

Speaking on the subject - Some reflections on the Urantia Book - can, as you will immediately recognize, produce a discussion which will be reflective only of my own personal encounter with this revelation and the repercussions which were the direct result of this experience. As such they were and are personal and cover about 27 years contact with the Urantia Papers.

Because they are personal, there will undoubtedly be many areas where our interests are not common. It is my hope today that the range of reflections and speculations we explore together will be sufficiently varied that somewhere along the line some responsive thoughts may arise in the minds of each person here - that as kindred spirits we may sense some common melodies. It can be no other way, for Our Father in his infinite wisdom has created each of us very individual and unique beings, placed us in an environment of extreme variety and then given us a common mandate - "Be ye perfect, even as I am perfect."

It does not take much thought to appreciate the nearly infinite magnitude of the possibilities for near infinite variety of unique individual experience.

and even as we eliminate the dross and discard those experiences whose survival characteristics are doubtful, the ~~same~~^{sum} total of that which will survive is far beyond our present conceptual capacity to even imagine. This is a big world, this is a big universe; and we at this moment stand at the point of contemplation when our whole universe career is spread out before us, a prospect that can be nothing more than sheer exhilaration as we understand just a little bit more of its magnitude each time we read the Urantia Book.

I am glad I started out as a human being, and not as an angel - my wife always comments at this point "no cho" and I agree, but far beyond this is the realization that no matter how long it takes for each of us, no matter how many and complex the problems, no matter how great and disturbing the disappointments each will provide an opportunity for growth and progress that will be different for each of us. Our own achievements will eventually mark our own growth toward God and each step of the way will yield knowledge and experience which each of us will synthesize into our own

exclusive bit of wisdom, the sum total of which sometime in the now indiscernable future will make its contribution to the unification of the worlds and societies of the inhabited bodies of the grand universe. Every time we conquer a recalcitrant mood, every time we make a decision which enhances our maturity, every time we move just one more small step away from the instincts we by necessity inherit from our animal-like forbearers and make one more step towards self-control, so do we move slowly but surely along that pathway toward personality unification, the ideal of which was so superbly portrayed in the life experience of Jesus of Nazareth on this very planet. At the same time we are unconsciously cooperating with and helping the Supreme, each of us in our own way, as he ^{THE SUPREME} on a far far grander scale is working toward the unification and stabilization of all the universes out here in time and space. We are in partnership with God, not only in our very minds and souls, but in our entire incomprehensible

to us but also on a scale beyond our comprehension. In talking about some reflections on the Urantia Book we are actually going thru a process of observing the partial evolution of a Urantian in the here and now. Not in theory, in our minds attempting ^{the} fantasy of what life on the Mansion Worlds will be like but on this world in this life.

I am glad I began as a human being, the only creature above the animal with survival potential. The creature for whom the journey to the presence of God is longest in both a qualitative and a quantitative sense; a journey that will be replete with experience, challenge and opportunity, trial and error, which we will experience and then will emerge with the wisdom that will encompass the experience of every phase of every level of every world, and of every actuality therein, and all of this will be an experience in both the actuals of all levels ~~to~~ and the universe philosophy which will permit us to understand the meanings of both levels and experience. ~~And it will all be~~ And it will all be

an earned possession of our very own.

All of us I believe eventually settle a some phrases in the Urantia Book which seem to open to our actual physical and intellectual consciousness new insights not only to the "hows" and "whys" of the future but also to those of our very present. One which has meant so very much to me is "The progressive comprehension of reality is the equivalent of approaching God." To me this is the key to my response to that mandate "Be you perfect even as I am perfect."

I hear people say "I am trying to do the will of the Father". But there I encounter a problem. I have failed so far to know of an absolute certainty exactly what the will of the Father is; but I hope to slowly gain an ever growing insight into those things which may lead me toward our Father as each day I try to progressively comprehend a little more reality knowing that that which is good is real and that which is evil is unreal even to the perversion of a small bit of reality for an unreal purpose. As I grow and progress I have faith

that I will truly know more and more about the will of God commensurate only with my capacity at any one time to contain it. You remember - "a pint can never hold a quart."

When ~~we~~ we read "God created this world not in vain, he created it to be inhabited" the statement means to us that this very planet we live on came into existence for a purpose. When we regard this very statement as having meaning we have given it a philosophical position. It is no longer just cold fact. Now to me this started a chain of events for I wanted to know more about this world and this led me to Geology. Once there I was impelled toward Astronomy and Anthropology. Suddenly these seemingly dry, detailed sciences were no longer precise catalogues and detailed educated guesses but open doorways to greater understanding of the physical reality about us whose meaning becomes that without it we would be as individuals meaninglessly suspended in space without support or sustenance.

