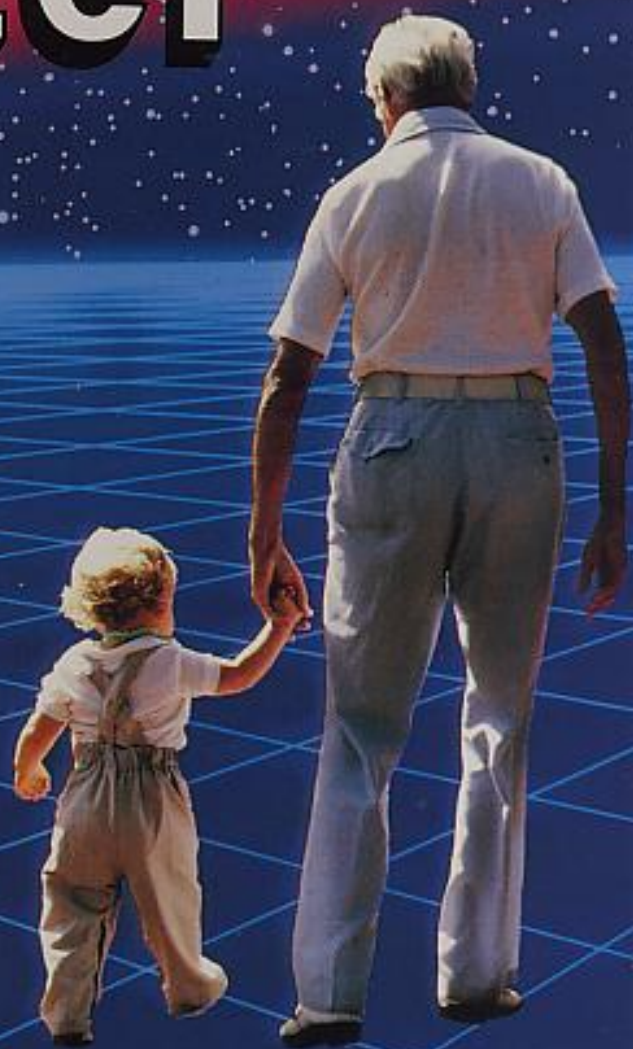


THE JESUSONIAN™

INSIDE:
MAPS OF
THE UNIVERSE

There is **Life After Death**

A review of the
Urantia Book's promise
that faith in God
ensures eternal life
in a loving, orderly,
and intelligent universe.



SPECIAL REPORT

Dedication

**This special
edition of The
Jesusonian™
is dedicated to
Jesus
of Nazareth.**

Jesus lived and taught that through faith in God we will survive death and be resurrected upon the heavenly worlds.

Jesus said, "When men and women ask what shall we do to be saved, you shall answer, Believe this gospel of the kingdom; accept divine forgiveness. By faith recognize the indwelling spirit of God, whose acceptance makes you a son of God...Salvation is a gift of the Father...By faith you are justified; by faith are you saved; and by this same faith are you eternally advanced..." *The Urantia Book* P. 1682:5

Saint Augustine once said, "Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe."

Jesus did not promise that life would be easy. But he did promise to be our supportive companion during our trials of living. Even today, in the highly complex twentieth century, Jesus is with us in spirit. He is here to heal the broken hearted, to give hope to those in despair, to bring nourishment to the spiritually hungry, and to lead all of us into eternal life.

SHIRLEY RICHARDS



Jesus proclaimed that by exercising faith in the Heavenly Father, all people can receive eternal life. This promise was given to men and women of every nation, race, religion, age, and economic level.

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"I believe in the immortality of the soul because I have within me immortal longings." —Helen Keller



Stage 1: Planetary Mortals

Earth is the First Step in our Universe Career

Stage one of our universe career begins on earth or Urantia, as our planet is known throughout the universes. After our short and intense test here on earth, we proceed inward toward the Isle of Paradise.

Each of us is an evolutionary mixture of personality, spirit, body, mind, and soul. We are transient citizens of this world, living here for only a brief period of time.

