intellectual, and social, if not spiritual, maturity."(159) "Paradise is the home, and Havona (Ha-VOHN-a) the workshop and playground, of the finaliters (fie-NAL-i-ters). And every God-knowing mortal craves to be a finaliter."(163)

The billion worlds of Havona will be our final proving grounds as we progressively advance inward toward Paradise, planet by planet and circle by circle. "Here our spiritual education begins in reality and in earnest." In Havona we discover the meaning of true study and real mental effort. "This course of achievement is quantitative, qualitative, and experiential--intellectual, spiritual, and supreme." There is a definite task to be achieved on each of the billion worlds of Havona.(156-158)

On Havona (Ha-VOHN-a) it is the Graduate Guides who, as "a group, sponsor and conduct the high university of technical instruction and spiritual training which is so essential to mortal attainment of the goal of the ages: God, rest, and then eternity of perfected service. They are exclusively devoted to the tasks of guiding the mortal graduate from the superuniverses of time through the Havona course of instruction and training which serves to prepare the ascending pilgrims for admission to Paradise and the Corps of the Finality."(269) "The Graduate Guides are engaged in piloting the pilgrims of time through the seven circuits of Havona worlds. The guide who greets you upon your arrival on the receiving world of the outer Havona circuit will remain with you throughout your entire career on the heavenly circuits. Though you will associate with countless other personalities during your sojourn on a billion worlds, your Graduate Guide will follow you to the end of your Havona progression and will witness your entrance into the terminal slumber of time, the sleep of eternity transit to the Paradise goal, where, upon awakening, you will be greeted by the Paradise Companion assigned to welcome you and perhaps to remain with you until you are initiated as a member of the Mortal Corps of the Finality."(270)

It is on the fifth circle of the Havona training program that advancing pilgrims, under the direction of the Trinity guides, "receive advanced instruction concerning the divine Trinity in preparation for the attempt to achieve the personality recognition of the Infinite Spirit. And here the ascending pilgrims discover what true study and real mental effort mean as they begin to discern the nature of the still-more-taxing and far-more-arduous spiritual exertion that will be required to meet the demands of the high goal set for their achievement on the worlds of this circuit."(292)

"When the pilgrim soul attains the third circle of Havona, he comes under the tutelage of the Father guides, the older, highly skilled, and most experienced of the superaphic (sue-per-AFF-ic) ministers. On the worlds of this circuit the Father guides maintain schools of wisdom and colleges of technique wherein all the beings inhabiting the central universe serve as teachers. Nothing is neglected which would be of service to a creature

of time in this transcendent adventure of eternity attainment. The attainment of the Universal Father is the passport to eternity, notwithstanding the remaining circuits to be traversed. It is therefore a momentous occasion on the pilot world of circle number three when the transit trio announce that the last venture of time is about to ensue; that another creature of space seeks entry to Paradise through the portals of eternity. Step by step, life by life, world by world, the ascendant career has been mastered, and the goal of Deity has been attained. Survival is complete in perfection, and perfection is replete in the supremacy of divinity. Time is lost in eternity; space is swallowed up in worshipful identity and harmony with the Universal Father. The broadcasts of Havona (Ha-VOHN-a) flash forth the space reports of glory, the good news that in very truth the conscientious creatures of animal nature and material origin have, through evolutionary ascension, become in reality and eternally the perfected sons of God."(294-295)

(Paper 14, The Central and Divine Universe, pages 152-163; Paper 26, Ministering Spirits of the Central Universe, pages 285-297)

10. PARADISE

The seven superuniverses revolve around the central universe of Havona, "the never-beginning, never-ending creation of divine perfection . . . At the heart of this eternal and central universe is the stationary Isle of Paradise, the geographic center of infinity and the dwelling place of the eternal God."(1) "The material beauty of Paradise consists in the magnificence of its physical perfection; the grandeur of the Isle of God is exhibited in the superb intellectual accomplishments and mind development of its inhabitants . . . But the depths of the spiritual beauty and the wonders of this magnificent ensemble are utterly beyond the comprehension of the finite mind of material creatures. The glory and spiritual splendor of the divine abode are impossible of mortal comprehension."(118)

While in Paradise advancing mortals will enjoy and profit by the instruction of numerous groups of Paradise teachers. One of these groups is the Masters of

