

"REFLECTIVE MEDITATION ON COSMIC MEANINGS AND WORSHIPFUL PROBLEM SOLVING"

An address to the Snowmass General Conference of Readers of *The Urantia Book*

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"Be you perfect, even as I am perfect." (21)

This supreme mandate from the Universal Father, this invitation-command is within your grasp, *today*, because, simply, it is God's will. You have within your power the ability to attain little snippets, or more, of true light and life, true perfection, today, in this lifetime. Speaking only of Jesus' human life, his perfect mortal life was comprised of increasingly contiguous moments of life and life (true brotherhood), and we can string together these moments of perfection ourselves, today.

This invitation-command, "Be you perfect, even as I am perfect," can be seen as a series of decisions, with the number of decisions and length of decision-making indeterminate, until one day we attain this "perfection." It is that; but it is also much more than a line from A to B, "B" standing for "Be you perfect."

It is a process that is going on right now, right in this moment, and every moment of your mortal existence. Although there is a goal to be attained at the end, its realization is not limited at all by time, space, age, race, or today's life circumstances. Perfection of decision-making is attainable today, right now. As an adjuster-indwelt mortal on a post bestowal-Son world where the Spirit of Truth functions fully you have at your disposal every tool you will ever need.

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Think of it as a process of mind organization.

The *human* Jesus at only age 19, before anything "supernatural had happened in this young man's career, except the visit of a messenger" (1393), was gradually organizing his mind "bringing the divine and human natures together, and he accomplished all this organization of intellect by the force of his own *decisions*, and with only the aid of his indwelling Monitor". (1393, emphasis from *The Urantia Book*). Note it is not the *replacement* of the human nature with the divine nature, but the merging of the two.

". . . Jesus was the perfection of man; he . . . attained just such perfection as all true believers are destined to attain in him and through him." (1604)

And, Jesus made a promise to us in saying, ". . . where I go, you shall presently come." (2049)

With that perfection pattern as our backdrop, I would like to pause for a short, participatory, exchange of self-knowledge. (Insert Exchange #1, attached.)

My service to you today will be to try to distill this process of mortal decision-making to its most elemental, spiritual basis by joining together three dominant themes of *The Urantia Book*: Jesus' mission to present a new standard of living; the importance of our decisions in attaining this new standard; and, how Jesus can help us directly, today, in making worshipful decisions.

First, Jesus tried to impart to the apostles "the truth that he had come on this bestowal mission . . . to establish and demonstrate a standard of human life for all peoples upon all worlds through his entire universe." (1594) This new standard of *human* living has to do very much with making increasingly better, more worshipful, more God-like, decisions. And, again, in all decision-making instances, large and small, we are to attempt to bring together our human and diving self, not replace one with the other. To merge our intellect with our spirit.

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Jesus was "...the pattern of supreme mortal devotion to the high standards of spiritual living." (1102 - 3) Again, it was Jesus of Nazareth, the human Jesus, who set these standards. And today "he continues to unify mortal experience to coordinate human endeavors. He unifies life, ennobles character, and simplifies experience." (1103)

Second. We are told of the supreme and eternal value of all of our decisions. We know that the fully manifested Supreme God, one comprised of our collective, perfected characters, the sum total of all of our survival-value decisions, is destined to become one of three personalities of each of the next two, experiential trinities, the next Age of the Ultimate and the subsequent Age of the Absolute. We know very little of the mysteries of the Age of the Supreme which is now unfolding, let alone these subsequent Ages.

We do know that the Universal Father, Eternal Son, and Infinite Spirit gave birth to this present Spiritual Age of the Supreme. The next Spiritual Ages of the Ultimate and Absolute will come into being with the Supreme Being as a member of both of these new trinities, and it is hinted that you and I, perfected mortals, will somehow be at the very core of these new spiritual universe-plexes.

