

February 15, 1957

Mr. Ritchie Mikesell  
206 E. John Street  
Champaign, Illinois

Dear Ritchie:

Last evening I was talking with your father about your new situation at the University of Illinois and am most happy to hear about it. We also talked about your interest in the philosophic-religious field. For some time I have thought of the possibility of introducing you to a remarkable book, conversation with your father has triggered a decision to do so now.

Because of your scientific interests and somewhat unorthodox religious convictions I believe that you are ready to give it an objective evaluation. This book is entitled The Urantia Book. May I say that I have studied this book very carefully and critically and from a philosophical-psychological-religious point of view it is the most remarkable book I have ever read and after much deliberation, I am convinced that it is what it claims to be - new revelation. At any rate who ever composed it was a genius and more as we humans would evaluate authorship.

In particular, I would appreciate your evaluation of Paper 41, "Physical Aspects Of The Local Universe," and Paper 42, "Energy - Mind and Matter." Are they utter nonsense viewed from our present day knowledge of science? Or is it plausible that they might be speaking of somethings, such as ultimatons which will eventually be discovered? I am sure the philosophic-religious part of the book is excellent but my knowledge of science is limited. I know you will enjoy the Papers on religion, especially Papers 100-103.

I would suggest this procedure: 1. Read the enclosed Introduction and Excerpts explaining the book. 2. Read the Urantia Primer (condensation) which I have worked out to get a quick over-all picture of the contents. Would you please return this condensation with the book when you return it to me for it is actually in violation of the copyright law. The Urantia Foundation may put out an official condensation soon. An enclosing postage for the return of the book, keep it six months if you like. 3. Read the papers that appeal to you. 4. Read the book in its entirety.

I have checked on every aspect of the book of which I am capable and everything suggests its authenticity. I doubt if a more skeptical or more qualified group of men and women could have received the book than the original Urantia Forum. I shall be interested in your evaluation after you have read the book. You will find the Life of Jesus superb. Good reading.

Cordially yours,

Meredith J. Sprunger