

SEXISM AND
THE URANTIA BOOK
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AUTHOR' NOTE

This paper is written with a world view. The western cultures evince a significant amount of progress toward the evolution of the feminine aspects of The First Source and Center, in contrast to the majority of world cultures. This paper describes our world situations, not only the western societies.

In parenthesis within many quotes from The URANTIA Book are changes in gender language in keeping with the proposed alterations. These parenthetical words are mine.

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"The Universal Father is the God of all creation, The First Source and Center of all things and beings." "The names which the creature assigns the Creator are much dependent on the creature's concept of the creator." "The First Source and Center has never revealed himself by name, only by nature."¹ These words open The URANTIA Book. They point to one of the major problems of Urantia, and harbor our hope. They reflect our childish concepts of the entity we call, among other names, "God." Childish because we are virtually unschooled, and unaware of not only the nature of the First Source and Center, but also of the immaturity which retards us. They remove the limitations which religious and secular society have placed on our concepts of this Entity, who is, obviously more than we have known.

Heretofore, the world view of this Entity has been of a stern male God with emphasis on judgement, appeasement, and atonement. Even the much friendlier and more approachable "Goddess" and "Nature" are deities of fearful power and arbitrariness. In spite of numerous revelations to the contrary, history has bequeathed us, in the main a deity of patriarchal supremacy -- God The Father. This masculine mind-set which values conformity to divine representative authority, competition, rationalism, materialism, power, and ownership under the male human has brought the world to this point. In ways, it may accurately be said to have brought us to the brink of annihilation.

Larger numbers of people every year are rejecting the old value systems which centered on this loveless image of "God" as outworn and ill-fitting. They are searching the world over for religious and philosophical sources which include and honor a more feminine, wider and more humane view of ourselves and our cosmos. The URANTIA Book offers them this more mature vision as well as a more complete and accurate description of "God."

A new concept, born of evolution and revelation, is blossoming world wide and stresses love, compassion, intuition, balance of mind-body-spirit, a reliance on the "inner voice" for personal guidance, cooperation, ecological stewardship, and spiritual growth. This concept not only gives lip service to the high value of the "fruits of the spirit - love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance" - but also practices them.² These traits have long been both denigrated as feminine and sought after as the spiritual ideal. Such a contraposition by patriarchal society has pronounced us damned if we do and damned if we don't embody the fruits of the spirit. The female's practice of these virtues throughout "herstory" in the face of deliberately malevolent scorn has awarded her the honorable status of spiritual leader of humankind.³ The perception of "God" as a Father Patriarch no longer adequately describes our maturing concept of an Entity who embraces not only the female and the male essences, but vastly more as well.

This new concept, born with The Women's Movement, is a manifestation of the feminine aspect of The First Source and Center which has been covertly and overtly excluded from development on this planet. The continuation of spiritual growth and awareness is dependent on the continuation of this evolution. Spiritual growth is contingent on a balanced mental, emotional and material environment; a wholesome expression of selfhood. Patriarchy (sexual tyranny) is antithetical to balance and imposes a constant pressure on women by destroying their sense of self, and on men by favoring their participation in an immorality which borders on iniquity.

The URANTIA Book affirms throughout that The First Source and Center blesses each being with unstinting love and eternal potential without regard

of any kind. No individual is favored over another in creation, nor is any area, mind or sexual differentiation more blessed than any other. How dare men to presume their sex, minds, behaviors, or any other aspects of themselves to be better? How dare a man to usurp ownership of any person, any bodies, or wills or to declare himself entitled to the wholesale slaughter of ecosystems? The First Source and Center does none of the above, and is the creator of all. Ignorance is a poor excuse. Tradition is no excuse. "There is no error greater than that species of self-deception which leads intelligent beings to crave the exercise of power over other beings for the purpose of depriving these persons of their natural liberties."⁴ "No being, in the exercise of his (her, their) supposed personal liberty, has a right to deprive any other being of those privileges of existence conferred by the Creators and duly respected by all their loyal associates, subordinates and subjects."⁵ "With the Son (Second Source and Center) and in the Spirit (Third Source and Center) did God (First Source and Center) project eternal Havona, and ever since has there obtained the eternal pattern of co-ordinate participation in creation --sharing."⁶

