

Written by MTR

The Urantia Book was published by the Urantia Foundation on October 12, 1955.

Although it is clear that the purpose of the Urantia revelation is not to start a new religion or religious denomination, the Urantia group recognized that some sort of fraternal organization was sure to grow out of the teachings of the Urantia Book. Accordingly a group of 36 people assembled in Chicago on January 2, 1955, and organized the Urantia Brotherhood. The constitution of the Urantia Brotherhood designates it as a voluntary, locally autonomous, fraternal organization. Provision is made for chartering local societies and fostering study groups. To date a number of such groups have been organized throughout the country and world.

Since the Urantia Brotherhood is not a legal corporation, the Urantia Brotherhood Corporation was chartered as a non-profit organization of the State of Illinois on October 25, 1955. This corporation is the fiscal agent of the Brotherhood and in a general way takes care of the varied financial and legal interests of the Brotherhood.

In December 1959 the Internal Revenue Bureau of the United States government ruled that the Urantia Foundation, the Urantia Brotherhood, and the Urantia Brotherhood Corporation were exempt from paying income taxes, and that any contributions made to these organizations are deductible from the income taxes of such donors.

Although the world is not ready for the book at this time, permission to publish was given so that study groups could be formed to train teachers and leaders and so that men of means might be interested to provide for translation into other languages. This work is now being carried on, not by advertising and promotion at the present time, but largely by personal contact, which has proved to be more effective.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that while the facts concerning the historicity of the Urantia Book have some limited significance, the quality and importance of the philosophical and religious insights of the Urantia Book can be ascertained only by evaluating the content of the book. Origin or authorship does not establish the worth of a book, a poem, or a piece of art. Its worth must rest solely on its own intrinsic merit.