Geology leads us to a history of our planet and some very amazing facts become evident. A serious student today finds it rationally difficult to

study Geology and Paleontology and not note the evolutionary mechanics working throughout the history of this planet slowly, ever so slow and ^{so} thoroughly - to produce man and a climate he can live in, and geologically speaking, they both arrived at about the same time. Now the Urantia Book calls Evolution "creativity in time." Remove the hundreds of millions of years involved and we would see only pure creativity.

Man as we know him is a very interesting creature. He is not inherently modest. History of his concepts relating himself to nature bear eloquent testimony to this statement. He modestly states that man is made in God's image but history shows he has consistently created God from his own image.

Man considers himself to be the epitome of development on this planet, the evolutionary capstone until very recently of sentient life in the whole universe. His egocentricity has been slowly changed as Astronomy has forced him to change the center of his physical universe from first this planet, to the Sun and finally to the center of our galaxy. He changes:

very slowly and resists all the way - Bruner died at the stake for this reason. One ultimate result was to separate science from religion but this separation has produced two apparent separate entities with dissimilar doctrines and no reconciliation. The Urantia Book teaches that both have different areas of interest as both search for truth, and that the reality each discovers is but a different phase of the same ultimate reality. A sense of reality generates true humility.

I recently took a Urantia Book to an astronomer I like and respect. The book had several sections marked, of interest to astronomers. He read these sections and reported: "I found it very interesting but I could not separate the astronomy from the religion and philosophy." To him these disciplines are separate and "ne're the twain shall meet." To us as students of this book we cannot have fact without meaning, and fact and meaning without value. Already, in our minds the process of unification is on its way. Because a fact is observably separate, we as Urantians have learned that this does not mean that it lacks meaning, but on a universe

and cosmological level it is reflective of the part it plays in assisting the outworking of the magnificent plans of our Father. We are in process of raising our sights above the dead level of the terrestrial horizon without leaving this planet.

However I am sure that not all of you may be attracted to the challenge of learning about things physical perhaps being satisfied to relegate that to your Minor Sector experience. Eventually you will encounter it all. So let's turn to everyday ~~life~~ life and start small. How many of you can look at a small baby and see it as something more than "a bundle of joy" or as new entity with a loud noise on one end and no sense of responsibility on the other - Can you look at this baby as practically zero universe actuality but with total divinity potential - which will some day be realized when Finaliter status is achieved. Can you see this baby begin the process of personality unification as you observe what is first apparently random motion but in reality is the beginning of efforts to control its own life-vehicle. Can you watch it at what is called play ~~and~~

and recognize that this is the technique it is using to progressively comprehend the reality which is a part of its environment. Can you see the self-discipline which it brings to its parents and the development of self-love which all true parents have for their offspring - so much like the love our Father has for us.

Can you go out in your automobile on a crowded highway and note without rancor the daily exhibitions of impatience which could be our legacy from ~~the~~ Lucifer. Sometimes when man is removed from direct physical contact with his fellows and given the least power like 125 horses behind a very thin sheet of steel he loses perspective. Do you wonder that the Urantia Book calls us semi-civilized. Impatience is spirit poison.

This same impatience is the direct opposite of evolution-creativity in time - for it fosters overrapid progress which eventuates in destructive revolution, the direct enemy of evolution. What man cannot understand, if it is a challenge to him, so he believes, he will attempt its destruction by one means or other

The balance between evolution and revolution is very delicate

There are a great many surprises in the Urania Book I have discovered, especially in Astronomy. Only recently has astronomy recognized and stated that the earth is a relatively new planet about 4-5 billion years old. The Urania papers told us that over 30 years ago.

Back in 1913 an astronomer Vesto M. Slipher discovered that several galaxies were speeding away from our solar system at unbelievable velocities, up to a million miles per hour. Later observations confirmed this as an observed phenomena. Without realizing it when developing it, Einstein's theory of relativity predicted ~~an~~ exploding universe. Further observations showed that apparently all galaxies were fleeing away from our system which would have suggested that we were again at the center of the universe. However celestial math was now sufficiently advanced to show that if we lived in another galaxy it would appear in the same context so we did this time avoid eccentricity. However as what was possibly observed - I say possibly - because I don't know was

-and please don't quote me - possibly either space respiration or the clockwise-counter-clockwise movements of the first and second outer-space levels. You see its going to take a long time for earth astronomers to tag space respiration because its on a two billion year cycle and earth astronomers with instruments of sufficient sensitivity have been observing for only about 65 years and historically recorded star-gazing about 7,000 years. Im sure actually its much longer - but we have no records.