The pattern existant on Urantia is patriarchy. Pride, egotism, and tyranny are the bedrock of this sexist error. Webster defines: Pride --high, inordinate opinion of one's dignity, importance, merit or superiority whether cherished in the mind or displayed in bearing or conduct; Egotism --obtrusive and excessive references to and emphasis upon oneself and one's importance to the extent of monopolizing attention and showing disregard of other's opinions; Tyranny -- cruel, oppressive and unjustly severe usurpation and/or exercise of power. "Of all the dangers which beset man's mortal nature and jeopardize his spiritual integrity, pride is the greatest. Courage is

valorous, but egotism is vainglorious and suicidal."⁷ "Pride is deceitful, intoxicating, and sin-breeding whether found in an individual, a group, a race, or a nation."⁸ "Unbridled self-will and unregulated self-expression equal unmitigated selfishness, the acme of ungodliness."⁹

Women have a heightened awareness of these characteristics of men. The oppressed always know the oppressor far better than the reverse. Their very survival depends on the acuity of this knowledge. The effect of these barbarian attitudes on women is extensive and devastating. Many of the male criticisms of females - bitterness, crankiness, dullness, fawning affectations, hypocritical abdications, deceit - are not an inherent trait of females, but the direct result of ages of subjugation. Any thinking person will see these behaviors as the expectable outcomes of tyranny.

The effect on society of the patriarchal system is clearly evident when seen from a spiritual viewpoint. "Today the nations of the world are directed by men who have a superabundance of ideas, but they are poverty-stricken in ideals. That is the explanation of poverty, divorce, war, and racial hatreds."¹⁰ We must melt down the crystallized concepts born of patriarchy in order to harmonize with the divine plan. Changing the basis of society from patriarchy to spirituality will necessarily cause cataclysmic upheavals. Molting obsolete traditions causes confusion, pain, withdrawal and retaliation. As we learn to augment and control our maturing intellectual, emotional and spiritual abilities our need for linguistic growth is critical.

Human languages define and perpetuate the barbaric condition of patriarchy which retards our planet's culture and growth. Our languages have been formed by males and embody no more than a token of female philosophies. As the Woman's Movement produces the female viewpoints, extensive and arduous

labor must be generated to produce the words and symbols vital to expressing their philosophies. Languages hold the major key to our transcendence of patriarchy.

The unparalleled revelations of The URANTIA Book are afflicted with our sexist language. The acceptance of these Papers is seriously threatened by this offensive and obsolete rhetoric. The book clearly addresses males and clearly does not address females. Doubtless, this is not the intent of the authors, but is the result of the omnipresence of patriarchy on this planet. It is vital that The URANTIA Book be rendered into genderless language so that not only its superb message, but also its phraseology provide us with a pattern for growth.

The URANTIA Book was revealed in the early 1900's to a world steeped in sexism. The very well-meaning individuals involved in the process were so inured in this system that they were convinced the transmission was being written as given. However, humans hear what they expect to hear and in symbols they are used to, and this quite likely happened in this event. The inaccuracy and exclusionism of the language either was not apparent, seemed correct, or did not seem changeable. If the women in the process saw this exclusionism, they doubtless felt no liberty to affect a correction. If the transmitttee was male, his bias would have evinced. It is nearly a foregone conclusion that if the revelations had been received in the feminine gender, they would have either been ignored, or changed immediately to be 'right'.

The URANTIA Book, as a guide for the future of Urantia, must specifically include and address all humans -- female and male. On virtually any page in the book, people are referred to as 'man', 'he', 'his', or 'him'. It is not only insensitive, it is also grossly inaccurate to refer to all minds,

souls, and spirits as masculine.

As a case in point, I will take paragraph 2 from page 1176 in The URANTIA Book and make TWO gender changes to demonstrate their sexist language: first, as it is written, indicating the sexist language:

"The adjusters are the actuality of the Father's love incarnate in the souls of men; they are the veritable promise of man's eternal career imprisoned within the mortal mind; they are the essence of man's perfected finaliter personality, which he can foretaste in time as he progressively masters the divine technique of achieving the living of the Father's will, step by step, through the ascension of universe upon universe until he actually attains the divine presence of his Paradise Father."