Philosophy. According to a Perfector of Wisdom from Uversa (Paper 27): "The master philosophers of Paradise delight to lead the minds of its inhabitants, both native and ascendant, in the exhilarating pursuit of attempting to solve universe problems. These superaphic (sue-per-AFF-ic) masters of philosophy are the 'wise men of heaven,' the beings of wisdom who make use of the truth of knowledge and the facts of experience in their efforts to master the unknown. At the southern extremity of the vast Paradise domain the masters of philosophy conduct elaborate courses in the seventy functional divisions of wisdom. Here they discourse upon the plans and purposes of Infinity and seek to coordinate the experiences, and to compose the knowledge, of all who have access to their wisdom. They have developed a highly specialized attitude toward various universe problems, but their final conclusions are always in uniform agreement."

"These Paradise philosophers teach by every possible method of instruction, including the higher graph technique of Havona and certain Paradise methods of communicating information. All of these higher techniques of imparting knowledge and conveying ideas are utterly beyond the comprehension capacity of even the most highly developed human mind. One hour's instruction on Paradise would be the equivalent of ten thousand years of the word-memory methods of Urantia. These intellectual pursuits of Paradise are not broadcast; the philosophy of perfection is available only to those who are personally present."(Section 6, Masters of Philosophy, page 302.)

The Perfector of Wisdom continues: "The angels of assignment (Chiefs of Assignment) have much to do with glorified mortal residents of Paradise before they are admitted to the Corps of the Finality. Study and instruction are not the exclusive occupations of Paradise arrivals; service also plays its essential part in the prefinaliter educational experiences of Paradise. And I have observed that, when the ascendant mortals have periods of leisure, they evince a predilection to fraternize with the reserve corps of the superaphic chiefs of assignment. When you mortal ascenders attain Paradise, your societal relationships involve a great deal more than contact with a host of exalted and divine beings and with a familiar multitude of

glorified fellow mortals. You must also fraternize with upwards of three thousand different orders of Paradise Citizens, with the various groups of the Transcendentalers (Tran'scen-DEN-tal-ers), and with numerous other types of Paradise inhabitants, permanent and transient, who have not been revealed on Urantia (You-RAN-shah). After sustained contact with these mighty intellects of Paradise, it is very restful to visit with the angelic types of mind; they remind the mortals of time of the seraphim (SER-ah-fim) with whom they have had such long contact and such refreshing association." (Section 2, Chiefs of Assignment, page 300)

According to the Perfector of Wisdom: In Paradise we will have the invaluable assistance of the Custodians of Knowledge, "the higher 'living epistles' known and read by all who dwell on Paradise." The Custodians of Knowledge "are the divine records of truth, the living books of real knowledge. You have heard about records in the 'book of life.'" (Rev.17:8; Rev.21:27; Rev.13:8)

The Custodians of Knowledge are "just such living books, records of perfection imprinted upon the eternal tablets of divine life and supreme surety. They are in reality living, automatic libraries. These custodians conduct informal courses of instruction for the residents of the eternal Isle, but their chief function is that of reference and verification. Any sojourner on Paradise may at will have by his side the living repository of the particular fact or truth he may wish to know. At the northern extremity of the Isle there are available the living finders of knowledge, who will designate the director of the group holding the information sought, and forthwith will appear the brilliant beings who are the very thing you wish to know. No longer must you seek enlightenment from engrossed pages; you now commune with the living intelligence face to face. Supreme knowledge you thus obtain from the living beings who are its final custodians." (Section 5, The Custodians of Knowledge, pages 301, 302)

After we complete the required courses of study on Paradise, we are mustered into the Mortal Corps of the Finality. "The Corps of Mortal Finaliters represents the present known destination of the ascending Adjuster-fused mortals of time. The finaliters maintain their own

headquarters on Paradise, in the super-universes, in the local universes, and on all the divisional capitals. They are a separate order of evolutionary creation. We do not directly manage them or control them, and yet they are absolutely loyal and always co-operative with all our plans. They are indeed the accumulating tried and true souls of time and space--the evolutionary salt of the universe--and they are forever proof against evil and secure against sin." (343-346; Paper 31, The Corps of the Finality, pages 345-354)

Ascendington (A-SEND-ing-ton)