We, you and I, are in the act of creating God the Supreme, and the complete manifestation of Him will correspond directly to the birth of the next spiritual age in which God the Ultimate will evolve, in a manner that we can only hope to speculate. The Supreme Being, the Supreme Creator Personalities, and the absonite Architects of the Master Universe will comprise the next trinity destined to eventuate God the Ultimate. Further on, God the Supreme will be a member of the trinity in the Age of the Absolute, along with the newly eventuated God the Ultimate and the unrevealed Consumator of Universe Destiny.

Therefore, our very decisions today and tomorrow put us in the role of creator. We, you and I, are creating light and life, as we speak, but that is the merely the beginning of the ultimate and absolute destinies of those individual and collective decisions we are making today. Our decisions are important not only to our own lives but are critical to the unfolding of God's eternal, infinite creation. The future of the universe is tied directly to our decisions today.

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Decisions, in this lexicon, are, literally, of supreme, ultimate, and absolute importance. The little decisions and the big decisions all play a part. Decisions are the jet fuel that will bring about the kingdom of heaven on earth, light and life, on every earth in each superuniverse in the grand universe, and "the post-Havona epochs in the time-space and the time-space-transcended spheres of master universe evolutionary expansion." (10)

Decisions, decisions, decisions!

Decisions are greater than ourselves. We, by our very nature cannot escape, nor do we want to escape, our collective *master* universe goal -- one that we share with every mortal that is or will be, every mortal to exist on even the most outer reaches of God's spiritual kingdom. That *master* universe goal is: to actualize this new standard of living, and all the while act in co-eventuating God the Supreme, and, ipso facto, in co-eventuating God the Ultimate and God the Absolute.

Third. So. Now. How do we deal with this monumental responsibility? How to we match, or aspire to match, that new standard of spiritual living that Jesus presented? We are conscious that the very importance of our decisions is something bigger than our individual selves, our families, our communities, our nations, our earth, our local universe, our superuniverse, and, yes, stretching beyond the borders the grand universe itself.

How, or by what formula, can we achieve the state of mind or heart that will allow us the best chance of doing our best, every minute of each day, quickly, efficiently, and beneficently?

It starts with slowing down enough to listen to the feedback that subsequently and inevitably follow all of your decisions, whether or not they would be deemed moral, or worshipful, decisions. Taking the quiet time by yourself to actually listen is imperative. If you get no specific communication, maybe no news is good news. Nevertheless, as one insightful reader of *The Urantia Book* once stated, rather succinctly, "How can you get a call if you stay on the phone all of the time?"

Often some action, often an unexpected and surprising action, will follow certain decisions that unmistakably reinforce the positive nature of a specific choice, such as a quicker than expected, better than expected resolution to conflict. My life, and I

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have heard that the lives of others, are filled with experiences where one can say, "Gee, that turned out so much better than I had ever hoped."

Sometimes, it will be simply an unspecified but nonetheless sublime feeling of peace that you will experience after particular decision-making episodes.

In my experience, the Universal Father through the Eternal Son is always exceeding the mercy generosity by 2000%, when I compare it to what I could only imagine my humble life deserved.

In reading *The Urantia Book*, and, just as important, listening the spiritual experiences of my brothers and sisters, it is, unmistakably, through "...intelligent prayer and sincere worship -- unbroken communion with God" (2089) that we are afforded the best opportunity for this interchange of reinforcing ideas to occur.

To Jesus, prayer was . . . "an ennoblement of desire, a vindication of moral decision, an enrichment of thought, an invigoration of higher inclinations, a consecration of impulse, a clarification of viewpoint . . ." (2089).

"Jesus taught that the prayer for divine guidance over the pathway of earthly life was next in importance to the petition for a knowledge of the Father's will. In reality this means a prayer for divine wisdom." (1640)

We are told that "every time man makes a *reflective* moral choice, he immediately experiences a new *divine invasion* of his soul. Moral choosing constitutes religion as the motive of inner response to outer conditions." (2095, emphasis added)

Now, we are going to pause again for another exchange. (Insert Exchange #2, attached.)