Now, the opposite gender, an equally exclusive and separatist rhetoric, but necessary to the demonstration:

"The Adjusters are the actuality of the Mother's love incarnate in the souls of women; they are the veritable promise of woman's eternal career imprisoned within the mortal mind; they are the essence of woman's perfected finaliter personality, which she can foretaste in time as she progressively masters the divine technique of achieving the living of the Mother's will, step by step, through the ascension of universe upon universe until she actually attains the divine presence of her Paradise Mother."

Predictably, males may be contemptuous of the above, and females amazed at the sense of inclusion they feel. The following example, given in genderless language is both personal and accurate, and can serve as a model for the changes proposed:

"The Adjusters are the actuality of the First Source and Center's love incarnate in the souls of mortals; they are the veritable promise of your eternal career imprisoned within the mortal mind; they are the essence of your perfected finaliter personality, which you can foretaste in time as you progressively master the divine technique of achieving the living of the First Source and Center's will, step by step, through the ascension of universe upon universe until you actually attain the divine presence of your Paradise Creator."

The above rendition allows each human being to feel very personally referred to. Such is the loving power of genderless language. The difference of impact is especially significant to females.

"All soul-evolving humans are literally the evolutionary sons (offspring) of God the Father (The First Source and Center), and God the Mother, the Supreme Being."¹¹ "The mother influence dominates the human personality throughout the local universe childhood of the growing soul."¹² Surely no intelligent being will proffer the absurd, though traditional, proposition that women have no souls.....

Since the message of The URANTIA Book is that the First Source and Center indwells every mortal of moral capacity, it is evident that the authors were speaking to females as well as to males, but it is not evident in the text. Females are not addressed. Women experience this lack of personhood by being ignored in literatures all over the world. In English, the word 'man' does and does not mean 'woman'. A woman is expected to make the demeaning and absurd mental contortion of including herself in the concept-word 'brotherhood of man' when she is neither brother nor man, and yet to stay out of the 'men's room'. In all literature humans are referred to as

masculine; and in all histories, the contributions of women are belittled, omitted, or attributed to males. The female, who is indispensable to the perpetuation of society, is proudly and patently ignored. History does not tell herstory.

Mystery Monitors are called by male pronouns, even though they indwell females as well. The argument that they are of the 'Father' and therefore rightly called 'he' is insupportable. The First Source and Center embodies both the female and the male, as creator of both. The word 'Father' describes a relational attitude a sex creature might have with the First Source and Center. On Urantia, a 'Father' is not often a beloved and revered personage, his image sullied by fear, abandonment, abuse and rape. Such a powerfully negative figure is an atrocious starting point for a spiritual relationship with the First Source and Center. Monitors readily volunteer to indwell both sexes without preference. The maleness ascribed to them is the result of the masculinity of our language, for Monitors are pre-personal until fusion with an ascendant mortal. Arriving with only gender potential, they become gendered for eternity upon fusion.

Language is not trivial. It teaches and it limits. Referring to all humans in the masculine gender perpetuates many obsolete and destructive institutions and attitudes with a powerful imagery of male dominance. It is a gross error. At the very least, genderless language is accurate. It enhances the personal impact and credibility of the material. The time has come for women to be specifically included in our language and most especially in our spiritual literature. "Accordingly, future students of such a revelation are tempted to discard any element of genuine religious truth it may contain because they discover errors on the face of the associated cosmologies therein

presented."¹³ As it now stands, The Urantia Book will, and has been, passed over by women when its sexist language becomes apparent. This results in an incalculable loss to women and to this planet. Let The URANTIA Book provide the spiritual and inspirational leadership required to transcend barbarism by replacing all its sexist language with the wonderfully powerful genderless language.

The call for genderless language and a genderless 'God' is heard around the world. The need to provide the means for transcending patriarchy has never been more urgent, and the opportunity to fill that need has never been so clearly offered to any person or group than now to the readers of The URANTIA Book.

Many statements in the book point out the authors awareness of the imperfections therein. The human condition and perfection are mutually exclusive. Perfection is quite rare this side of the central universe. There is no reason to suppose that The URANTIA Book is perfection, even though it far surpasses any available cosmological and spiritual literature.

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It is justifiable to suspect that most evolutionary worlds progress through sexual tyranny. The URANTIA Book clearly defines a world as barbaric as long as one sex seeks to tyrannize the other.¹⁴ (On URANTIA, it is considered admirable for men to tyrannize women.) "Even among advanced peoples, man's attempt to protect woman has always been a tacit assertion of superiority."¹⁵ This malignity has characterized all aspects of our cultures for some 800,000 years, and has its deepest roots in our religious literature and legacy.