Our survival status is determined on earth. It is here where we accept or reject God and choose between a life of goodness and inner peace or one of evil and turmoil. "There is only one way to get ready for immortality, and that is to love this life and live it as bravely and faithfully and cheerfully as we can." —Henry Van Dyke

Our earth life is filled with paradoxes and contrasts. It is both tears and smiles, a slow struggling process lightened by

moments of joy. Yet this life is not in vain. God gave it to us for a purpose. It is up to us to have faith and make the most of our time on earth. By loving and serving others we make a difference to our families, our communities, and the entire human race. "All true love is from God, and man receives the divine affection as he himself bestows this love upon his fellows. Love is dynamic. It can never be captured; it is alive, free, thrilling, and always moving. Man can never take the love of the Father and imprison it within his heart. The Father's love can become real to mortal man only by passing through that man's personality as he in turn bestows this love upon his fellows." *The Urantia Book* P. 1289:4.

The Heavenly Father is the Good Parent

Jesus referred to our Father in heaven as the good parent who is always attuned to his faithful and trusting children. Whether that faith is a tiny flicker or a brilliant light, the Paradise Father will unfailingly respond. His mercy and love are never withheld from his faithful sons and daughters.

When our struggle on earth is over, we leave our home world behind. As in the dreams of poets, heavenly worlds beckon—shining spheres of life and light await us.



Our lives are not lived in vain. The love we give one another makes life worthwhile.

Seven Stages of the Ascending Universe Career

1. Planetary Mortals
2. Sleeping Survivors
3. Mansion World Students
4. Morontia Progressors
5. Superuniverse Wards
6. Havona Pilgrims
7. Paradise Arrivals

Our Planet and Solar System



Apple 17, NASA PHOTO

Earth—Urantia—is the planet of our birth. Urantia is one of twelve original planets which orbits the sun of our solar system. Our solar system spins through space on the fringes of the gigantic seventh superuniverse. The center of our superuniverse is the Milky Way Galaxy. We are one of many inhabited planets, part of a vast universe alive with various orders of intelligent and friendly beings.

PLANETARY MORTALS



LARRY CHURCH

There is Intelligent Human Life on Other Planets

We are not alone. A glance at the night sky reveals that the heavens are filled with innumerable stars. Logic leads us to speculate that many of those stars are suns of inhabited planets. This deduction is true. At this very moment, intelligent human life exists or is being planned on about seven trillion planets in the seven superuniverses.

The physical patterns of human life vary from planet to planet. Some planets have been inhabited for more than a billion years, and their family life and culture are highly advanced compared to ours. On these older worlds, life threatening dangers such as disease, war, and natural disasters no longer exist. If we were to visit one of these planets, we would describe it as heaven on earth. Newer worlds, similar to ours, are in their early stages of planetary development.

The common thread which binds us all is that we are freewill intelligent personalities capable of know-

ing and being known by God, loving and being loved by Him. Each of us has the opportunity to fulfill our Heavenly Father's supreme challenge: "Be you perfect as I am perfect."



TOM ROBERTSON

Families are the foundation of human life on the inhabited worlds. Family love is the cornerstone of the universe and the building block of civilization.

