

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF SPANISH ARTICLES

The following is a translation of three articles published in magazines in Spain which recently came to our attention. Due to the poor quality of the photocopies in some places and some time constraints in translating, this is a rough translation for meaning, not a highly polished version. Also, only portions of the second and third articles are translated since some of the material is repetitive.

The pages of the articles in Spanish are numbered 1-17 in the upper righthand corner. These numbers are referenced in the English translation so that you can see what each page in Spanish says.

Page 1 Cover of magazine **Interviu**, November 25, 1987

Headline: J.J. Benitez plagiarizes
an American "bestseller"

TROJAN HORSE IS A PLAGIARISM

Page 2 Cover of the book **Trojan Horse** published in Spain
by Planeta publishing house, first in 1984, plus two sequels
in 1986 and 1987. (Planeta means "planet" in Spanish)

Cover copy: The answer to one of the greatest unknowns of
the life of the Son of Man: his infancy

Worldwide Bestseller of Planeta

Page 3: Article copy:

J.J. Benitez plagiarized the North American "bestseller"
URANTIA Book

TROJAN HORSE IS A PLAGIARISM

The four books appear in blushing colors, two in white and two in red, a publication that says "worldwide bestseller"
The Lucifer Rebellion and the three volumes of **Trojan Horse** appearing to this date to be the works of Benitez, although they constitute plagiarism of a North American work that has never been published in Spanish: **The URANTIA Book**.

Book cover: J.J. Benitez

The continuation of one of the best
selling works of recent years

Page 4 Continuation of November 25, 1987, article in **Interviu**:

"For the first time in his career as a writer, J.J. Benitez has been out of tune with himself, adventuring in the difficult world of fantastic narrative. But as the author himself asserts, **'The Lucifer Rebellion is more than a creation of fantasy.'**"

In fact, this publicity statement on the dustjacket of the book, in its twelfth printing in June 1987, is correct in a way, because **The Lucifer Rebellion** is much more: it is a plagiarism in whichever aspect, technical or legal, you want to look, in the light of the international copyright law or the rights of the author.

The plagiarized book has a 1955 copyright, the year the first edition was published and the author's rights belong to the URANTIA Foundation, which specifies very clearly in North American style that "no part of this book may be reproduced, translated, or appropriated in any form or by any means, including electronic, mechanical or other--such as photocopying, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system."

J.J. Benitez doesn't seem to have resorted to such modern electronic media, but to the much older methods of translating and plagiarizing. As follows is an example to justify this statement: more than 7,000 words of Part III, The Origin of Urantia (of **The URANTIA Book**) have been translated and copied, literally and totally, with minimal different shadings, which would be the care of the plagiarist not to leave too many signs.

[The large heading at the bottom of the page says]: One entire chapter, more than 7,000 words, was copied almost word for word by the author J.J. Benitez.

A little history

In a talk with the URANTIA Foundation which safeguards the dissemination and the rights of the book, a 2,200 page volume in biblical paper, Scott Forsythe, on behalf of the Foundation, stated to **Interviu** first, that he had never met or spoken with J.J. Benitez; second, that he had never known the Foundation to use the book in any way different from its own established guidelines; third, that "without any fear of contradiction" he could affirm that J.J. Benitez had never asked permission of any kind to use **The URANTIA Book**.

In 1955 in Chicago, a group of people, the seventy, paid for the publication of the book and created a foundation to safeguard the rights to the text of the book. Both book and foundation received the name Urantia, the name that the Universal Father supposedly gave to the planet earth.

Page 4 November 25, 1987, article continued:

The book is composed of 196 papers, whose texts would have been "revealed" to a mysterious and anonymous person, known only by the 70 founders of Urantia. In its pages (20 by 31 centimeters in a single binding of biblical paper, as J.J. Benitez determines very well in **Trojan Horse**, on page 37, upon describing the documents that were delivered to a nonexistent major of the Army of the United States), is related the nature of the Universal Father, the creation of the universe, the celestial administration, as well as all of the history of the earth (668 pages) and the life, known and unknown, of Jesus of Nazareth (774 pages).

Page 5 The Chicago book, never translated into Spanish, is, in some ways, an esoteric book, not encountered in our market, however many examples exist in Spain. It has been, nevertheless, translated into French and the Chicago Foundation is preparing a Spanish edition that will not see the light for three or four years.

