

MARRIAGE AS PORTRAYED IN THE URANTIA BOOK

by

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I would like to speak with you this morning about marriages' capacity to foster and enhance individual spiritual progress. I'll confine my comments in this short presentation to what the URANTIA Book contains relating to this aspect of the marriage institution. It will not be possible to do anything but present a very small part, surely only the tip of a veritable iceberg of inspirational teachings regarding this unique and indispensable adventure in our universe careers.

* In the URANTIA Book marriage and the family is exalted as the pinnacle of man's evolutionary attainment. On page 941, the Chief of Seraphim enthuses "Marriage with children and consequent family life is stimulative of the highest potentials in human nature and simultaneously provides the ideal avenue for these quickened attributes of mortal personality." (941: 9)

* Rodan of Alexandria, that most lucid philosopher disregarded by non-revelatory historians, commented wisely in his conversations with the apostles Nathaniel and Thomas, observing that "Personality association and mutual affection is an efficient insurance against evil." He continues, "There is positive strength in the knowledge that you live for the welfare of others, and that these others likewise live for your welfare and advancement. . . Such inspiring and ennobling association finds its ideal possibilities in the human marriage relation." (page 1776:4)

* The planetary Chief of Seraphim says on page 938:6 that "Marriage, the basis of homebuilding, is the highest manifestation of that antagonistic co-operation which so often characterizes the contacts of nature and society."

Though it would seem that a great many 20th century marriages incorporate less co-operation than antagonism. We still can't live without each other.

* Marriage represents the opportunity to experience in a real sense the Fatherhood of God latent with possibilities for the realization of, as the Chief of Seraphim presents on page 939:7, "The enlarged understanding of the privilege of procreation--giving sons to the Father." This enlarged understanding is attended by enhanced appreciation of responsibility and obligation, both important conditioners to the attainment of maturity.

Within the marriage relationship we may cultivate the latent potentials for the development of unselfishness through loving service. That same self forgetfulness and cosmic concern for his fellows which won Jesus their love and devotion.

Jesus, while speaking to the conniving pharisees in Jericho who sought to maneuver the Master to a blasphemous reply, Jesus cleverly avoided their efforts to entrap him into denouncing their divorce laws, and proceeded to exalt the highest ideals regarding marriage. To his own apostles Jesus said, "Marriage is honorable and is to be

desired by all men... It is the divine will that men and women should find their highest service and consequent joy in the establishment of homes for the reception and training of children in the creation of whom these parents become co-partners with the makers of heaven and earth, and for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they two shall become as one." (page 1839:5)

A fuller understanding of this oneness the Master spoke of, has in my marriage, been enhanced by the URANTIA teachings. Both my wife and myself are assisted in our efforts to steadily evolve in the perfection of our union by such inspiring words as those of Jesus and Rodan. These superb teachings are invaluable in the preparation for our children.

We are reminded repeatedly of the importance of the experience of parenthood. But what allowances are made for those who fail to achieve this during their mortal careers? We are indebted to a Melchizedek who assures us that "though we may be deprived of this experience during our sojourn on URANTIA, on the seven mansion worlds ascending mortals are afforded ample opportunities for compensating any and all experiential deprivations suffered on their worlds of origin, whether due to inheritance, environment, or unfortunate premature termination of the career in the flesh. For no surviving mortal, midwayer, or seraphim may ascend to Paradise, attain the Father, and be mustered into the corps of finality without having passed through that sublime experience of achieving parental relationship to an evolving child of the worlds or some other experience analagous and equivalent thereto." (516:2-3)

There is so much available to us all, for the true worth of marriage is the relationship itself, the values and potential spiritual progress latent within the day to day service and compromise involved in socializing to different perspectives into a harmonious co-operation. The maintenance of his family is man's most fulfilling task while here on URANTIA, and certainly the most demanding of his spiritual accomplishments. And in a time when divorce is as easy to obtain as a subscription to a newspaper, when child abuse is the greatest cause of death among children in our nation, and the very foundations of man's greatest evolutionary achievement are cracking due to ghetto pressures, over-attention to materialism, and unbridled pleasure seeking. A fuller understanding of the URANTIA marriage teachings is now more than ever urgent and imperative.

For as we are admonished by that same Melchizedek, "The relationship of child to parent is fundamental to the essential concept of the Universal Father and his universe children. Thus does such an experience become indispensable to the experiential training of all ascenders." (page 516:3)

Now having presented just a small part of the information on this subject contained in the URANTIA Book, we would like to swing into the second half of our presentation, some questions and answers about what our three marriages have been doing. To begin the presentation, my friend and brother Patrick McNelly.