STAGE 1

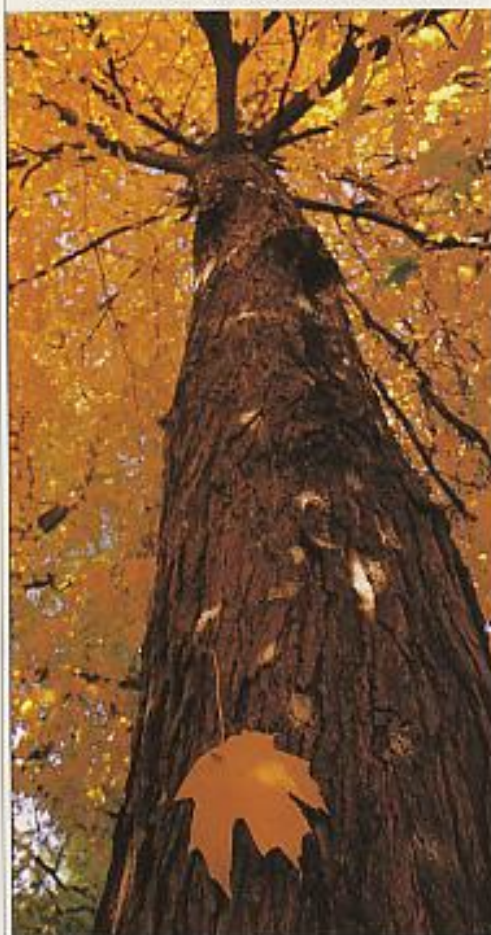


Stage 2: Sleeping Survivors

The Sleep of Survival—The Natural Bridge between Earth and Heaven

Death provides us with a natural means of going forward from earth life. It is a portal through which we pass to begin the spectacular ascent to God, the Father of all Creation.

The Urantia Book says we have nothing to fear. We are not alone in this journey. Inside each one of us is an actual



GEORGE HARRIS CASBRY

Death is a natural phase in the process of life—eternal life.



JEFF BLACK

"I am not dreaming! I am not deluded. Nearer to the grave new life streams for me. We shall continue to exist. We shall see each other again." —Goethe

fragment of God, a *Thought Adjuster*, a faithful companion who patiently waits for us to respond to its spiritual counsel so it may safely guide us through the immense universe. During our journey, the Paradise Father will love and protect us. "The Father's love follows us now and throughout the endless circle of the eternal ages." *The Urantia Book* P. 40:1

After we surrender our consciousness to death, our personality, soul, and mind identity will be preserved. When consciousness dawns again we will open our eyes on the majesty of the heavenly *mansion worlds* of our local system of planets. We have survived death. We have been resurrected. "Throughout all eternity you will recall the profound memory impressions of your first witnessing of these resurrection mornings." *The Urantia Book* P. 533:3

Now, as resurrected mortals, we continue the quest of the ages, the perfecting pilgrimage inward to Paradise, our eternal home.

How long does it take to go from Earth to the Mansion Worlds and how do we get there ?

After we die, we rest in an unconscious sleep. Whether we sleep for three days or three hundred years, we will have no memory of the passage of time. But travel

time to the mansion worlds is fast. We can be resurrected as soon as three days after our death.

The length of our sleep will depend upon the progress we made while living on earth. Generally, the more we lead balanced lives on earth, the sooner our resurrection will occur after death. Balanced character growth requires the unified development of our social, spiritual, intellectual and philosophical natures. An over-developed religious mind, for example, can become fanatical. Likewise, a scientist living without God can become a gloomy materialist. It is more important to be well-rounded and whole than to become unbalanced in any one direction.

During the *sleep of survival*, our souls, spirit, and personalities are safeguarded until we are resurrected. The



Our souls are safely delivered to the mansion worlds by our guardian angel.

cooperative efforts of our faithful guardian angel and Thought Adjuster deliver our soul, identity, and certain factors of mind to the life assembly chambers on the mansion worlds. There, we are reassembled and given a new body form.

What is Heaven Really Like?



If we knew the navigation patterns, had the proper ship, adequate fuel, and permission to visit, we literally could fly a spaceship to the heavenly worlds.

If we ponder the visions of heaven dreamed by the twentieth century's most perceptive religious philosophers, we gain an insight into the first heavenly worlds where we will live. As we proceed beyond these first worlds, we will realize that nothing in human experience has prepared us to understand or express the beauty and diversity of the heavens.

The universe is vast, much larger than most scientists have imagined. To ensure organization and orderliness, specially constructed *architectural worlds* were designed to serve as administrative headquarters. These architectural worlds, strategically placed throughout the universe, are like separate heavens. Heaven is not one central place but Paradise is the center of the universe and is the heaven of heavens.

Heavenly worlds are real spheres in space. "Spirit beings do not dwell in nebulous space; they do not inhabit ethereal worlds; they are domiciled on actual spheres of a material nature..." *The Urantia Book* P. 154:3

The basic building blocks of the heavenly worlds are derived from material elements, some of which exist on earth. These worlds are filled with beautiful and abundant features: rolling highlands, shimmering lakes, bountiful plant and

animal life, vast wilderness preserves, parks, cities, worship centers, and a multitude of creation beyond anything we humans can imagine.