On normal worlds this phase is evolved out of with the guidance and role models provided by the Planetary Prince and the Material Son and Daughter. On Urantia such is not the case and the sexual tyranny which has become so omnipresent as to be looked at as normal received its first validation with the Lucifer rebellion. It may be helpful in understanding this phenomenon to study the rebellion. "The true perspective of any reality problem -- human or divine, terrestrial or cosmic -- can be had only by the full and unprejudiced study and correlation of three phases of universe reality; origin, history, and destiny."¹⁶ While no human can claim to adequately perform this kind of study, an attempt can be made in that direction.

We may assume humankind was developing normally, for a decimal planet, until that point in our story when Caligastia joined us with the forces of Lucifer. Our world was primarily patriarchial. The majority of the leaders of the rebellion were males. (It is interesting to note that of the 144 loyal Amadonites, 105 of them were females.¹⁷) In their despicable quest for self-service and power, the rebels employed aggression, tyranny and treachery. Such behavior served as the male role model for the confused mortals who naturally revered their celestial leaders. The seeds were sown. Such behavior is still characteristic of the male. Caligastia and Satan, along with their followers (whose numbers increased with the Edenic default), were resident here for some 300,000 years and had the means and power to influence events and personalities. Such patronage has bequeathed us a tradition of tyranny.

Van and Amadon, though they held the Light on Urantia, were both males and reigned for some 300,000 years. Truly, the seeds of co-operation, love,

and spirituality were also sown, but these were not backed by the almightiness of a Planetary Prince or a System Sovereign.

Eventually, a Material Daughter and Son -- our Eve and Adam -- arrived and although they were schooled regarding the deplorable and dangerous situation on Urantia, they had not actually experienced living here. Their progress was hindered at every turn; impatience -- the bane of Urantia -- set in and plans were formed, in great and good faith, to advance world culture. The URANTIA Book states that Satan found it easier to influence Eve than Adam. Understanding of whether this was due to personality or gender may not be acquired until we attain the appropriate spiritual level. Our understanding of the default is still sketchy, in spite of The URANTIA Book.

The times and lives of Eve and Adam, being so much closer to us than the Lucifer rebellion, means that the legends, myths, and behavior patterns initiated or influenced by Eve and Adam are more apparent in our religious and social legacy. Few of Eve and Adam's contemporaries could have understood much of what actually occurred during the default. The rumors then, as now, would be varied and many. Given the mortal's delight in storytelling, the lack of reporters and the written or pictorial record, the Edenic tale would be necessarily distorted.

The people knew Eve was pregnant and that Adam was not the paternal parent. The sorrow and despair of the magnificent couple would be apparent. It was evident Eden was being abandoned, contrary to plans. The effect of a few well placed statements by Satan and/or Caligastia would easily have provoked fear, anger, and disgust. It definitely served the rebels to undermine the credibility of either Eve or Adam, let alone both. Because of the nature of the default, it would have been easy to denigrate Eve. Then,

when Laotta died giving birth to the baby Adam fathered to enable him to join Eve in her punishment, the possibility opened to denigrate all women - were they not weak in body and spirit, causing such wrath in heaven and dying in childbirth? How fortunate for the cause of rebellion to be afforded the opportunity to malign the Woman -- the spiritual leader, the one of the human pair who could not be easily swayed by the force of lust, of power, of self.

The ensuing events would have strengthened the idea of male supremacy. After settling in their new home, and over the next 400 years, Adam impregnated 1682 of the finest available females in a determined and noble effort to leave on Urantia as much Edenic genetic material as possible. Consider the implications of that decision/action: the majestic Adam busily bedding countless women countless times -- women especially chosen and brought to him. Consider the plight of the chosen women: they were of Andonite-Nodite descent and much smaller than the eight foot tall Adam. Their bodies were not built to withstand the 'privileged' impregnation and birth of the much larger violet race. Of these 1682 impregnations, 112 died. We are not told how many of their mothers died with them.

