

Feb. 4, 1957

Dr. Meredith J. Sprunger
307 N. Plymouth St.
Culver, Indiana

Dear Dr. Sprunger:

I received your parcel of condensations of the Urantia Book, and I hasten to write you that we are in serious trouble with the copyright laws.

We have had many persons who have wanted to make such a condensation and the Urantia Foundation has always refused permission. The public circulation of such a document would destroy the copyright of the Urantia Book both in this country and in other countries.

We hasten this letter off to you in order that you may identify each copy you have made and retain personal possession of it. That is, if others have it, it is understood that you loan it to them and they must return it to you. This is the best I know how to advise you until the Urantia Foundation can advise you. I am very sure they will not approve of this condensation for public circulation.

In accordance with copyright law, I had to have written permission from the Foundation to use quotations from the Book in my Doctrinal Studies, and, in addition, I was required to copyright the Doctrinal Studies to prevent their duplication.

The copyright law permits quotations of a paragraph here and there, as in book reviews, if due credit is given.

I am sure you see that if people here and there were permitted to make their own condensations of the Urantia Book they could take material out of context and the ultimate confusion would be almost comparable to the divisions of Protestantism.

It is no doubt proper to make outlines, diagrams, synopses, and what not of the Book, but when it comes to direct quotations of large portions, it just cannot be done for public circulation. I suggest that you locate each copy of this document and see that it is returned to you.

Now let me tell you what you could do. You could formulate a condensed plan, give reference to pages, paragraphs, and so forth after the plan of Alvin Kulieke in his conduct of the Topical Study of the Book in the Urantia School. I am enclosing a sample page to illustrate this point.

I am sure you see that if these matters were not controlled, in ten years from now, we would have in circulation twenty-five different condensed variations of the Urantia Book.

Now there is nothing to prevent you, or any one responsible, in the future writing a condensed story of the Book -- say, for children, adolescents, and so on -- in which the story would be told in your own language, based on the Urantia revelation, and even with direct quotations here and there. The Urantia Foundation would no doubt approve of such an undertaking.

I am sure when you think this matter over you will grasp its importance and also recognize the dangers of multiple and uncontrolled condensations of the Book.

Sincerely,

William S. Sadler

WSS/ar

Feb. 4, 1957

Dear Dr. Sprunger:

Since writing you this morning I have hurriedly read your condensation of the Urantia Book. I certainly think it is a magnificent job. I was able to observe only one error -- I think it is on Page 5. It concerns the three locations where the Life Carriers implanted the original life.

But there is such a mass of direct quotations from the Urantia Book that something will have to be done about the matter as concerns the copyright law.

Are you going to be in Chicago soon? If we could have a visit it would be much easier to iron these things out than to try to do it by correspondence.

Cordially,

William S. Sadler

WSS/ar