These heavenly worlds are teeming with life forms and substances that transcend material elements. As we enter *morontia life*, the intervening level between material and spiritual existence, we will see that we are only one example of God's creations. Numerous beings, some similar to our concept of angels, dwell on the morontia worlds.

Beyond the material and morontia levels is spirit. As we travel inward toward Paradise, the heavenly worlds become more dominated by spirit reality. Many kinds of spirit beings, more advanced than our most wonderful visions of archangels,

live on these spiritual levels. These beings have homes, complex communication systems, administrative networks, artistic means of expression, and spiritual worship.

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." I Corinthians 2:9. Our Father has created a great universe that awaits us. Through faith in Him, we begin an amazing adventure of experience and love as we travel throughout the boundless universe.

Our universe career advances through many stages. We do not simply die and wake up in a blissful state. Life is an unfolding of progressive levels, a blending of the material, the philosophical, and the spiritual.



The beauty of earthly life foreshadows the higher realities of the heavenly worlds.

Are all People Resurrected?



Our Paradise Father is a God of intelligent love who desires that all his children live forever. But truth about God's love should not be misinterpreted as God being blind, permissive, or disinterested in our lives. The Heavenly Father loves the sinner while hating the sin and stands ready to forgive anyone who sincerely seeks forgiveness, no matter how destructive their lives have been. However, when a person knowingly and willfully persists in habitual wrong doing (sin) and consciously rejects the love and mercy of God, these acts of premeditated defiance generally result in the incurable corruption of the mind, which terminates in cosmic insanity. Those who decide to forever reject the Paradise Father's love and mercy lose the ability to discern right from wrong. This destructive selfishness ends with death. These people will not be reborn. For them, earth death is final. It is as if they **never were**.

In order to survive death, we must have faith. The Creator responds to even the faintest flicker of faith, but there **must** be faith. Selfishness leads to death while selflessness leads to eternal life. Said George McDonald, "All the doors that lead inward, to the sacred place of the Most High, are doors outward—out of self, out of smallness, out of wrong."

SCHUSTER



To understand God's deep love for us, we can think about how much we love our own children. If we imperfect parents on an imperfect world love our children as much as we do, think how much more the perfect Creator Parent must love us. The Heavenly Father is our loyal and understanding parent.

Stage 3: Mansion World Students

Our Resurrection and new Lives on the Mansion Worlds and System Capital

*"You begin over there right where you leave off down here."
The Urantia Book P. 533:5*

After physical death on earth, sleeping survivors will be resurrected on the first of the mansion worlds. Jesus referred to

will beckon us to take up the evolutionary adventure where we left off back on earth. We have now entered Stage 3 and become mansion world students.

As we adjust to our new lives, we will be required to develop intellectually, philosophically, and spiritually. We are similar to the way we were when we left earth except that we have now experienced resurrection. Our memory has retained only the meaningful and valuable experiences from our earth life and we have been given new highly powered minds and bodies. Our new bodies are made of morontia materials and will require nourishment from morontial substances. The



Our relationships with family members, friends, and associates will continue on the heavenly worlds. This is a goodness dominated universe where lasting positive friendships are highly valued and nurtured.

these worlds when he said, "In my Father's house are many mansions." John 14:2. After our unconscious sleep, we will awaken in the resurrection halls of the first mansion world in a new and more glorious body. Our new form will be similar to the kind of body Jesus inhabited during his resurrection on earth.

When we awaken, we will be greeted by our guardian angel and other loving celestial companions. After completing registration and orientation, our first ten days will be spent exploring our new home and visiting loved ones who have arrived before us. Soon, however, the opportunities, challenges, work, and other responsibilities of the mansion world life

food and drink we now intake will transform directly into pure energy.

On the mansion worlds, every vestige of physical, emotional, and mental deficiencies will be healed. As Thomas Moore said, "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal."

