

HOW THE URANTIA BOOK HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

LIFE STYLES

by

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LIFE (Webster's) - Way, manner, or phase of living with respect to conditions, circumstances, character, conduct, occupation, etc., hence human affairs.

STYLE - Manner or method of acting or performing, regular or conventional bearing or behavior; esp. a distinctive or characteristic manner or method.

LIFE STYLE - Behavior typical of the individual, based on the attitude toward family and social life adopted by him as a young child and determining his solution of all later problems.

ACCENT ON YOUTH

Most of Jesus' 28th year and all of his 29th year were spent on the trip to Rome. *He spent almost 2 years with the young Indian - Ganid - who was 17 when they started their trip. (p.1422) *While working in Capernaum he spent one evening a week with the young people.(p. 1420) His apostles' ages ranged from the youngest, John, 24 - to Andrew, 33, the oldest. As we go along, more and more "young ones" will be mentioned.

This is the age of pulling away - doing your own thing - perhaps conforming to non-conformists.

Our youth of today are against: few having all; worship of a dollar; war; hatred; racism; bigotry; hypocrisy; and pollution. They are anti-establishment! They are for: rock music; free love; legalizing pot; legalizing abortion laws; the Gay Liberation movement; love of God and brother; honesty; freedom; being heard; clean air; and changing the world socially, politically, and spiritually, into a better place - for all mankind!

In Charles A. Reich's book - The Greening of America - this quote stands out: "The saddest thing in all America is probably the fate of most of its teen-agers. In their late teens, no matter how oppressive the Corporate State, there is still a moment when life is within their grasp. There are a few years when they pulse to music, know beaches and the sea, value what is raunchy, wear clothes that express their bodies, flare against authority, seek new experience, know how to play, laugh, and feel, and cherish one another. BUT, it is a short, short road from Teensville to Squaretown; soon their senses have been dulled, their strength put under restraint, their minds lobotomized, bodies still young, cut off from selves, walk the windowless, endless corridors of the Corporate State."

Teh "lobotomized" mind he spoke of was with reference to Ken Kesey's book - One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest - the story of the perfectly sane man that was confined to a mental hospital ward - how he refused to accept the system of the hospital, his efforts to get other patients to re-assert their independence and sense of life. But slowly the Establishment - as represented by the Big Nurse - the claustrophobic, suffocating net draws closer, and his struggles for freedom are taken as evidence that he is insane - and for his own good is subjected to mind-

damaging shock treatments. When he still resists conforming to the madness - they have him lobotomized, leaving him a blank and helpless vegetable. This represents the working man, deprived of his virility, his manhood, and his intellect by the system. Many share this feeling of "oppressiveness" - regarding "the establishment."

Jesus lived a rugged, nomadic homeless life!

The Life Styles of our youth today tend toward developing physically, mentally, and spiritually. They are interested in God, God's will in their lives, service, the brotherhood of man. They are striving to know more about Jesus and pattern their lives from the inspirational life he lived 2000 years ago. The morality of any act is determined by the individual's motives. (p.1585) The Golden Rule demands active social conduct - the older Golden Rule could be obeyed in isolation.

DRESS

Are flares, low-cut hip-huggers, or high-rise, pleats and baggy legs, long hair, mustache, beard, etc., a type of rebellion? Could it be the mores? Does not a youth with real short crew-cut hair look out of place today? Perhaps they are conforming to the mores instead of rebelling? Our grandfathers had long hair, beard - the works - but our fathers had short hair. Did they rebel or conform? Are they not striving for a freedom to wear their hair as they choose, or are they forming mini-cults - or subcults - as Alvin Toffler refers to in his book - Future Shock? Do they prefer not to be subjected to "square" thinking? Does the hair or the flares or the wide belts, large belt-buckles change the "inside"? Are we judging from outward appearances, or do we strive to see the beauty inside each personality?

*(p.1576) Jesus said - "I look beyond the act to uncover the motive." The Father judges by the intent. My Father looks into the hearts of his children and in mercy adjudges them in accordance with their intent and real desires. He judges by the inner longings and their sincere intentions. He discerns true motive, the actual purpose and the real nature - actual moral and spiritual character of any individual - the naked soul of the reflected individual. *(p.313) IT IS THE MOTIVE THAT COUNTS! *(p.1571) We are commissioned to save men, not to judge them!!!