Page 6 There have been eight printings of **The URANTIA Book** through 1984—the year, for example, of the copy in the library of the University of Valencia with the reference D-9, 87. Its reading requires a great effort, a little underestimating interest by Christianity, and overall, some desire to enter into a cosmology and a technological cosmos "revealed" in Chicago, world capital of grain and meat markets. The book reveals for the reader the origins of everything, including the central and super-universes, the planetary mortal epochs, and the Lucifer rebellion with its leaders, their causes, its manifesto, its outbreak, the nature of the conflict, the history of the rebellion, the status of the rebellion, etc.

Benitez enters the scene

Page 7 When J.J. Benitez, the successful author, publishes **The Lucifer Rebellion** in 1985, he is already the author among other books, of **Trojan Horse** whose first edition is the year before, 1984. He continued with the other Trojan Horses, the second and third, in 1986/87.

The caption on page 6 refers to illustrations (also on page 7) of pages from Benitez' books compared to pages from the French edition of **The URANTIA Book**.

Evidently, J.J. Benitez moved more loosely with his "horses" than with the problems and rebellions of Lucifer. While in the **Rebellion** book he plagiarizes names, dates, years, numbers, entire pages, and even adjectives "systematically," in his "horses" the author from Navarra (Spain) feels more free; He is on ground that we Spainards know best because he deals with the life of Jesus. It is not the same to enter into unknown universes and

November 25, 1987, article continued:

Page 8

names and terms such as Urantia, Orvonton, Havona, Edentia, Norlatiadek, Nebadon, Ensa, sacred spheres, solitary messengers, Supernaphim and a large etcetera (all plagiarized from **The URANTIA Book**), like a school catechism of the cosmos and the Sunday sermon, as it is to enter into the life of Jesus, the subject of the three "horses" of Benitez.

The denunciation of plagiarism against the self-proclaimed "investigator" J.J. Benitez also extends to the "horses" that have brought so much money to the publisher Planeta and the horseman Benitez, with their successive and successful editions. The theme has influenced the form of plagiarizing: the life of Jesus has given the author of Navarra much more liberty of movement, less necessity to rely literally the Chicago text.

For example, speaking of the infancy of Jesus, the Chicago book says that the child Jesus entertained himself with games of his age and J.J. Benitez, who copies that text, adds for his story that Jesus also entertained himself with "war games." War games? Has J.J. Benitez enjoyed a "special revelation"? The same perplexity remains for the reader who compares the original text and the plagiarized text when the Chicago book affirms that Jesus already knew three languages as a youth (Aramaic, Hebrew, and Greek) and J.J. Benitez reduces the number to two. Why? Did it seem too many languages to the Navarra writer or did he simply want to change it so as not to appear to be copying so much?

While the Chicago book, **The URANTIA Book**, is a monolith, perfectly articulated, with double indexes that allow entry with relative ease into its two thousand pages, more or less, the four books of J.J. Benitez (variously plagiarized, inspired, or adapted from the North American model), constitute a very difficult pursuit. It would be said that the author, consciously or unconsciously, burns the traces so that no one would encounter the path that leads to the fountain of Urantia. The indexes of Benitez' books, in novelistic style, don't reveal anything; on the contrary, conceptions are, as in the work as a whole, that not even the most minimal detail suggests such "investigation" by author. It is as if the writing had been exclusively drawn from wording that he had drunk with impunity from a book that places itself on the worktable and doesn't protest when read, translated, plagiarized it without mercy.

The large print at the bottom of page 8 says: The Chicago publishers deny any contact with J.J. Benitez; they do not know him.

November 25, 1987, article continued:

Page 8 Contacts Rafael Borrás Betrin, director of the "contemporary collection" of Planeta, who publishes the works, as well as the author J.J. Benitez, have both offered apparent explanations. His line of defense seems to be that because **The URANTIA Book** is a religious book claiming to be a revelation, it makes it difficult for a person or foundation to own it as a literary property. "It is as if the Vatican would like to attribute 'copyright' to the Bible."

In Spanish legislation, the property law published by the BOE last November introduces for the first time the word "plargiarism." In all forms, they continue to have the last word if it is not complained by URANTIA Foundation of Chicago, which has the teeth of the rights of the author.