During our life as mansion world students, we can make an everlasting decision to become one with the spirit within, our Thought Adjuster. God is already a part of us and we now decide to become a part of God. Here we make the freewill decision to do God's will, to eventually become perfect as our Paradise Father is perfect. This melding with the God within ensures that we will enjoy eternal life.

STAGE 3

MANSION WORLD STUDENTS



Stage 4: Morontia Progressors

Stage Four begins

The completion of our life on the mansion worlds of our local system marks the end of Stage 3. We enter Stage 4 as we take up residence on Jerusem, the capital of the local system.

Relative to our earthly condition, we will emerge from the system capital as highly evolved, well balanced, educated, and socially adjusted morontia beings. Yet, in the scheme of the universe, we remain as children upon a bridge between the material and the spiritual, the finite and the infinite, time and eternity. Our earthly experience of living in a material world now is augmented by the challenges and joys of life on the system capital. This in turn will be superseded by the grandeur of the architectural worlds of our constellation headquarters, the next phase of our wonderful journey.

The Gates of Paradise, 1793 WILLIAM BLAKE



In the time scheme of the universe, we are as children upon a bridge between the material and the spiritual, the finite and the infinite.

MORONTIA PROGRESSORS



Fifty-seven specially designed architectural worlds make up the capital of our local system of one thousand inhabitable planets. The mansion worlds are seven of these fifty-seven worlds. Imagine the diverse cultures we will experience as we mingle with mortals, angels, and other intelligent spiritual beings who are living on or visiting the mansion worlds.

What are Angels?

The word angels is often misused to mean any personality above human. Angels are only one of many groups of intelligent beings in a universe filled with multiple life forms. Humans are the lowest level of imperfect evolutionary free-will creatures; angels are of a higher spiritual order. Yet they are evolving beings who are working their way toward perfection. There are many other groups more advanced than angels. Some beings began as perfect creations.

Within the family of angels there are many different kinds—cherubim, seraphim, guardian angels, and archangels. Some resemble us in mind and personality. Many are enough like us that they laugh at our jokes, enjoy our music, and sympathize with our problems. Over a billion angels are functioning on earth now. If our range of vision could be expanded, we could see them clearly.

Appearances by angels have been recorded throughout history. Most reports are explained by the fact that certain people have actually been permitted to see them. Many people claim to have

seen angels during near-death experiences. Other stories are based on historical encounters when angels have been observed functioning on earth.

Angels generally work in complementary couples of opposite natures. They provide many needed services throughout the universe, operating as transporters, mathematicians, teachers,



Just as there is a species called human, there is a real and distinct order of angels. Angels are one of many groups of personalities that range between the imperfect level of freewill human to the perfect level of the First Source and Center of the universe, the Heavenly Father.

STAGE 4

broadcasters, Voices of Wisdom, and Quickeners of Morality.

All of us have guardian angels who watch over us during our earth life. Angels will be among our best friends on the heavenly worlds. They are personal loving spirits with real feelings, brilliant minds, and a desire to be our friends.

Is there a hell?

There is no physical place in the universe called *hell*. The Father in heaven is not a vengeful God who takes pleasure in tormenting his erring children. The consequence of a selfish and sinful life is not imprisonment where we burn throughout eternity. If there is a temporary hell, it is when we live in separation from God. Permanent hell could be thought of as irrevocable separation from God, final death without resurrection.

Even though we all make mistakes, our mistakes are understood and forgiven by our merciful and loving Paradise Father. In order to experience forgiveness, we must learn to forgive others as God has forgiven us. Said Edward Herbert, "He that cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he must pass himself; for every man has need to be forgiven."

THE SICK, 1895 EDWARD MUNCH



Hell is living in the absence of God and in the over abundance of our self.

STAGE 4

What are we Like Immediately After Resurrection?



Just as a butterfly develops from the caterpillar, the ascendant mortal emerges from the earthly tabernacle of the body into the morontia form.

The resurrected mortal is made up of five component parts: the morontia form, the morontia mind, the morontia soul, the spirit, and the personality. We are not reconstituted as flesh and blood humans. Rather, we are resurrected as morontia *soul-like* ascendant mortals. The morontia identity has five aspects.