*(p.2084) The call to the adventure of building a new and transformed human society - by means of the rebirth of the Jesus brotherhood - should thrill all who believe in him as men have not been stirred since the days when they walked about on earth as his companions in the flesh. The "call" is getting a response from our youth today. *(p.2085) The Jesus brotherhood - is invisible, spiritual, and is characterized by UNITY, not necessarily by UNIFORMITY. Uniformity is the earmark of the physical world of mechanistic nature - and this brotherhood is destined to become a living organism in contrast to an institutionalized social organization. The powerful institutionalized church has often dared to smother newborn faith and persecute truth bearers who chanced to appear in unorthodox raiment.

COMMUNES - COOPERATIVE LIVING - AND MARRIAGE

What about communes? Have we really attempted to understand the thinking of the individuals that live in communes, or try this Life Style for a while? Are they

attempting to socialize? To learn how to live with each other and love each other? To manifest a sharing, loving attitude? Surely someday we need to learn to live peaceably together. The ideal commune - I have been told - is where the family unit is maintained separately - but working together, living together, sharing and socializing - with love and concern for our brothers - is the hope for our future. Couples today feel love, fidelity, morality, and monogamy cannot be legislated and made real by law. *(p.193) "Morality can never be advanced by law or force." Without a contract there is a freedom of choosing and an attempt to really determine if this is the ONE they want to enter the sacred rites of marriage with. Our youth have seen and been involved in so many divorces and broken homes, they have seen so many immature marriages end up in divorce - many are trying to avoid this - if possible.

"A Stranger in a Strange Land" by Robert Heinlein - the book that swept the colleges a few years ago and many young people adopted its teachings as their "religion" - promotes a type of communal living that rids man of the greatest deterrent to happiness - jealousy.

The wide-spread pleasure mania is on the decline. Our youth of today feel marriage should not be dependent on sex-gratification - but should embrace all three great incentives for living - *(p.942) self-maintenance, self-perpetuation, and self-gratification. They want to be sure their mates share their belief in God - in fact, share their intellectual beliefs, spiritual beliefs, and material desires. Because of their feeling of the sacredness of marriage - many find out about all three of these before they enter into the marriage contract. A freedom should exist while making these decisions - not a feeling of being in bondage. James Kavanaugh in his book - The Birth of God - says the complexity of human love in today's world cannot be handled by a simple dictum. We share the ancient value for human love and the marriage bond, but pre-marital sex is a private matter, not something for public legislation or tribal law - it can be the beginning of great personal growth and the foundation of a friendship which later blooms into a lasting relationship. The very idea of attempting to produce a responsible man through law is ridiculous. Law, especially tribal law, does not make a loving and concerned human being - and modern society is too complex to be reached by the heavy-handedness of ancient law- but religious leaders still attempt it. All too many marriages have been entered into to legalize the sex act. Modern youth is concerned with the kind of personal closeness and honest communication that makes marriage possible - so he prepares for marriage by reflecting on the kind of relationship that can bring happiness and personal fulfillment.

No matter what anyone thinks, pre-marital sex is a growing phenomenon in our society, and the modern parent or philosopher has to deal with it realistically. Could this behavior change be the mores rather than morality? I think so! The Wall Street Journal recently had an article on Cooperative Living. It seems to be catching on among professionals, middle-age workers, etc. Several families go together and rent - or buy - an old, big house. Cooperative Living differs from communes - which normally are rural communities founded on religious or political principles, whose membership pool all their assets and income. Cooperatives are usually located in cities and though many of them share some features with communes - their members frequently keep their own earnings and hold in common only living quarters - usually 4 to 6 families - depending on the size of the "big house" they

rent for this purpose. They take turns baby-sitting, cooking, cleaning, etc. Could we say - in the main - the motive behind the evolving communal life and cooperative living could be to learn to love and share - socialize with our brothers - is it good?

*(p.1458) The spiritually blind individual who logically follows scientific dictation, social usage, and religious dogma stands in grave danger of sacrificing his moral freedom and losing his spiritual liberty. Such a soul is destined to become an intellectual parrot, a social automaton, and a slave to religious authority. THIS IS BEING AVOIDED TODAY!

DRUGS

Drugs very definitely fit into our Life Styles today. The "mind expanding" (hallucinatory) drugs have come and gone - if you are "with it" today. Many feel LSD started them on a beautiful religious experience - they had an awareness and yearning for God for the first time. They are very aware that these drugs are mind-damaging and all the intelligent youths of today are NOT interested in damaging their minds! In fact, there is a definite separation of those who use acid, speed, or hard drugs - and those who do not. Stable youth of today are interested in improving their minds - not destroying them.