Moreover, on the mansion worlds, and even on Urantia, the seraphim teach this "everlasting truth: If your own mind does not serve you well, you can exchange it for the mind of Jesus of Narareth, who always serves you well." (553)

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This exchanging of minds is more than a matter of saying to oneself, 'what would Jesus do in this situation? how would he decide?' You can literally *graft* Jesus' mind into your own through your own self will, and then act.

A way of making immediate contact with the mind of Jesus is through the device of the remembrance supper. "The remembrance supper is the believer's symbolic rendezvous with Michael. When you become thus spirit-conscious, the Son is actually present, and his spirit fraternizes with the indwelling fragment of his Father." (1942)

One might think that if all of our decisions were to be made during periods of sublime spiritual communion, than they would surely be moral, bringing us one step closer to light and life in our lives and on earth. But we know that non-stop prayer and worship is not the path of moral and spiritual development. It is a more dynamic form of spiritual communion that we seek, one that is with us every moment, that allows us the privilege of exchanging our minds for the mind of Jesus, that allows us instantaneous understanding our fellows, the path for true love of our fellows, and that permits us to know and do God's will.

By overlooking the fact that this remembrance supper established by Jesus *was just symbolic*, we may be overlooking that more dynamic form of spiritual communion. We forget that communion with the Father, directly or through Michael, is possible everywhere and everywhen. It does not require any formality whatsoever, no wine, no bread, not even a swallow from the nearest water fountain. No ceremony, no special place, not even a particular state of mind.

Worship is living life.

Yesterday, even today, and even tomorrow, Jesus enters your mind "to elevate, transform, and transfigure it. It is literally true: 'If any man has Christ Jesus within him, he is a new creature; old things are passing away; behold, all things are becoming new.'" (1103)

As Jesus so eloquently put it: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (242)

An important key to this dynamic, everpresent spiritual communion, of course, is Jesus' spirit teacher, the Spirit of Truth, who is everpresent, who "never creates a

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consciousness of himself, only a consciousness of Michael. . . The spirit . . . came to help men recall and understand the words of the Master as well as to illuminate and reinterpret his life on earth." (2061)

Jesus said, "As my Father has given me of his spirit, so will I give you of my spirit. And this Spirit of Truth which I will bestow upon you shall guide and comfort you and shall eventually lead you into all truth." (1948)

The Spirit of Truth, Jesus' teacher spirit which lives in the hearts of all men and women, is the spirit of *living* truth. (1948, emphasis added)

It is through periodic worshipful, reflective meditation on our decisions, on our actions, and the repercussions of those actions, every day throughout the day, that we come into contact with the Spirit of Truth and contact with God through our own personal Thought Adjuster, together revealing to us all we need to know about improving our decision-making capacities from any point forward.

Start your way today or recommit yourself to this more dynamic, interconnected spiritual communion. A form of communion which exists everywhere and everywhen. Ask yourself everyday:

"Are you more resourceful in revealing goodness to humanity today than you were yesterday?

"Are you a better righteousness recommender this year than you were last year?

"Are you becoming increasingly artistic in your technique of leading hungry souls into the spiritual kingdom?

". . . Are your ideals sufficiently high to insure your eternal salvation while your ideas are so practical as to render you a useful citizen to function on earth in association with your mortal fellows?

". . . As you grow older in years and more experienced in the affairs of the kingdom, are you becoming more tactful in dealing with troublesome mortals and more tolerant in living with stubborn associates?" (1740)

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As we reflect on the quality of our decisions, if not the very consequences of our actions which God in his wisdom may from time to time make known to us during these periods of intimate communion, we can ask for "...increased bestowals of divine wisdom and cosmic insight" and it will be given to us. (1101) We can ask to exchange our mind for the mind of Jesus, and it will be done. We can ask to know the truth of any and every life situation. We can ask that our thoughts and values be adjusted to make us more wise in our choosing, and this craving to be wise, to be more like God, will be satisfied because it must surely be God's will. "...what the true son desires, and the infinite Father wills IS." (1639, emphasis from *The Urantia Book*)

Daily decision-making is inexorably linked to daily prayer and worship and to that more dynamic, interconnected, every moment type of spiritual communion. It is in these habitual periods of reflection and communion that we take ourselves -- along with God the Supreme himself -- in for a maintenance check ... how well is that jet fuel doing? is the tank full yet? is it being well enough purified?