1. **Morontia form:** This serves the same purpose as our human body serves us on earth. Our new form is different because it is not made of flesh and blood. Our resurrected body is made from morontia materials, substances of a more enduring nature. Each of us retains our individuality, and we will be recognizable just as Jesus was known to the apostles when he appeared in his morontia form after the crucifixion.

2. **Morontia mind:** Our earthly intellect perishes when we die. It is replaced by a higher mind system.

3. **Morontia soul:** On earth, the birth of the human soul occurred the instant our mind and our Thought Adjuster made contact with each other. The soul is the emerging reality that grows as our relationship with the Father deepens. On the mansion worlds, our soul helps us to see and experience the world around us, much the way our mind performed this function on earth. Many previous functions of the earthly mind, such as memory, are taken over by the soul. It can be said

that we will be *soul-like* in the next world.

4. **Thought Adjuster:** The Thought Adjuster is an actual part of the Father that comes from Paradise to live within us. On earth it is known by different names in most world religions. Christians call it the spirit or God within; Jews call it the Still Small Voice; Taoists, the Tao; and Hindus, the Atman.

When we are resurrected on the mansion worlds, our individual Thought Adjuster will be faithfully waiting there to join us. The Adjuster is the spirit entity that preserves our spiritual memories from earth. This Adjuster is our guide to Paradise and will forever remain with us. Eventually, each of us will so completely unite with our Adjuster that observers will not be able to tell us apart.

5. **Personality:** Personality is the one changeless reality in an ever growing individual. The personality is the glue that holds us together. It is the constant thread that allows us to know and be known by others. Our personality is a gift of God and will remain with us throughout eternity. As we progress through the universe, we will begin to discover the scope of our personality.



On earth, our physical beauty is somewhat accidental. On the heavenly worlds, our morontia form will mirror our inner beauty.

MORONTIA PROGRESSORS



"Nature is the living, visible garment of God." —Goethe

YAN HOORICK



Stage 4 Continued: Our Travels & Life in the Constellation

After graduation from the mansion worlds and the local system capital, we are transported to the splendor of the constellation headquarters. Our constellation is comprised of about one hundred local systems, made up of nearly one hundred thousand inhabited planets.

Edentia, our constellation capital, is at the center of 771 architectural worlds. These worlds abound in glorious material

creation, morontia life, and spiritual grandeur. Here, extensive highlands, sparkling lakes, and vast botanic gardens color the landscape.

It's Time to Sharpen our Social Skills

These training worlds present a major challenge for our now powerfully inte-



The constellation headquarters are filled with natural wonders, even more plentiful than on earth.

MORONTIA PROGRESSORS

grated and individualized personalities. Here, individualism is modified by group activities that encourage our social cooperation and group ethics. Not only do we relate with ascendant mortals from thousands of other planets, we also live with many highly developed morontia and spirit personalities. Working happily and living harmoniously with so many different kinds of beings requires growth of our minds, social graces, tolerance, and spiritual acceptance. Our emphasis is to master teamwork, but we have plenty of time to continue enriching our association with the Thought Adjuster.

When we are ready to leave the marvels of the constellation worlds, our sojourn will fade into a magnificent memory. We now leave for the capital of our local universe, the bright and shining worlds of Salvington. Here we will fulfill the dream of all believing souls. We will stand face to face with the living Jesus, the Creator Son, the supreme ruler of the local universe of Nebadon.



Stage 4 Continued: Our Life on the Capital Worlds of the Local Universe of Nebadon

We have Reached the Headquarters of Jesus

The conclusion of the fourth stage of our pilgrimage to Paradise has taken us to the headquarters of the local universe of Nebadon. The beauty of the constellation worlds was beyond our expectations. Yet it was merely a foretaste of the magnificence of the Nebadon capital.

Local universes are the fundamental geographic, administrative, and spiritual building blocks of the universe. As our world contains nations, the super-universes contain local universes. Our local universe is called Nebadon. It is ruled by our Creator Son Michael, known on earth as Jesus of Nazareth.