Now marijuana is something else. Pot has been "institutionalized" in the colleges today. Of course it still isn't legal, but this will be forthcoming, no doubt. We can no more criticize our youth for smoking marijuana than we can criticize them - or anyone else - for drinking wine, gin, rum, vodka, beer - any alcoholic beverage. It is not mind-destroying as the LSD, speed, etc., are. Of course, if you are opposed to any alcoholic drink, you have every right to be opposed to pot, but in spite of all the "square" ideas about it - it could be here to stay, and if not used to excess could not be too damaging. As soon as it is legalized, it will lose some of its intrigue. Most adventuresome youth have to try it at least - and should we condemn them? Jesus viewed mankind positively? Can we?

MUSIC

Need I tell you music has changed? I love the new rock music and from the sell-outs at the rock concerts that are constantly being held - many other people do too. Especially our youth. We don't hear quite so much hard "acid" rock now, but the Rolling Stones - "The Stones" are still THE hard rock band. Some soft tones have been added and many types and variations. Even classical music is now mixed with rock. The Beatles will be popular forever - Moody Blues, Elton John, Jethro Tull, Donovan, Cat Stevens, Bread, Three Dog Night, The Who, Chicago, James Taylor, Carol King, Neil Diamond, Leon Russell (many of these from England) - and even Elvis Presley has made a comeback and still thrills some of our middle-age women. Lawrence Welk is still a favorite of the older generation - but the music of today that really "turns you on" is ROCK. Listen to it sometime - each song has a message for all of us and the rhythm - the beat - is the greatest!

RELIGION

Religion of necessity must enter into our Life Styles. Alvin Toffler in Future Shock says that - "Future shock is our ability or inability to cope with the rapidly accelerated rate of change that is occurring in our Western Society - and change is the process by which the future invades our lives." He said - "Life Style is the way in which the individual expresses his identification with this or that subcult - he gets a set of values appropriate to his way of life, a corollary set of attitudes, based on norms that are identifiable - a sense of identity, a sense of belonging - but he pays - for he is pressured. If we go along, it rewards us with warmth, friendship, and approval."

We have to admit there are many subcults - mini-cults - in existence today, just in the religious field - the Jesus Freaks, the Jesus People - and several variations of this. Some of the Jesus people claim to be offshoots of the Campus Crusaders for Christ. The Charismatic movement - speaking in tongues (glossolalia) - has invaded the Roman Catholic and Episcopal churches, as well as most all others. The Christian Church is divided - Christian and Christian-Disciples of Christ. There is Yoga, Transcendental Meditation, Mark Age, Edgar Cayce, and a recent one we came in contact with is Unification. The Eastern Religions seem to be the answer to some Life Styles - and many offshoots of everything.

I disagree with Toffler that there is pressure in all, but admittedly there is in some - especially in Campus Crusades and the Jesus groups. The mediums, automatic-writing, psychopaths (as Charles Manson was described by Alan Harrington in his book "Psychopaths"), the psychics, those astute in ESP, the Mind-Control groups, and on and on - have a place in the changing behavior and mores of today. Harrington also says that perhaps we are going to discover in times of stress, particularly times of transition when orthodox religions no longer comfort the masses of people, mental health rushes toward illness out of a longing for salvation.

The Urantia Book can take care of this problem - revelation to help evolution!

Toffler also says - as did an article in Psychology Today recently - too many changes too fast - make for illness. They even predicted illness from the number of changes and the seriousness of the change - and the minor to major illness that could result. I disagree with them in detail - but not on the whole. I have personally proved them to be wrong. I should be in intensive care, according to their chart.

Dr. Thomas A. Harris in "I'm OK - You're OK" says there is a parent, adult, and child (PAC) in each of us and the adult should take over. (Transactional Analysis - parent represents the don'ts and dos; child represents emotion; and adult represents reality, decisions on data from experience.)

*(p.2082) In our worthy efforts to rid ourselves of the superstitious creeds of past ages, we must make sure to hold fast the eternal truth and be patient. When the present superstition revolt is over, the truths of Jesus' gospel will persist gloriously to illuminate a new and better way.