Page 9 An illustration showing **The URANTIA Book** and pages from J.J. Benitez' books.

ARTICLE #2-----

Page 10 First page of a second article published by **Interviu** dated January 13, 1988:

Juan Jose Benitez, the Spanish author of popular success with some of his books converted into "bestsellers," was denounced by this magazine as plagi arist of the North American book **The URANTIA Book** in his book **The Lucifer Rebellion** and his three editions of **Trojan Horse**. Now **Interviu** is in possession of other evidence demonstrating that J.J. Benitez has also plagiarized works of Spanish authors published by companies in Barcelona and Madrid.

Underlined words: Denounced as plagiarist of an American "bestseller," J.J. Benitez copied the writers Sesma and Ribera.

Headline: **THE AUTHOR OF TROJAN HORSE ALSO PLAGARIZED TWO WORKS PUBLISHED IN SPAIN**

January 13, 1988, article continued:

Page 11

Article written by: Joaquin Frances
Photographs by: Pablo Vazquez and Ramon Mourelle

J.J. Benitez was found in Nepal, traveling with Spanish royalty, when a journalist of the agency Efe communicated to him the accusation made by **Interviu** and he was asked his first impressions.

Meanwhile, from diverse points of Spanish geography rained quickly, after the first denunciation, telephone calls and communications from readers that signal a new direction in the investigations about the successful commercial books of J.J. Benitez: **The Lucifer Rebellion** and **Trojan Horse**. A common trait in those communications with **Interviu** readers is that our denunciation of plagiarism of a foreign work had opened their eyes, had induced them to consult their own libraries, and several had discovered new examples of plagiarism by journalist-writer-investigtor J.J. Benitez, but this time the plagiarized works were written and published in Spain, by writers from here.

Two books have been the object of the marauding writer J.J. Benitez.

The books, furnished by **Interviu** readers, are: **Umno**, **Another Inhabited Planet** by Fernando Sesma, published in Madrid, 1967, by S.A. Editorial Graficas Espejo, copyrighted by the author in the same year, and the work of Antonio Ribera **The Mystery of Umno** with a first printing in June 1979 in Barcelona by Plaza and Janes Publishers, copyrighted by the author.

The first of those books, a small volume published crudely, 10 by 16 centimeters, is, at first glance, like a hidden garden of delights for a plagiarist because it lacks any type of index making it really difficult to find subjects or topics of interest.

The book of Antonio Ribera is another thing, published by one of the prestigious publishing houses of Barcelona, eight years ago, that has numerous readers of the literature of other worlds and planets. This type of reader, exactly, has aided **Interviu** in denouncing the plagiarist....

[Photograph on page 11 shows Benitez' books to the right and the plagiarized books to the left, **Umno** and **The URANTIA Book**.]

[Large print at the bottom of page 11 says]: It has been the readers of **Interviu** also readers of J.J. Benitez, who have denounced his plagiarisms of works by Spanish authors.

Page 12 January 13, 1988, article continued, righthand column:

The reader will be able to judge for himself by the reproductions that we include, the style of J.J. Benitez, as it coincides with that which we already described in number 602 of *Interviu*, November 25, 1987, with respect to his plagiarizing of the foreign work *The URANTIA Book*.

Slander and Scoundrels

J.J. Benitez, asked by diverse communication media about his reaction to our earlier denunciation, has declared some things savory and others not so savory. Among those less savory, ought to be figured the words "slander" and "scoundrel" that he has attributed to us, constituting criminal motivation, to our perfectly justified denunciation and the right of the disposed authors to defend it before any court.

Among the picturesque speech used by J.J. Benitez, this time in writing, in a weekly publication in Madrid, are the pages he offers to make his best defense. In this writing, J.J. Benitez refers to the North American *The URANTIA Book* as "some information" that came into his hands "and, I confess, took me aback." And he says "he was dealing with some documents," when he knows perfectly well that what fell into his hands was not information or documents, but a book of 2,097 pages, perfectly divided into four parts, printed on biblical paper....

Page 12 First column, second paragraph

"I don't feel the least modesty--also I repeated until satiated--in having drunk from this fountain," wrote J.J. Benitez in the article....What J.J. Benitez is calling "to drink" is what the dictionary calls "to copy, to plagiarize."