STAGE 4

The Physical Structure of our Local Universe

Our local universe is made up of one hundred constellations, ten thousand local systems, and about ten million inhabitable worlds. At the center of these worlds is the capital of Nebadon, which is called Salvington. The nature and grandeur of the government headquarters of Nebadon is a reflection of Paradise.

We are Back at School—This Time at the University Worlds of Nebadon



"Education is the leading of human souls to what is best...The training which makes men happiest in themselves also makes them most serviceable to others."
—John Ruskin

By now we have passed through almost four stages: earth life, sleeping survivors, mansion world students, and morontia progressors. Now we are ready for the local universe capital experience. Our first day on the headquarter spheres of Nebadon begins at the university worlds. We will treasure this day forever. Although we enjoy each of the worlds of our local universe headquarters, our peak ex-

periences will be on the university worlds.

After gaining residence on the first university world, we are instructed about the knowledge adventure that awaits. First, we will review our past journey. This summary concludes on the sixth world, where our experiences will be correlated in a meaningful way. Then, fully prepared, we will encounter the next learning challenges on the remaining worlds of this vast university.

Before graduation to Salvington, we will be trained in a wide range of practical skills and knowledge. Beyond general training, we might enroll in higher educational specialties that could be likened to physics, ethics, communications, and arts. Intensive training and work also will be offered in fields such as legislative



government, political science, administrative management, and life science. Instruction in philosophy and history will help us integrate our newly learned insights. The information we receive will require our active participation. We will be asked to use our new found skills to serve others and to teach what we have learned. "The basis of all education is to learn by doing." —Donald Laird

Our Graduation to the Capital of Nebadon, the Spiritual World of Salvington

When we reach Salvington, we will be most grateful for our long and thorough preparation. Having been intellectually stimulated and universally socialized, we now will experience a dynamic new spiritualization process on the capital world.

The spirit of Jesus-Michael has comforted us since our distant days on earth and we have even seen him on previous worlds. Now, we will be privileged to meet Michael at his Salvington headquarters. Here we take up long-term residency until we are ready for spirit status and Stage 5 of our trip to Paradise. There is surprisingly scant information in *The Urantia Book* about what happens to us during our stay on Salvington. We speculate that little is explained because there is nothing in our human experience that will help us understand. We do know that a *significant* spiritual change occurs during this period and that our spiritual growth is based on love.

Finally the time of departure from Nebadon comes. We are reluctant to leave our universal home and say good-bye to Christ Michael and his partner, the Creative Mother Spirit. We depart with the fondest and most loving memories. When the great day comes, Michael and the Mother Spirit will confirm our status as we transform from morontia beings to first stage spirit personalities. After we leave Nebadon, the spirit of Jesus-Michael will remain a powerful influence upon us as we journey on to the source of all things, God the Father. We have seen the Son, and thus to the best of our comprehension, we have seen the Paradise Father.

Now we begin the superuniverse stage of our evolutionary training adventure. We depart from the local universe of Nebadon to the capital cluster of our minor sector. Moving on to the headquarters of the local universe was a major step forward. Advancing from Nebadon into the superuniverse is confirmation that the ascending pilgrim has attained the settled status of eternal life.

Who is Jesus and Why Did He Come to Earth?

Jesus: "Before Abraham was, I am." John 8:58

"I am from above. You are from this world, I am not of this world." John 8:23

Just as humans and angels are distinct groups, there also exists an order of perfectly created, extremely powerful universe Creator Sons called Michael Sons. These Sons are the creators, builders, and administrators of vast regions of inhabited space called local universes. God does not manage the heavens single handedly. He has delegated the powers of heaven and earth to his Michael Sons who represent the Paradise Father to the worlds of time and space. *The Bible* mentions our Michael Son but refers to him as the archangel Michael. To humans on worlds like ours, Michael Sons are exactly like the Heavenly Father. It is literally true that he who has seen the Son has seen the Father. The Father and the Son are forever as one.