*(p.2082) Urantia is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment. Religion does need new leaders, spiritual men and women who will dare to depend solely on Jesus and his incomparable teachings. If Christianity persists in neglecting its spiritual mission while it continues to busy itself with social and material problems, the spiritual renaissance must await the coming of these new teachers of Jesus' religion who will be exclusively devoted to the spiritual regeneration of men. And then will these spirit-born souls quickly supply the leadership and inspiration requisite for the social, moral, economic, and political reorganization of the world.

Life Styles today reflect that modern man is searching for a religion which is *(p.2083) consistent with facts and in harmony with truth, beauty, and goodness. The hour is striking for a rediscovery of the true and original foundation of present-day distorted and compromised Christianity - the real teachings of Jesus. Our youth are disillusioned with human greed, war-madness, and the lust for power. Jesus' religion, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, seems to be calling to the best there is in man to rise above all these legacies of animal evolution and attain moral heights of true human destiny.

B. F. Skinner - leading behaviorist today - (Walden Two and Beyond Freedom and Dignity) - says we aren't capable of making decisions. Everyone is writing books, articles, teachings, preaching - doing their own thing - on telling us how fast changes are being made - how up-tight everyone is, and they all have their own ideas on how to salvage our society, the world. The Urantia Book told us of these same problems, plus a solution - almost 20 years ago!

MIND

*(p.1090) During the psychologically unsettled times of the 20th century, amid the economic upheavals, the moral crosscurrents, and the sociologic rip tides of the cyclonic transitions of a scientific era, thousands upon thousands have become humanly dislocated; they are anxious, restless, fearful, uncertain, and unsettled; as never before in the world's history they need the consolation and stabilization of sound religion. In the face of unprecedented scientific achievement and mechanical development there is spiritual stagnation and philosophic chaos. Religion has suffered from many secondary influences, sudden mixing of cultures, intermingling of creeds, diminution of ecclesiastical authority, changing of family life, together with urbanization and mechanization. Partial progress - unfinished growth - forsaking the evolutionary religions of fear without immediately grasping the revelatory religion of love. Science has weakened only those religions which are so largely dependent upon fear, superstition and emotion. Transition is always accompanied by confusion. *(p.1020) Civilization is in danger when youth neglect to interest themselves in ethics, sociology, eugenics, philosophy, the fine arts, religion, and cosmology. But this era is passing - perhaps has passed today.

*(p.1177) Will creatures traverse three general developmental stages of being: from the arrival of the Adjuster to comparative full growth - about 20 years of age on Urantia - the Monitors are sometimes designated Thought Changers. From

this time to the attainment of discretion, about 40 years, the Monitors are called Thought Adjusters; and from the attainment of discretion to deliverance from the flesh - Thought Controllers.

Evolution has progressed - mind has developed (our "kids" are highly intelligent - they have more time and better methods for learning, and possibly - probably - more capacity) to the point more and more around the age of 20. They are acquiring an awareness of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. They are revolting - protesting - against "square" values; oppression of our political regime; the judgment and hypocrisy of the churches; and the conforming educational systems. They are more interested in service than profit. *(p.1548) They are interested in changing the rigid stereotyped educational curriculum. In Peanuts, Charlie Brown's little sister started writing a theme on the 4th of July and when Charlie told her school was out and she did not have to write about every holiday, she said it was amazing how programmed she had become.

SUMMARY AND GOALS

Jesus was young. *(p.1415) He spent much of his early life with his younger brothers and sisters - even Jude he coped with. *(p.1395) He experienced most of the frustrations, trials, and misfortunes modern youth encounter today. He spent much time with the youth of his times. His purpose of the Mediterranean trip was to get to know men. *(p.1428) He took time to tell Gadiab about Jonah and the whale. In Crete he told Fortune - *(p.1438) "When you become readjusted to live within yourself you become likewise readjusted to the universe." *(p.1402) Jesus did much to liberalize and modify the teachings and practices of his day.

*(p.1465) In Rome the Creator of a universe spent several hours restoring a lost child to his anxious mother. Jesus found him crying in distress, and said "...most human beings are like the lost child. They spend much of their time crying in fear and suffering in sorrow when, in very truth, they are but a short distance from safety and security, even as this child was only a little way from home. And all those who know the way of truth and enjoy the assurance of knowing God should esteem it a privilege, not a duty, to offer guidance to their fellows in their efforts to find the satisfactions of living. Those who lead men to God experience the supreme satisfaction of human service."

