

# THE CREATIVITY OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

By

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I have always been fascinated by creativity--so much so that I spent five years studying creativity in communication and literature. So it was a great joy to me to learn in the Urantia Book that the highest, most enduring creativity is one we are all capable of participating in. This creative process was capsulized by the German writer, Goethe: "If you would CREATE something, you must BE something."

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Or, as the Urantia Book says on page 1220: "It is only the inner life that is truly creative." "It is the creativity of the inner world that is most subject to your direction...." And "Since this inner life of man is truly creative, there rests upon each person the responsibility of choosing as to whether this creativity shall be spontaneous and wholly haphazard or controlled, directed, and constructive." We have the responsibility to choose what and how to create. (1220:3-8-9)

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Augustine once said, "God wants to give us something, but cannot, because our hands are full--there's nowhere for him to put it." If we allow our minds to be filled with the spiritual poisons of fear, anxiety, prejudice, anger, jealousy, suspicion or intolerance, we cannot experience the communion, insight, or growth that the Father would have us know. Specifically, these negative creations interfere with the work of the Thought Adjusters as explained on page 1192; "The Thought Adjusters would like to change your feelings of fear to convictions of love and confidence; but they cannot mechanically and arbitrarily do such things; that is your task. In executing those decisions which deliver you from the fetters of fear, you literally supply the psychic fulcrum on which the Adjuster may subsequently apply a spiritual lever of uplifting and advancing illumination."

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Jesus explained to the boy Fortune how to execute such decisions of true creativity. He said, "Your mind is clear and capable. Your strong body has an intelligent mind to direct it. Set your mind at work to solve its problems; teach your intellect to work for you; refuse longer to be dominated by fear like an unthinking animal. Your mind should be your courageous ally in the solution of your life problems.... But most valuable of all, your potential of real achievement is the spirit which lives within you, and which will stimulate and inspire your mind to control itself and activate the body...." (1438:1)

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Acting on the spirit's inspiration, we can control our minds and make decisions and take actions which in turn supply the psychic fulcrums for spiritual growth. But the quality of these decisions is important. They should not be like the town council which took three actions at one of its meetings: 1) to build a new jail 2) to use the material from the old jail 3) to keep using the old jail until the new one was ready. If we try to use our old, inferior reaction habits while waiting for new and better reactions, we will end up keeping the old, inferior reaction patterns. Or like the boy I heard of recently who was standing by an apple barrel in a store, and kept putting his hand in. "Boy, what are you trying to do, steal apples?" asked the storekeeper. "No," replied the boy, "I'm trying not to." Our spiritual growth is assisted by

\* clear-cut, single-minded decisions, but also "...numbers of decisions, frequent repetitions, persistent repetitions, are...essential to the habit-forming certainty of such reactions." (1210)

In spiritual creativity, habits are creative. This paradox was described by John Dryden who said, "We first make our habits, and then our habits make us." The Urantia Book says on page 1095.4, "Religious habits of thinking and acting are contributory to the economy of spiritual growth." (1095) By our decisions and actions we can create religious habits which in turn enable our indwelling spirit to uplift and expand our ability to create higher religious decisions and actions.

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Character is not one of the gifts of the spirit; it is really one of the fruits of the spirit--it has to be cultivated by the exercise of all our faculties. We are born to grow--this is the word which religion, philosophy, literature and art ceaselessly utter; and we can grow only by keeping ourselves in vital communion with the world within and without us. "It is forever true: The past is unchangeable; only the future can be changed by the ministry of the present creativity of the inner self." (1221:2)

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