Ascendington is one of the seven sacred worlds of the Universal Father which circulates about Paradise in close proximity to the eternal Isle. This world is "the receiving sphere of the pilgrims of time who are passing through the Havona universe on their way to Paradise. Ascendington is the actual Paradise home of the ascendant souls of time and space until they attain Paradise status. These home worlds (the sacred spheres of Paradise) of the diverse orders of spiritual beings are tremendous and stupendous spheres, and they are equal to Paradise in their matchless beauty and superb glory. They are rendezvous worlds, reunion spheres, serving as permanent cosmic addresses. As finaliters you will be domiciled on Paradise, but Ascendington will be your home address at all times, even when you enter service in outer space. Through all eternity you will regard Ascendington as your home of sentimental memories and reminiscent recollections." [However, "when you become seventh-stage spirit beings, possibly you will give up your residential status on Paradise."] (143-148; Paper 31, The Corps of the Finality, pages 345-354)

Advantages of Starting at the Bottom

During the times when I first began to read *The URANTIA Book*, I wished on more than one occasion that I could have been created a high-ranking Son of God hailing from Paradise rather than beginning my eternal life as a lowly human on a planet such as ours.

However, a Mighty Messenger, an ascendant mortal who long ago completed his climb

to Paradise from some dark world of time and space similar to ours, made the following observations regarding one such high-ranking group of Sons, the Celestial Guardians, trinitized off-spring of perfected humans and of Paradise-Havona personalities: The Celestial Guardians "are marvelous beings, but they are neither as versatile nor dependable as their ascendant associates; they lack that tremendous and profound personal experience which the rest of the sons belonging to this group (i.e., the ascendant mortals, among others) have acquired by actually climbing up to glory from the dark domains of space. We of the ascendant career love them and do all in our power to compensate their deficiencies, but they make us ever grateful for our lowly origin and our capacity for experience. Their willingness to recognize and acknowledge their deficiencies in the experiencible realities of universe ascension is transcendently beautiful and sometimes most touchingly pathetic." (Section 2, *The Mighty Messengers*, pages 245-246; Section 9, *The Celestial Guardians*, pages 252-253)

A Perfector of Wisdom from Uversa observes: "Why should man bemoan his lowly origin and enforced evolutionary career when the very Gods (in this case, the "very Gods" is a reference to the Creator Sons, of which Jesus is one) must pass through an equivalent experience before they are accounted experientially worthy and competent finally and fully to rule over their universe domains!" (240) According to a Mighty Messenger, "It would be just as easy for the Universal Father to make all mortals perfect beings, to impart perfection by his divine word. But that would deprive them of the wonderful experience of the adventure and training associated with the long and gradual inward climb, an experience to be had only by those who are so fortunate as to begin at the very bottom of living existence." (361-362)

Ascendant Destinies

How and where will we surviving humans spend our eternity? In what types of service will we engage? Many celestial personalities conjecture that ascendant humans are destined to render a wide variety of services relating to the administration of the vast universes now being organized beyond the borders of our present Grand Universe.

Following are several statements descriptive of the vast universes now being organized beyond the periphery of our present Grand Universe. (These statements are taken from Paper 11, pages 118-127, *The Eternal Isle of Paradise*, written by a Perfector of Wisdom.)

(1) "The relatively quiet zones between the space levels, such as the one separating the seven superuniverses from the first outer space level, are enormous elliptical regions of quiescent space activities. These zones separate the vast galaxies which race around Paradise in orderly procession. You may visualize the first outer space level, where untold universes are now in process of formation, as a vast procession of galaxies swinging around Paradise, bounded above and below by the midspace zones of quiescence and bounded on the inner and outer margins by relatively quiet space zones." (125)

(2) "Far out in space, at an enormous distance from the seven inhabited superuniverses, there are assembling vast and unbelievably stupendous circuits of force and materializing energies. Between the energy circuits of the seven superuniverses and this gigantic outer belt of force activity, there is a space zone of comparative quiet, which varies in width but averages about four hundred thousand light-years. These space zones are free from star dust--cosmic fog. Our students of these phenomena are in doubt as to the exact status of the space-forces existing in this zone of relative quiet which encircles the seven superuniverses. But about one-half million light-years beyond the periphery of the present Grand Universe we observe the beginnings of a zone of an unbelievable energy action which increases in volume and intensity for over twenty-five million light-years. These tremendous wheels of energizing forces are situated in the first outer space level, a continuous belt of cosmic activity encircling the whole of the known, organized, and inhabited creation. Still greater activities are taking place beyond these regions, for the Uversa physicists have detected early evidence of force manifestations more than fifty million light-years beyond the outermost ranges of the phenomena in the first space level. These activities undoubtedly presage the organization of the material creations of the second outer space level of the master universe." (129, 130)