INSET-----

URANTIA, A RELIGION WITHOUT SANCTUARIES

"Is Urantia a religion, a sect, a division of Christianity?" we asked a representative of the Urantia Foundation in the headquarters in Chicago. The conversation had many of the characteristics of secrecy that surrounds the Foundation: no photographs, no recordings, or taking of written notes on the meeting with assistant director Scott Forsythe, who was assisted by a secretary to record the discussion.

Inset article, January 13, 1988, continued:

Page 12

The headquarters building is a modest house, on a modest street, without any external paraphernalia which would indicate the existence of the world headquarters of a religious institution. In a country of temples of all faiths and creeds, Urantia dispenses with all temples, sacraments, and rites. The Chicago River, which disembarks there near the Great Lake Michigan, is not the Jordan, the Euphrates, or the Ganges of a new religion.

We prefer to call ourselves "brotherhood," declared Urantian Mr. Scott Forsythe. Evidently, the members of that brotherhood are the friends, readers, and distributors of **The URANTIA Book**, a volume of 2,097 pages on biblical paper without notes or illustrations.

Urantia is then a book, a foundation, and a brotherhood. The Foundation first created a product very typical of postwar North America, which would bring the message of religion and capitalistic democracy to the whole world. Five years after creating the foundation (1950) appears the book, whose first printing (1955) was reprinted, without changing a comma, until the ninth printing in 1988. The URANTIA Foundation considers itself the "the guardians of the integrity of the text," and the "sole owner of the rights of authorship."

We sounded out Mr. Forsythe specifically on the question of the rights of the author and the copyright as they have been infringed upon in Spain by the journalist-writer-investigator J.J. Benitez. It is treated as a legal question, he explained to us, and one of the legal guidelines is to present the complaint in the courts without previous advice. "But you can quote me literally on the following: we have already defended our rights in court and have won." Is it probable that one day a complaint will be made against J.J. Benitez?

Nothing is more difficult than to obtain an answer from URANTIA Foundation: yes or no. All that affects the book is in the hands (secret) of the five trustees (secret), named for life, that meet every two weeks as consignees of the Declaration of Trust. Those five persons, the "five mysteries" of Chicago, will weigh the good and the bad that will come to J.J. Benitez and his books. In the end, all will depend on the Spanish translation of **The URANTIA Book**, work slowly advancing which could see the light in two or three years.

In itself, the book is an act of the alpha and the omega....
[article continues with topics from **The URANTIA Book**]

In this world of revelations is where J.J. Benitez entered....

Page 16 January 2, 1988, article in *Tiempo*:

Culture/Society

[Underlined]: Juan Jose Benitez, crazy about "ovnis"*

Although a frustrated painter and journalist, the "ovnis" give a day to Juan Jose Benitez and he enters the **Guinness** book of records pursuing them. Now they accuse him of having plagiarized his **Trojan Horse**, three books that have sold like hot-cakes since they appeared on the market. But he says no, that what God has revealed belongs to humanity.

"THE INQUISITION WOULD HAVE ROASTED ME OVER A SLOW FIRE"

[Article by]: Luis Sanchez Bardon, photographs by Antonio Tiedra

--Why isn't it a plagiarism?

What is in those three books is an inspiration from American documents. I said that from the first moment. Since publication in 1984 of my first **Trojan Horse** I said I had drunk from documents of Urantis, a North American foundation to whom was revealed messages from extraterrestrial beings. What cannot be done from a legal point of view is to put a copyright on texts that were written by angels, archangels, seraphim, or whoever. The texts of the Koran, for example, belong to humanity and no one argues that they could serve to inspire others.

--Is it true that you believe they were revealed by extraterrestrial beings?

Of course, because I have worked on that documentation. Those papers they say I have plagiarized were revealed during one night to a person who died in 1935 and the Urantia Foundation itself admits they were revelations. For this reason I have an absolutely quiet conscience, as proven by my preparation of a fourth **Trojan Horse** next year.

--And what are you going to tell in it?

The public life of Jesus of Nazareth.

[The article continues with his plans for the fourth book, his pursuit of "ovnis," his millionaire status, friendship with royalty, the possibility of a story on Adam and Eve, and his own religious beliefs.]

* Starships