

The Mind of Man

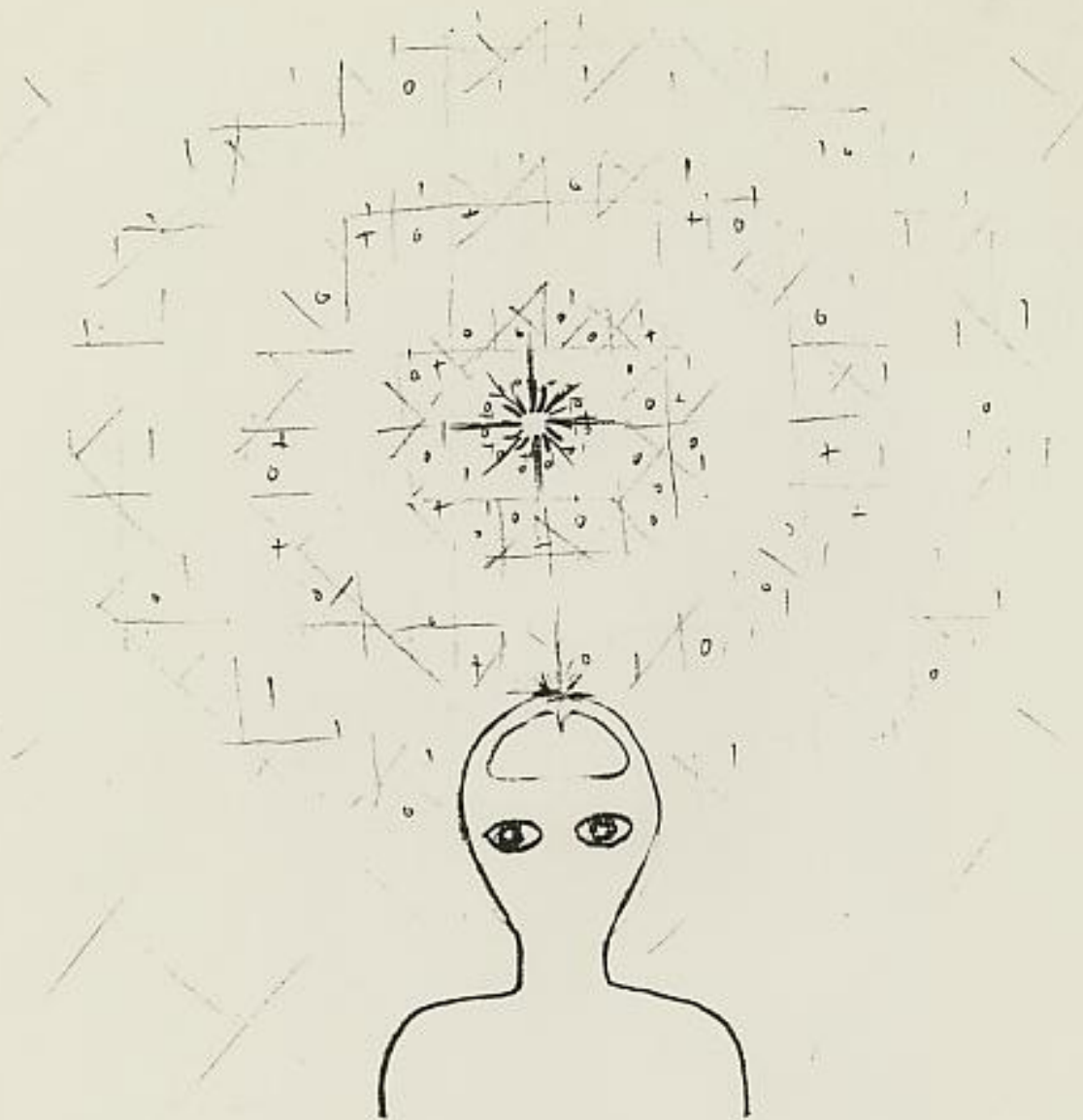
By

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Material in The Urantia Book, copyright 1955, by the Urantia Foundation which relates to this paper, The Mind of Man, may be found on pages: 103, 104, 140, 142, 195, 380, 435, 447, 483, 484, 533, 1185, 1186, 1205, and 1216.

Other material from The Urantia Book on the seven adjutants, the seven psychic circles, the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit, the soul and the Adjuster may be helpful in better understanding the mind and its function.