*(p.1621) The Master spent an entire day - one of his last - in the hills with young John Mark. *(p.1582) Jesus was not a moral reformer. His few denunciations were largely directed against pride, cruelty, oppression, and hypocrisy. *(p.1543) Go seek for the sinners; find the downhearted, and comfort the anxious. *(p.1594) Jesus paid no attention to public opinion - he seldom paused to correct misunderstandings or resent misrepresentations. *(p.1545) Jesus had a profound respect and sympathetic regard for every human being he met - uniform and unvarying consideration to all sorts of men, women, and children. Nothing ever seemed so important as the individual human who chanced to be in his immediate presence - he was master and teacher, but more - also friend, neighbor, and understanding comrade.

*(p.1431) "To become acquainted with one's brothers and sisters, to know their problems and to learn to love them, is the supreme experience of living."

*(p.1460) Always Jesus' message was: the fact of the heavenly Father's love and the truth of his mercy, coupled with the good news that man is a faith-son of this same God of love. His usual technique of social contact was to draw people out and into talking with him by asking them questions and end by their asking questions. As a rule, to those he taught the most, he said the least. Those who derived most benefit from his personal ministry were overburdened, anxious, and dejected mortals who gained much relief because of the opportunity to unburden their souls to a sympathetic and understanding listener, and he was all that and more.

*(p.1456) Never once did he attack the errors or even mention the flaws in their teachings as he worked with the many in his public ministry on his trip to Rome. In each case he would select the truth in what they taught and then proceed so to embellish and illuminate this truth in their minds that in a very short time this enhancement of the truth effectively crowded out the associated error. He was always gentle. *(p.1592) To the apostles he said, regarding Teherma, the Persian "fire worshiper," "...how often have I told you to labor only to put something into these hungry souls? Lead men into the kingdom and the great and living truths of the kingdom will presently drive out all serious error." He took nothing away!

*(p.2085) The praiseworthy desire to preserve traditions of the past achievement often leads to defense of outgrown systems. The well-meant desire to foster ancient thought systems effectually prevents the sponsoring of new and adequate means and methods designed to satisfy the spiritual longings of the expanding and advancing minds of modern men.

*(p.1745) "Do not allow yourselves to become blinded by prejudice and paralyzed by fear - neither permit reverence for tradition so to pervert your understanding that your eyes see not and your ears hear not."

Is our mission to be negative - establishment, square, red-necked, dictatorial, closed-minded, unyielding, uncompromising, intolerant, critical? - or can we actively work and aspire to be positive, understanding, appreciative, complimentary, and direct, guide, share, inspire, and contribute - by emulating Jesus' Life Style?

I am well aware of the irresponsible among the youth who would rather protest and demonstrate than work, who would rather talk than act. They are the drifters and cowardly rebels that the openness of new freedom brings. They are too immature to recognize the chance that they have, too proud to seek help, too lazy and indifferent to make decisions or to have goals. They are the leeches who live off the society they condemn - BUT - they do not represent the youth of today - the new spirit among our young! These few are merely the excuse that permits the fearful "ultra-squares" to believe that nothing has really changed; that youth should be seen and not heard; that all "kids" are irresponsible and anxious to criticize old methods without a positive workable plan for replacement. The new spirit in our youth does not want to be made to feel guilty, or frightened - he wants love, understanding, to be heard, kindness, honesty, and respect. HE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY!!! He is not interested in being what his parents want him to be, but what he has to be - himself, and he is not afraid to work and struggle and go it on his own.

The greatest two things that have happened to Urantia since Jesus revealed the love of God for all mankind 2,000 years ago are - the beautiful, stable, yearned-for teachings of the Urantia Book and our youth of today!

Could we, of the older generations - and this could apply to our aware youth also - contribute by following the guide lines Jesus gave us? William S. Sadler, Jr., in his book - A Study of The Master Universe - says: "The Universal Father has equipped each of us royally. He has invested us with the priceless powers of choice that accompany his gift of personality. He has entrusted to our custody a small portion (an Adjuster fragment) of his own unfathomable nature to serve as our spirit nucleus and as our pilot to Paradise. And having endowed us richly, he challenges us greatly, and then abides patiently to see what we will do with what we have..."

We can, I feel, meet this challenge and make a great contribution to today's Life Styles - with accent and awareness on our youth - our hope for the present and the future - not only for our country, but for carrying the teachings of the Urantia Book to the people of the world.

Can we - No. 1. LISTEN?

No. 2. BE GENTLE?

No. 3. TAKE NOTHING AWAY?