(Insert Exchange #3, attached.)

My closing thoughts will be encouraging words borrowed from a Mighty Messenger temporarily assigned to our planet, who borrowed some words from Isaiah in saying: "Having started out on the way of life everlasting, having accepted the assignment and received your orders to advance, do not fear the dangers of human forgetfulness and mortal inconstancy, do not be troubled with doubts of failure or by perplexing confusion, do not falter and question your status and standing, for in every dark hour, at every crossroad in the forward struggle, the Spirit of Truth will always speak, saying, 'This is the way'." (383 and Isaiah 30:12)

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ATTACHMENT

Exchange #1

You have been given a blank sheet of paper. This can be a symbol of starting fresh each day, each moment. At every turn, we can seek total, infinite perfection.

This is a departure from traditional speech-giving to attempt, collectively, to get to know each other a little better. Through a series of exchanges which will be interwoven into this presentation, we will commingle our spiritual ideals and uplift the group as a whole, despite our size.

This first adventure will be our effort to communicate in a broad way the highest hopes of our collective hearts to attain this decision-making perfection. We will communicate with each other through a series of personal, though anonymous, revelations of our innermost desires as God finds them today within this auditorium.

Tear off the top third of the sheet of paper you have been given. Write a short statement, no more than 2 or 3 sentences, as if you were one of your own angels looking down in appreciation of who you are as an individual, perhaps with an emphasis on your decision-making efforts. This particular type of exchange was first introduced to me by Ruth Renn in 1978. It can be very effective if we seek honesty within our hearts. Before you jot something down, think of the morontia world seraphim known as the psychologists of the first heaven, the Mind Planners, who "help you 'to see yourself as others see you' and 'to know yourself as angels know you.'"

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I will give you a few moments to finish this statement off. When the music starts we will pass them around so many times yours will finally land somewhere, anonymously, far away from you. Never have more than one statement in your hands. When the passing stops, read over what you have. If you find you have gotten one that especially touches you and you think it will touch the rest of us, please step up to one of the mikes in the aisles and we'll take a few minutes listening to these imaginary snapshots from above.

Musical interlude = 2 minutes, including 30 seconds of passing papers.

Time for short readings of statements: 10 minutes.

We have made an impression on each other.

Exchange #2

On the second third of that piece of paper, write down one event, one decision, a good decision or poor decision, when you thought (or knew) that you had experienced some sort of "divine invasion" of your soul, when religion was the "motive of inner response to outer conditions." Again, just 2 or 3 sentences, please.

We will again have a few moments to finish this statement off. When the music starts again we will pass them around so many times yours will finally land somewhere, anonymously, far away from you. Never have more than one statement in your hands. When the passing stops, read over what you have. If you find you have gotten one that especially touches you and you think it will touch the rest of us, please step up to one of the mikes in the aisles and we'll take a few minutes listening to these true life experiences.

Musical interlude = 2 minutes, including 30 seconds of passing papers.

Time for short readings of statements: 10 minutes.

As you can hear, there are certainly a great number of "divine invasions" going on.

Exchange #3

We will close by using that last slip of paper. Write down a message you imagine Jesus would write down to send to one of us. Attempt to "exchange your mind for the mind of Jesus," simply as an act of will. When the closing music starts pass these papers again, never holding more than one at once, but this time, after a few moments, settle on one piece of paper that has landed in your hands. Read it now or read it later. It is a special message for you only. File out peacefully, and be of good cheer.