These women were chosen and told, no doubt, of the honor and danger which was involved. Surely they decided to participate, but the decision was a loaded one; to have intercourse and conceive with a 'God'? Few would have refused to try. Through The URANTIA Book we understand Eve and Adam's intentions, and know that Eve chaired the committee which selected the women. Such awareness would have been beyond the comprehension or interest of the majority of the Edenic couple's contemporaries and successors.

Consider the viewpoint of the men involved with these events and of those who heard the tales of Adam's sexual prowess. Could, would, any male

refuse to attempt the imitation of the supernal Adam? Evidently, they heartily followed their leader, even as they continue to do. The paramount male role model substantiated, if in error, usurpation of the female's inherent right and privilege to decide when, and with whom she will create life.

Eve's sorrow and regret was evident to her contemporaries, and although they could not understand the situation accurately, they would have noted that she was quite possibly reticent about making decisions, taking action, or otherwise being involved in much of import. Understandably, she may have abdicated much of her authority to Adam. This decision/action had far reaching implications as well. The supreme female role model became subservient, quiet, and impotent.

Several thousand years later, an Emergency Bestowal by Machiventa Melchizadek incarnated a full grown male who strove for the rekindling of spirituality on a world so decadent that the celestial overseers feared the fruits of the spirit would blink out. That world was patriarchal, intensely subjugating the females. Melchizadek's mission was to keep alive the concept of the First Source and Center and to prepare the traditions for the future coming of another Bestowal. He made no major headway in reversing or replacing the patriarchal system, nor to affecting the imbalance it had wrought on human culture, minds, or spirituality.

Almost two thousand years later, the Co-Creator of Nebadon elected to be born a human male to fulfill his obligations for sovereignty of the universe. As Co-Creator of both varieties of humans, this Michael Son might have chosen to incarnate as a female, but this would have severely jeopardized an already perilous mission. As a female, the Co-Creator of Nebadon would have been

ignored, ridiculed, silenced and subjugated. Even as a male, he fared less than desired -- in part because he refused to participate fully in the patriarchal behavior code. It is an interesting speculation that this Michael Son chose the male form partially to illustrate that even the un'God'like males of this odd planet could achieve spirituality.

As Jesus, this Michael Son did expand his mission into the realm of cultural influence in a sincere, albeit unsuccessful, effort to promote woman to her rightful place as honored and crucial co-creator of human culture. Jesus made numerous statements and admonitions regarding the correct status of females although these fell on indignant and unbelieving ears. Patriarchy was so ingrained that in Athenian Greece, females were thought to have no mind or soul of any consequence; and, in the middle east, females were considered to be without true human qualities and legally counted distinctly lower than a valuable animal.

Our religious legacy was written by, about and for males. Furthermore, this "spiritual" literature has rigorously oppressed and devalued females both in content and by omission. This unabashed denial of personhood to females has been succinctly reiterated by Mary Daly in her book "Beyond God the Father; Toward a Philosophy of Women's Liberation", Chapter 5, pps. 132-133: "As the victims of a planetary caste system whose very existence has been made invisible to us, women have been divided from each other by pseudo-identification with groupings which are androcentric and male dominated. Among these are the various religions whose ideologies degrade and mystify women to such an extent that even the fact of this degradation is not perceived by its victims. From the Hindu Code of Manu V: A woman must never be free of subjugation. From a daily Orthodox Jewish prayer: I thank thee, O Lord, that

thou has not created me a woman. From the Bible, Ephesians: Wives, submit yourselves unto your husbands for the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the Church."

It is saddening to note that of the three, Christianity's authors presume to equate the male human with Christ, and with unmitigated audacity, these self-defined 'spiritual' males declare that 'God' intended men to rule and to own women -- let alone the entire planet and its creatures. Clearly these traditions and institutions are unsuitable designs for a spiritual culture. The URANTIA Book itself stands in grave danger of a similar unacceptability because of its sexist language.

Jesus made it "very clear to them that women were to be accorded equal rights with men in the kingdom."¹⁸ "In one generation Jesus lifted women out of the disrespectful oblivion and slavish drudgery of the ages. And it is the one shameful thing about the religion that presumed to take Jesus' name that it lacked the moral courage to follow this noble example in its subsequent attitude toward woman."¹⁹

It makes a very strong case to lay the strength of this crippling cultural tradition on our celestial forebears -- on the teachings of Jesus negated by Paul, on the well-meaning but destructive actions of Eve and Adam, and particularly on the Planetary Prince. This absurd and malicious anti-spirituality is clearly a continuation of the rebellious power-lust initiated by the disgustingly nefarious Lucifer and his thoughtless, greedy rabble. What pathetic allegiance is paid this faithless brigand that Urantia has, for several hundred thousand years, perpetuated the utter prevention of our spiritual leader's participation in her destiny on this planet.

