

# A STUDY OF THE EVOLUTION AND INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE

by

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There was once a time on this planet when the local matchmaker determined every marriage. Such a high place was put upon getting married that children were married to one another before they were born and the bachelors and spinsters were married after they died. What is the great irony is that the URANTIA Book tells us that the chances of a marriage surviving in those times was equal to the chances for a marriage today. It is much easier to get married today - you can do your own matchmaking and you don't have to be dead - but that doesn't necessarily mean progress.

Olden tribes, never studied by human anthropologists but observed and documented in the URANTIA Book, once required that a man be an accomplished thief before he was allowed to take a bride. Our comic strip characters showing burly cave men with clubs banging the heads of their local ladies and dragging them off to be their cave wife is an image that closely resembles the age of wife stealers. Not too different today except that now it is called wife "swapping."

Some tribes were reported to once have had riddle contests to determine who would get the first choice of the season's brides. Another primitive folkway is the occasion where the relatives of the married couple file through the nuptial chamber on the newlyweds wedding night.

\* Many psychologists and theologians will tell us that the animal man is a passionate beast with a sex drive ready to emerge whenever the progressive man, the sexless, inhibited, celibate one, fails to dominate. The URANTIA Book tells us that primitive man had virtually none of what we would call sex appeal. It might be thought that this is due to the fact that a certain toothpaste had been only recently invented, but the URANTIA Book lets us know otherwise on page 913, "The all absorbing sex passion of the more civilized peoples is chiefly due to race mixtures, especially where the evolutionary nature has been stimulated by the associative imagination and beauty appreciation of the Nodites and the Adamites. But this Andite inheritance was absorbed in such limited amounts as to fail to provide sufficient self-control for the animal passions thus quickened." (913: 5)

So the amount of the Violet race that we received was enough to provide us with an increased sex drive but not enough to help us control it. While it is not true that our baser sex tendencies are to be traced back to our animal ancestors it is true that our lack of self-control can. Rather than requiring that one avoid sex, the URANTIA Book suggests that all gospel believers be encouraged to marry.

\* The planetary Chief of Seraphim offers some further admonitions on page 914, "No human impulse, when unbridled and overindulged, can produce more harm and sorrow than this powerful sex urge. Intelligent submission to the regulations of society is the supreme test of the actuality of any civilization. Self-control, more and more self-control, is the ever increasing demand of advancing mankind." (914: 6)

Never before in the history of the planet has the home life undergone a greater challenge to its continuing existence. With faith waning in the outmoded beliefs of the religious institutions and the inability of money and property to hold a couple together, mankind needs a new and refreshing living demonstration of the supreme importance of marriage of a personal nature.

We know now that marriage is not a sacrament and that the passage in the Bible associating the joining of man and wife to the relationship between Christ and the Christian Church is a great misconception. We have also been told that the newly liberated status of woman is one of the primary moving forces behind the present changes in the mores.

\* The educational system should not be attempting to teach sex education, this being a responsibility that should rest solely with the parents. The schools should provide parents with child culture training and page 929 of the URANTIA Book tells us, "In so far as the social group falls short of providing marriage preparation for youths, to that extent must divorce function as the social safety valve which prevents still worse situations during the ages of the rapid growth of the evolving mores." (929: 2)

The mansion worlds offer parental training for those surviving mortals who were unable to experience parenthood while they were still alive. More and more will our grasp of the magnitude of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man be augmented by the understanding of the evolution and institution of marriage.

The study of the institution of marriage is one that could begin as far back as the moment when the Universal Father, in the presence of Paradise, brought into existence the Eternal Mother-Son. The study of the evolution of marriage dates from the time the first Creator Son and Creative Spirit entered into the time space adventure. Michael and his equal partner, the Local Universe Mother Spirit, personify the maximum of the ideal of marriage and ARE the actual parents of all finite beings in their Local Universe.

Marriage as an institution on our planet, URANTIA, began with the first two human beings, Andon and Fonta. It was a difficult situation that these two twins found themselves in. What with the generation gap existing then being so great, and the social antagonisms that went on with the rest of the clan so oppressive, that on a dark and stormy night, they decided to elope and unknowingly consummated the first URANTIAN marriage. This was long before the population explosion and the young couple thought nothing of having nineteen children.

\* Marriage did not progress far past that point, however, for over five hundred thousand years when the Planetary Prince arrived. Under the guidance of the corporeal staff, the marriage customs improved. The URANTIA Book tells us on page 750 that, "The definite order of family life and the living of one family together in one residence of comparatively settled location date from these times of Dalmatia. . . The home as a social unit never became a success until the supermen and superwomen of Dalmatia led mankind to love and plan for their grandchildren and their grandchildren's children."

The rebellion that followed did nothing to stop the biologic evolution but did effectively revert man back to his more primitive tribal associations. True family life was lost to the world to the point that it was as if the prince had never arrived in the first place.

\* Progress resumed when Adam and Eve arrived from Edentia. Their mission was primarily to give mankind the biologically superior Violet race but their lives were also a portrayal of a new revelation of marital harmony. Our long time friend Solonia, the angelic voice in the garden, tells us on page 836 of the URANTIA Book, "Adam endeavored to teach the races sex equality. The way Eve worked by the side of her husband made a profound impression upon all dwellers in the garden."

Through Adam and Eve's progeny, many of the ideals of the garden survived up until the arrival of Melchizedek. Machiventa's mission, it should be remembered, was as an emergency Son and did not directly concern the social institutions of that era. The religions that resulted from his teachings were of a high nature such that the family life of Joseph and Mary evolved to a point providing the proper environment for the arrival of Christ Michael.

The life that Jesus lived as the father of his mother's children will be looked upon for all ages as the highest level of personal devotion attainable. Because of the admonition of his Paradise Brother Immanuel, Jesus refrained from having children and could not/would not enter into a formally instituted marriage.

It is clear that marriage has not been given a full opportunity to manifest itself on our planet in an ideal form. If civilization is going to survive through progress, there must first come about a change in the collective consciousness of all of mankind. The realization of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man can not be a mere intellectual concept. It must be incorporated into the entire life-style of all new age URANTIANS. When man is willing to sacrifice his temporary selfish motivations for more long range goals, when man sees that the Family of God begins at home with him, then will our planet find the unity essential to overcome our tremendous difficulties.