"Human consciousness rests gently upon the electro-chemical mechanism below and delicately touches the spirit-morontia energy system above. Of neither of these two systems is the human being ever completely conscious in his mortal life; therefore must he work in mind, of which he is conscious." - The Urantia Book, P.1216.

The Mind of Man

Our thoughts, our intellect, our perceptions, our belief systems, and the formulation of our attitudes are all reactive upon mind. This paper is an exploration into what is the mind, how it may function, and how we may use it more effectively--and for what purposes. Some ideas about mind seem self-evident due to the fact of our individual experience with our own minds; however, several perspectives and material from The Urantia Book may assist us in exploring this broad topic. The concern here will be to discuss the mortal mind as we on Urantia experience mind on the personal level.

On the conscious level we are aware of thoughts, ideas, and perceptions. We are also aware of grouping ideas and believed facts to arrive at conclusions, ideals, and theories. As a result of these experiences combined with our memory of past ideas, concepts and training--information which makes up our beliefs and knowledge, we view ourselves, our life experiences, with varying

Are "thoughts", "ideas" and "concepts" different? If so, how do you define them?

degrees of preconditioned limitations and freedom. We view life-its meaning, its value, its potential-from a personal perspective.

If we look at the extremes which lie at the far ends of our personal perspective; we perceive at one end the limitation of consciousness without a specific form, significance, or purpose--the minimal animal level of existence, and at the other end of our perception is the imagined totality of awareness-the all knowing, all perceiving, transcendental consciousness. Combined with an awareness of an inner spiritual reality and a sense of being limited, small, insignificant, and perhaps even unimportant, we formulate a system of beliefs on which we can function, on which we base our experiences.

This mental framework is an automatic development of our minds. As we change-the result of viewing our thoughts, new ideas, increased knowledge, and repetitious experiences, we automatically relate our perceptions and observations to that framework or system which we maintain within the realm of mind. We are always in the process of building and repairing, maintaining, and rearranging our mental structure of reality.

The more adventuresome, the more courageous we are,

the more we experiment with ideas and challenges to our reality framework. The more our life experiences differ from our belief systems, the more our ideas are confronted with actual application or changes in the world around us, the greater the need to evaluate our mental system of combined experience, beliefs, expectations, ideals, information, and desires. We examine our goals; we question meanings; we assign values.

With the intention of organizing and conceptualizing this experience of having a mind, for using it efficiently, and directing its function toward a wiser and more purposeful application; let us draw a mental picture of what the mind may be, how it may work, and what we can do with it-- where can we go? What can we become?

In order to draw this picture of the awareness aspect of our beingness and our use of it, we will first examine the origin and destiny of not only the mind, but the source of all that is--our highest concept of reality-- the Spirit Absolute--that which we call God.

We are personal. The source of all that is personal is the First Source and Center--the Universal Father. We are gifted with a free-will personality by "Our Father" who also indwells us as "The Spirit Within". It is these

two realities that the mature individual recognizes on the conscious level of mind as existing along with the living material body. These constitute the self--body, mind, and soul. In many persons, this self-awareness includes that absolute fragment of the Universal Father which The Urantia Book calls the Thought Adjuster or Mystery Monitor (The Spirit Within).

From the Second Source and Center, we experience that spiritual pull which is the spirit gravity of the Absolute Personality of the Eternal Son.

From the Third Source and Center, we have mind. All mind originates from the absolute mind of the Third Person of Deity and is distributed to the grand universe as cosmic mind through the Seven Master Spirits. We experience the local universe variant of the cosmic mind of our superuniverse.

Our destiny is to progress; and with the fullness of experience-the transformation from trial and error and limited awareness into the perfection of a spiritual reality-we will attain the presence of the Universal Father as a son of God.

With a realization of this destiny and recognizing that our source of personality, spirit, and mind are

bestowals of Deity, we can now perceive ourselves with value. In looking around us toward the world, our environment, from an evolutionary physical body, we can more effectively formulate the goal of attaining our destiny.

We are created as evolutionary beings, and when our consciousness, our mind potential, on this material level can become spiritualized into a growing reality-the soul, we become more than an electrochemical mechanism. We are endowed with intelligence. We have will-the freedom to choose. We can be co-creators of our experiences and divine destiny.

In that mental picture of how the mind works, let us first imagine a symbol of that fragment of absolute perfection, the Thought Adjuster-a spirit shining which is dedicated to improving, adjusting, modifying, and coordinating our thinking process.