Well, out of these observations came some conclusions and one was to look for the origin of the universe and the astronomers thought they had a method. If they could just mathematically reverse the direction of a apparent present travel of these speeding galaxies they would be able to trace them back to a common point and this would be where everything started. Of course as they brought everything to a common point they had to contend with an awful lot of matter so to handle this they reconverted it to energy and if you confine energy

enough it will just come bustin out all over and explode with a big bang. And so we have the origin of the big bang theory for the origin of the universe and its continuing explosion ever since. And all of this they calculated happened just about 20 billion years ago.

Now let me quote to you from page 651 of the Urantia Book, quote: "987 billion years ago associate force organizer and the acting inspector number 811,307 of the Orvonton series, travelling out from Uversa reported to the Ancients of Days that space conditions were favorable for the initiation of materialization phenomena in a certain sector of the, then easterly segment of Orvonton." Now about 87 billion years later a permit was issued to dispatch a force organizer, and you know the rest. My point is that without the reference points of the Urantia Book, but using the best instruments available to astronomy coupled with its best minds astronomers have been unable to push back in time ~~more than~~ ^{more than} 20 billion years. This is not said in criticism. We are, the book tells us, about 500 million years, or about halfway into the 1 billion year expansion phase of the space respiration cycle. Is it strange then that scientists who from our original point of view have done a

remarkable job of pushing time back 20 billion years. have missed the point by untold billions of years for the permit that was issued 900 billion years ago was for the initiation of materialization phenomena ~~for~~ which was to result in the eventual appearance of the local universe of Nebadon, now recognized as one of the younger universes in Orvonton whose first inhabited worlds date from about 200 billion years ago. But scientists have done all possible with the ^{availab} ^{obs} _{VAT.}

We must therefore attempt to stretch our time consciousness to the limit of our conceptual capacity. The data given above is very difficult of comprehension but we must recognize that tho 987 billion years ago, is about as far back in time as the Urantia ^{Book} makes reference to; actually time is immeasurably older and currently beyond our comprehension. And so we are here attempting the comprehension of reality on a cosmic level with the aid of a planetary level mind. Nevertheless is it strange that Jesus looked the Pharisee in the eye and calmly said "before Abraham was, I AM." This could be the understatement of all of our time.

The point of all of this is, with this kind of contemplation we are developing a tool to combat impatience. As long as we view our current existence only on its terms we will be inextricably caught

up in its currents and cross currents, drives and counter drives. As long as the framework of our reference frame remains exclusively our terrestrial horizon then we will be totally locked into this life and can never rise above just the best it can produce.

We who have found the Urantia Book are not doomed to the bonds of materialism, the dogmatism of either science or religion, the authoritarianism of fossilized philosophies or the closed boundaries of sectarianism. Every revelation in history has been for the purpose of broadening and raising man's intellectual and spiritual horizons. To show man the way to greater light and higher universe meaning. The Urantia Book revelations not only measure up to the requirements of revelation but provide the key which opens the door to higher, ever higher new insights and meanings to be derived from what we sometimes may consider our daily drudgery. The Urantia revelations give new light, new meanings, new inspiration to this life. Yes, this short intense life which we live on this planet.

Enjoy it, experience it, but do this within the much larger framework of a cosmic consciousness which permits and stimulates us to view this life not as

an isolated whole with happy beginnings and sad endings but as one short portion of a massively larger picture, one short phase of a tremendously larger, never ending cycle of ~~some~~ eternity in^{to} which we have now been born and are a part of. Let us not ever attempt to enclose this picture, this masterpiece within ~~a~~ a frame which would only be suitable for this life we now live on this planet. While still living in this life we can move thru it not with our eyes cast upon the ground to give us some confidence as we fearfully and cautiously take each step one at a time but rather with our sights set on the glorious vision which has been opened to our eyes and which can give us nothing but confidence and anticipation for the future.

You all know who said: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

[REDACTED]
3/28/78

Dear Tom:

Enclosed is copy
of talk at Tampa
per our discussion—

It is exactly as read

CONFIDENTIAL

Regards
Jim

not copy

RECEIVED
3/30/78