"Man's brutal treatment of woman constitutes one of the darkest chapters of human history."²⁰ Consider the staggering loss to this planet after some 800,000 years of female exclusion from every field of human endeavor which nature did not decree her participation in. This senseless crippling must stop. Urantia must be freed from the bonds of barbarism. The evolution of Woman must be fostered, enabling her to reach her potential. The strength of the tides against Woman is immense. Her potential for bringing balance and harmony to the world is equally immense.

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Margaret Fuller aptly states: "What woman needs is not as a woman to act or rule, but as a nature to grow, as an intellect to discern, as a soul to live freely, and unimpeded to unfold such powers as were given her by the creator." To force half the human race to limit its natural development is an indefensible waste of that half of the First Source and Center's manifestation on this planet. To be tyrannical is to be unspiritual, and therefore unreal. To maintain the subjugation of women is a stupendous waste of time and energy. "...to possess power and steadfastly refuse to use it for self-aggrandisement -- ...are the marks of high civilization."²¹ Just because women can be oppressed is not justification for their being oppressed.

"Male and female are, practically regarded, two distinct varieties of the same species living in close and intimate association. Their viewpoints and entire life reactions are essentially different, they are wholly incapable of full and real comprehension of each other. Complete understanding between the sexes is not attainable.....The differences of nature, reaction, viewpoint, and thinking between men and women, far from occasioning concern,

should be regarded as highly beneficial to mankind (humankind), both individually and collectively."²²

The minds used by females comes from exactly the same source as the minds used by males. It is exactly the same quantity and quality of mind, responsive to the same adjutants, circuits, and influences. It differs in its approach to reality. The URANTIA Book assures us that the differences we describe as female and male will exist throughout eternity. To arbitrarily impose a human value judgement on these intentionally created differences is a travesty of truth. The First Source and Center through the Seventh Master Spirit and the dual creativity of the Sovereign and Divine Minister of Nebadon created two distinctly different varieties of humans, not two values of humans.

In this patriarchal system which oppresses females, changes must occur in the consciousness of both sexes regarding the undeveloped potential of women. Women need to have the time and freedom to formulate their own values and aspirations; and to produce a comfortable, flexible starting point for the future of the Sisterhood of Woman. The concept of a Brotherhood of Man -- as a coalition of males -- is a viable one. There must also be a coalition of females. Together, the Sisterhood and the Brotherhood could form the Family of Urantians.

"It must be understood that it will not suffice to encourage women to use an initiative that they have not got, just as it is useless to revile them for not having it. We must endeavor to understand how it is that women's energy is systematically deflected from birth to puberty, so that when they come to maturity they have only fitful resource and creativity."²³ The confinement women have endured can be expected to evince in an appropriate

fear of the freedom which they must acquire. Any creature who has been caged will shrink from an open door. Any creature whose movements have been restricted to a cage will tire quickly upon exceeding the previous spatial limitations, and experience disorientation and dismay outside its comfort zones. Such will be the case within and overall in the process of the evolving of Woman. The tyranny they have abided is so total and global that it bespeaks a planetary madness. Long ages may pass before the world and women heal.

As women acquire a sense of self-esteem, individually and collectively, in this evolutionary process, they will also acquire a sense of self-determination. Historically, whenever women thus "got uppity" they were beaten into servility by men. However, now the networking communication systems of women have produced an awareness of their mutual subjugation which has given women the ability to ignore these male rantings. Nevertheless, collectively and individually, this phase of any evolution/revolution is always met with a lashing out by the oppressor in an effort to maintain, re-establish or strengthen the bonds of the oppressed. History is full of the bloody and reactive retaliations of men, their institutions and governments who felt their power lessening or threatened. Fear and anger surface in revenge, confusion, and malice. This is apparent in the marked increase of murder, rape, mutilation, and harrassment; in physical, mental and emotional abuses as well as divorces, infidelities, prejudicial patronizations, and psychological or financial impingements. The list of weapons men may bring to bear on women without transgressing the law is long, and the list of legal retributions is indefensible. The support system for male domination of females is a blight on this planet perhaps equal to that of the crucifixion of its Co-Creator.