Second, let us picture the potentially immortal soul. The Adjuster is devoted to building spiritual counterparts of our life experience-a morontia transcript of our true advancing self. They work in the higher levels of the human mind (the superconscious mind) producing morontia duplicates of every concept, ^{of spiritual value} of the mortal intellect. Adjusters do not directly influence human thought; human

thought is our exclusive personality prerogative. With free-will we make those choices, decisions, and commitments that influence the quality and content of our mental perceptions and gain the maturity of experience on the conscious level of mind.

Third, we need to view the subconscious mind; that arena which spans from the unconscious mechanical and instinctual levels of mind to the very edge of consciousness.

If we view mind as being omnipresent-existing everywhere, and we perceive the animal brain as being plugged into the circuits of this ever present mind; we can recognize that as a lamp is plugged into a socket, we can direct its light on our surroundings and more clearly "see" the objects and activities within the lighted area. We can use a larger or smaller light bulb to expand or diminish the range of our vision-the extent of clarity with which we are able to view an object on which we are focused.

In this way we have the use of mind. We use it as we will. We are limited in its use or we expand its use depending on our willingness to explore, discover, and achieve. We gather knowledge and facts as we apply

the use of mind. We view a small territory as our personal world with what little may exist there as all that is and with little purpose, meaning, or value; or we attempt to view the grand total of all that is, all that has been and all that will be, as the master universe that is our home and workshop. We can expand our awareness and perceive our increasing reality, join with our Thought Adjuster, and live in the presence of a loving and purposeful God. It is our will that chooses or rejects the will of God. It is between material inertia and spiritual eternity that we live in accordance with our sincerity, the decisions we make, and the identity we choose. All of this we do on the level of the conscious mind.

The Universal Father has given us personality and a spiritual destiny and lovingly accepts us as His children. We make that supreme decision to be a member of His family, a cosmic citizen, an ^{"ETERNAL" MIGHT BE BETTER} (infinite) reality.

In our attempt to realize our selves--to become more real, we apply our consciousness of mind, our thoughts, our thinking to the unfolding and discovery of reality. This examination includes the world around us and the inner life. We collect and sort a variety of facts, beliefs, theories, and test some of this data by experi-

mentation, identification with previous experience, material from other sources, and varying degrees of trust, hope, and even faith. All this is conditioned by our mind matrix-our reality framework. The very process of thinking, making choices and decisions, evaluations and assigning meanings and values, ^a effects changes not only in our thinking and arriving at conclusions along the way, but in the very mental framework from which these ideas were associated and manipulated.

This is not to imply that processes of mind are necessarily consciously self-directed. The actual experience of living forces the application of mind processes. Assignment of negative and positive values; perception of depths of meaning; intention, attitude, and desires all contribute to thinking and effect thinking processes. The more directed our thinking is, the more conditioned it becomes to that direction towards which we are focusing. The greater the perspective and the more complete and accurate the data we have accumulated relative to the perspective, the greater the potential for accuracy of viewpoint. The greater the gaps or holes in the view of reality of that which we observe, the greater is the potential for error and inaccurate conclusions.

A mind can be so focused as to have attained a considerable amount of factual data on a particular subject or type of experience, and yet be almost wholly lacking in other necessary or associated and related information; thus is the potential for functional application of knowledge limited.

One individual may possess the potential for a really great mind, yet use it so poorly as to render their ideas and concepts impractical, nonfunctional, and even pathetic. Another may be only adequately endowed with the mind potential for functional living, yet have the daring and courage, the faith and desire to so use their mind, that they break through the material inertia level of human existence to ever increasing levels of mental efficiency, spiritual wisdom and insight, and gain control over their physical domain. One can even become so balanced, so effective, that they exemplify the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

The greatest of personal experiences, the most real knowing, is when that transcendent contact with the divine Adjuster allows for the display of an event of destiny. When a sincere personality dares to so commit to the divine leading that they are given the promise

of eternal fusion with the divine Adjuster, when they are in the presence of the Creator Son of the Universe, when they accept the finality of the sonship of God and the brotherhood of all men-of all the children of God.

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It is in the arena of the mind of each mortal to will to live as he will, to choose as he chooses, to dare to transcend to the heights of the Supreme,) even to the peaks of a personal relationship with the Universal Father, and to become a self-realized, eternal reality.