(3) In Uversa, the capital of our seventh superuniverse of Orvonton, "The Uversa star students observe that the Grand Universe is surrounded by the ancestors of a series of starry and planetary clusters which completely encircle the present inhabited creation as concentric rings of outer universes upon universes. The physicists of Uversa calculate that the energy and matter of these outer and uncharted regions already equal many times the total material mass and energy charge embraced in all seven superuniverses. We are informed that the metamorphosis of cosmic force in these outer space levels is a function of the Paradise force organizers."(131)

(4) "Throughout Orvonton (Or-VAHN-tahn, the seventh superuniverse) it is believed that a new type of creation is in process, an order of universes destined to become the scene of the future activities of the assembling Corps of the Finality; and if our conjectures are correct, then the endless future may hold for all of you the same enthralling spectacles that the endless past has held for your seniors and predecessors."(131)

The Corps of Mortal Finaliters is one of seven Corps of the Finality. According to a Divine Counselor and One without Name and Number, "These seven finaliter corps probably signify the present activity of the Ultimate Trinity engaged in mustering the forces of the finite and the absonite (AB-son-ite) in preparation for inconceivable developments in the universes of outer space. We venture the forecast of future and greater outer universes of inhabited worlds, new spheres peopled with new orders of exquisite and unique beings, a material universe sublime in its ultimacy . . . many of us speculate that it may be the mission of the gradually accumulating reserves of the ascendant and perfected mortals of the Corps of the Finality, in association with the other six similarly recruiting corps, to administer these outer universes . . . It is increasingly the belief of all Uversa (the capital of our superuniverse of Orvonton), that the assembling Corps of the Finality are destined to some future service in the universes of outer space, where we already

are able to identify the clustering of at least seventy thousand aggregations of matter, each of which is greater than any one of the present superuniverses." (352-354)

"Evolutionary mortals are born on the planets of space, pass through the morontia (moh-RAHN-shah) worlds, ascend the spirit universes, traverse the Havona (Ha-VOHN-a) spheres, find God, attain Paradise, and are mustered into the primary Corps of the Finality, therein to await the next assignment of universe service . . . And as we view this sublime spectacle, we all exclaim: What a glorious destiny for the animal-origin children of time, the material sons of space!"(354)

"There is in the mind of God a plan which embraces every creature of all his vast domains, and this plan is an eternal purpose of boundless opportunity, unlimited progress, and endless life. And the infinite treasures of such a matchless career are yours for the striving!"(365)

"The goal of eternity is ahead! The adventure of divinity attainment lies before you! The race for perfection is on! whosoever will may enter, and certain victory will crown the efforts of every human being who will run the race of faith and trust, depending every step of the way on the leading of the indwelling Adjuster (the indwelling Spirit) and on the guidance of that good spirit of the Universe Son (Jesus), which so freely has been poured out upon all flesh."(365)

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Suggested additional reading:

Paper 38, Ministering Spirits of the Local Universe (Nebadon, our local universe of origin), pages 418-425;
Paper 45, The Local System Administration (Satania, our system of origin), pages 509-518

(Please go to the next page.)

While reading *The URANTIA Book*, I observed that the authors did not discuss the master universe beyond the Grand Universe (our Grand Universe of origin). However, I incline to the view that if the master universe (which would include our Grand Universe) has always been in existence, then the master universe must surely be far larger than the Grand Universe described for us in *The URANTIA Book*.

Question:

How many Grand Universes constitute the next higher division of the master universe government?

If you are interested in purchasing one or more copies of *The URANTIA Book*, you may wish to write the Urantia Foundation in regard to their pricing policy. For example, as of this writing (January 1990), there is a 25% discount when five or more copies of *The URANTIA Book* are mailed to the same address.

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