The destiny of a world so retarded in and by patriarchy can only be annihilation if the balance of spirituality fails of development. Any imbalance is incompatible with the outworkings of the eternal patterns of The First Source and Center. This balance inherently necessitates the development, establishment and ascendancy of the Urantian feminine aspects of The First Source and Center. Such validation will require linguistic growth and renovation. It will require the redefinition of every human institution, tradition, and viewpoint. None now embody more than a token of female philosophy. Nothing that is now considered great in any field can continue to be so called unless it is also considered great by Woman. Every field of human endeavor must be re-aligned or destroyed as obsolete if it does not reflect the joint creativity of the female and the male. The only exceptions to be tolerated are those which are esoteric to either sex.

The change in consciousness resulting from the woman's movement "is already threatening the credibility of the religious symbols of our culture. Since many of these have been used to justify oppression, such a challenge should be seen as redemptive. Religious symbols fade and die when the cultural situations which gave rise to them and supported them ceases to give them plausibility. Such an event generates anxiety, but it is part of the risk involved in a faith which accepts the relativity of all symbols and recognizes that clinging to these as fixed is self-destructive and idolatrous.

"As the women's movement begins to have its effect upon the fabric of human society, transforming it from patriarchy into something that never existed before -- into a diarchial situation that is radically new -- it can become the greatest single challenge to the major religions of the world --western and eastern. Beliefs and values that have held sway for thousands

of years will be questioned as never before. This revolution may well be also the single greatest hope for the survival of spiritual consciousness on this planet."²⁴

The future of Urantia lies in the development of an unrecognized and unexplored power source -- females. The URANTIA Book -- with all its beautiful and good concepts, insights, visions, understandings and inspirations -- is undoubtedly meant to be an integral part of that future. It must be allowed to thus affect human culture by being freed from its sexist language. It must not be allowed to make a mockery of the eternal celestial distinction between females and males by addressing both sexes in the masculine gender. Releasing this great revelation would be a loving gesture of spiritual awareness.

The people of this planet need help. It is an interesting speculation that we have so little verifiable celestial assistance because our overseers wait to see how little nurturing on their part will produce spirituality. At any rate, human beings relate more readily to guides who can be seen, felt and heard with the physical senses. Live models in the physical sense are worth more than all the words ever written. Our Unseen Friends are undoubtedly of inestimable assistance, but it may be up to us to be 'here'. Perhaps only we can be our overt guides. Most of the world wouldn't believe an angel or a mid-wayer if they saw one, much less be able to distinguish between Thought Adjuster guidance and consciences. Caligastia is destructive, Eve and Adam lost their residency, Van left this planet some 35,000 years ago, Melchizadek has been lost to legend, even Jesus' life has become a questioned existence --or is taken in distortion without question, which may be worse. "However wise it may be to glean wisdom from the past, it is folly to regard the past

as the exclusive source of truth. Truth is relative and expanding; it lives always in the present, achieving new expression in each generation of man (people) --even in each human life."²⁵ "Intellectual crystallization of religious concepts is the equivalent of spiritual death."²⁶

The ability to help people see the illness and its omnipresent dangers and to describe wellness clearly and repeatedly is desperately needed. The ability to radiate hope, inspiration and love is vital. The intentional promotion of the evolution of Woman is critical. The ability to proceed with patient determination is essential, impatience has been the bane of Urantia. The readers of The URANTIA Book are not to be seen as the "enlightened" but they are possessed of an increased awareness which would enable them to be of such a service to others. This service may be seen as a privilege of high order, and, if undertaken with adequate humility, a learning experience to be valued far into eternity.

The URANTIA Book urges us to follow truth wherever it leads; to avoid crystallizing our mindal and spiritual environments; and that the most important function of The URANTIA Book is to improve spirituality on Urantia. To exclude half and more of the human race by not addressing women, is a poor start. "Here, Master, is the truth you committed to us a hundred or a thousand years ago. We have lost nothing; we have faithfully preserved all you gave us; we have allowed no changes to be made in that which you taught us; here is the truth you gave us." But such a plea concerning spiritual indolence will not justify the barren steward of truth in the presence of the Master. In accordance with the truth committed to your hands will the Master of truth require a reckoning.