What does this mean? →

We can get to know our fellows, to learn how they think, how they feel about their life experiences; and then we cannot help but love them. We can get to know the Universal Father, to learn to know that He bestows with His love all that we will accept; and then we cannot do other than love Him. We can learn to know ourselves and no longer resist the challenge of exploring and assisting in the unfoldment of the plan of God--to participate in the most exhilarating of all adventures--the unending process of self-realization and God discovering.

One of the unique qualities of mind is the ability to project your focus to any realizable level--even to the level of the Universal Father. In the attempt to find a solution to a problem or to learn about the world around us,

we can gather together facts, theories, and experiences of others-any relative or associated data. We can organize this information, assign meanings and values, and recognize the scope and relative significance of the apparent facts and theories which pertain to the specific problem or area of focus. We can recognize where we lack data and imagine a variety of possibilities, ideas, or theories which may effect our approach or examination. The more thorough and complete is our reserach; the more possible is our understanding of the subject; the greater is the potential for a new discovery; the more efficient utilization of the data; and the more functional, meaningful, or even valuable is the foundation on which to build new and better concepts about the topic we are exploring.

There is an experience which sometimes occurs when a person trains his mind to efficiently take into account all the pertinent information related to a topic or subject under observation. After studying and becoming fully familiar with the topic and imagining possibilities, implications, or applications of this knowledge; a phenomena-a new insight-an original concept(at least to that person) occurs. In the more self-disciplined mind this occurrence of gaining insights becomes an increasingly

frequent experience.

When an efficient self-disciplined mind is focused on an area which relates to scientific, social, creative, or philosophic areas--an area which would or could influence the direction of another person or society, and the impact of insight is significant and recognized; there is potential for great growth or progress. When an individual mind thus effects such an idea, the repercussions may be magnificent. We call such a person, a genius. When this genius is spirit-led, directed by his own choice by his Thought Adjuster, there can resound such repercussions as to change the world. The power of the mind is unlimited. ? The power of a God-knowing mind is beyond comprehension.

Another phenomena which occurs within the arena of mind is the direct result of the unity, balance, poise, and symmetry of a personality who so uses their mind as to effect a transcendental level of reality. This is more than consciousness awareness or insight. When this occurs, the reality of the person is increased along with their potential of mindedness. They literally experience a growth and expansion of mind potential, functional reality, and an increased awareness and functional utilization of the superconsciousness. A person who is thus becoming

more and more self-realized and more and more soul-directed is approaching conscious communication with their Thought Adjuster. The will of the individual is effectively becoming the will of God.

Progressively the increasingly self-realizing individual becomes less and less oriented or concerned with the mechanistic and materialistic aspects of mortal living. This is not to say that this type of individual does not relate to the material aspects of living--rather it is to recognize that he has mastered the limitations or the confines of the material level to the extent that the importance and focus of his living is far above the material plane on which most people of our times are functioning.

When one who is so balanced and has mastered the mind usage to this extent and has also become efficient in the tools of intellectual usage--the language symbols of science or philosophy, or the communication techniques of music or art; then will such an individual have the power to contribute to and elevate the planetary level of consciousness in his field. When well socialized, Adjuster attuned and soul-directed, love motivated and cosmically conscious, this type of powerful superhuman is

fast approaching the morontia level of reality.

The increasingly aware individual becomes more and more conscious of the attitude and ministry of those morontia and spiritual directors of our sphere. They are more efficiently involved in the functional progress and the uplifting activities which contribute to the true welfare of our planet and our society. There is the recognition and respect for the free-will, self-choosing, and cosmic rights of others. They have developed a trust in the plans of God and go about their tasks and duties with the assured confidence and peace of mind that God's plan is working.

The assurance of their faith and the knowledge (true knowing) that all who so desire to know God and become like Him will, transforms these self-realized souls into beings possessed of true human dignity.

The mind is the arena in which we battle, in which we conquer, in which we evaluate, in which we make those decisions, those repercussions which flash to the very presence of the mind of God.

The sincere mind cannot help but find God, know
God, and love God.

The sincere mind cannot help but love and serve man.

The sincere mind cannot help but become self-realized.

The sincere mind cannot help but grow a mighty soul.

The sincere soul cannot help but fuse with that
Absolute Fragment of the Universal Father, the Spirit
Within, the Mystery Monitor, the Thought Adjuster.

The sincere person will become the Will of God.