"In the next world you will be asked to give an account of the endow-

ments and stewardships of this world. Whether inherent talents are few or many, a just and merciful reckoning must be faced. If endowments are used only in selfish pursuits and no thought is bestowed upon the higher duty of obtaining increased service of men (people) and the worship of God (First Source and Center), such selfish stewards must accept the consequences of their deliberate choosing.

"And, how like all selfish mortals was this unfaithful servant with the one talent in that he blamed his slothfulness directly upon his lord. How prone is man (are you), when he (you) is (are) confronted with the failures of his (your) own making, to put the blame on others, oftentimes upon those who least deserve it!"²⁷

As regards the higher duty of obtaining increased yield of the fruits of the spirit, service to humankind and worship of The First Source and Center, the most significant change any of us can foster hinges on language. Language is the most powerful exclusionary aspect of patriarchy: it created, and creates the images that are the patterns of our current behaviors and perpetuates these by teaching them to our children. The authors of The URANTIA Book constantly lamented, with varying degrees of frustration, over the inadequacy and inappropriateness of our language. It is vital we improve our words, meanings, and add to our vocabulary. "The spread of civilization must wait upon language. Live and growing languages insure the expansion of civilized thinking and planning. Today, there is great need for further linguistic development to facilitate the expression of evolving thought."²⁸ Let us start refusing to substantiate sexism by refusing its presence in The URANTIA Book. Let us say 'males, men or man' when that is precisely what we mean. Let us say personkind, humanity, or people when we speak of us all. And

most importantly, let us say woman, females or women when we speak of these very valuable and able co-creators of society. 'God' as a designation is fraught with maleness; let us refer to 'God' as The First Source and Center. This new title will free our concept of this Entity from the patriarchal stigma and allow our concepts to expand into more mature and useful definitions. Further, let us refer to The Second and Third Source and Centers instead of the Eternal Son or the Infinite Spirit; these titles are at least as accurate and have added value of identifying without any gender stigma. We have not been given a name for the Divine Minister of Nebadon to use along with the name of Michael for the Creator Son, and since this situation de-personalizes the Minister (we use the word Michael as a name for human males, even though The URANTIA Book states that these Michaels are a type of descending personality present in the Universe of Universes, not the name of our sovereign), let us refer to our Co-Creators by their functional titles: The Sovereign and Divine Minister of Nebadon. These titles lack some of the intimacy and personality inherent in the word Michael (and its associations), however our planetary status as ascending mortals of the lowest rank does not privilege us the familiarity of personal names on a public level. This re-naming might also spare us and our sovereign the possible indignity of a growing number of namesakes. Our private, personal communications with these beings are just that; private and personal. We will benefit immensely by using the formal designations in any public discussion. We must consciously transcend sexual tyranny, and sexist linguistics. It is not a trivial or laughing matter.

It is absurd to assume the evolution of the Supreme Being could be complete without the evolution of the women on Urantia. It is ignorant to

assume these women have evolved. This evolution has tardily begun, and must continue. Perhaps we could stop it. In the spiritual realm there is a two-fold choice; grow or die. Evolve or self-destruct. The choice may be ours.

This sunrise of the feminine qualities of the First Source and Center is undoubtedly the greatest evolutionary step toward spiritual normality since Pentecost and the planetary bestowal of Fragments of The First Source and Center. There is much to do. As in any endeavor, it behooves us to pray for inspiration, love, courage, insight, and celestial assistance and guidance. It is imperative that, as students of The URANTIA Book, and as individuals aware of the newest dawning of spirituality on this planet, that we recognize the solemnity and magnitude of the evolution of Woman.....it is our privilege to embrace this opportunity to assist our celestial family in the fulfillment of Light and Life on Urantia. It will be our joy to help the First Source and Center complete self-actualization on Urantia.

Remember that much depends on your personal and our collective choice to participate in the evolution of Woman and consequently, our language. The Fragments, The Sovereign and Divine Minister of Nebadon, The Supreme Being, and the Deities of Paradise are awaiting the expressive manifestation of that half of the Urantia peoples for their own fuller realization of existence. The act is our, the consequences -- Theirs.

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