The local universe of Nebadon contains many inhabited planets. Earth is one of them. Nebadon's leader is Michael, sometimes referred to as Christ Michael. Michael and members of his government live on Salvington, the headquarters of the local universe. It was from Salvington that Nebadon's spiritual and governmental leader made the decision to be born as a helpless infant on one of the worlds of his creation. And so it was that Michael, from among his inhabited worlds of Nebadon, singled out the confused world of Urantia to become the only place he would ever live as a human being. Michael had never before and will never again be incarnated as a helpless baby. He came to earth two thousand years ago. He was born the baby Jesus, the Christ child.

Christ Michael's submission to the difficulties of earthly life gave this perfect Creator Son experiential knowledge about our struggles. He chose to live as a human being on our struggling planet like a good corporate executive would

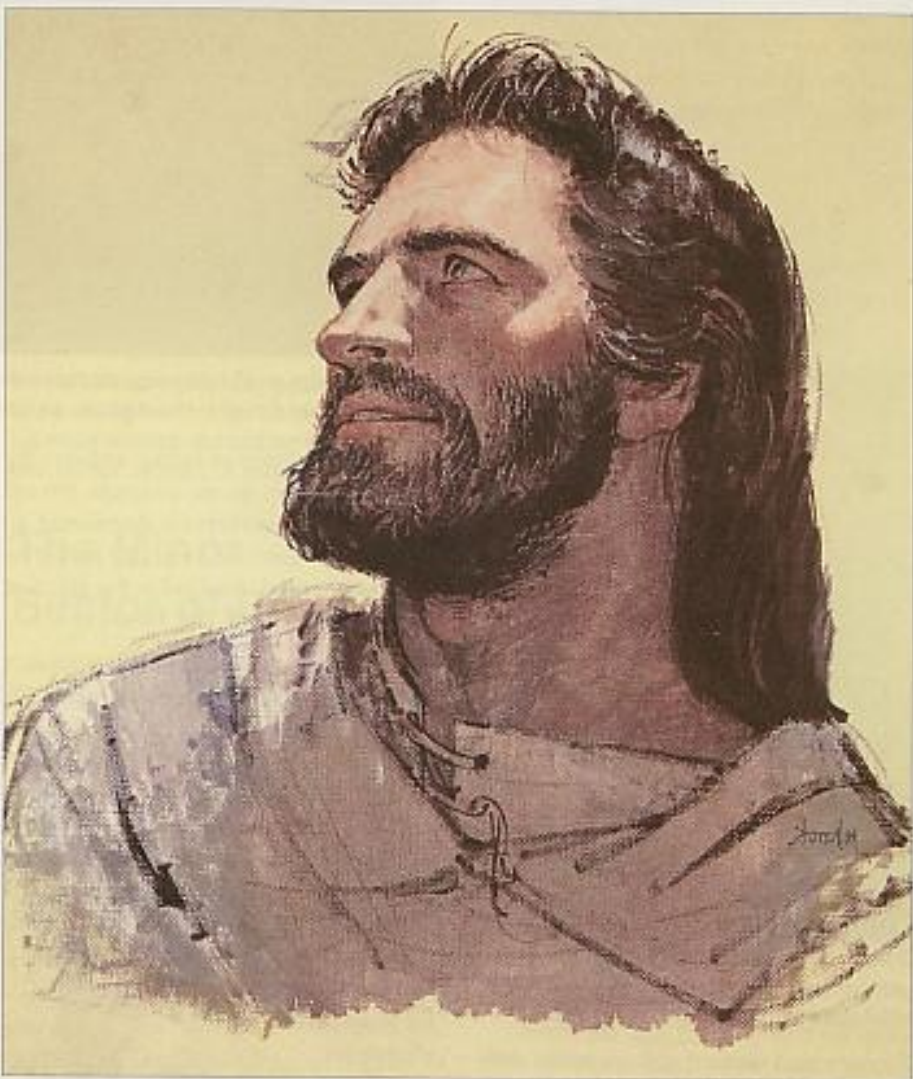
choose to work along with the laborers on a floundering production line. In all of our afflictions he is afflicted. He knows us and stands forever as our spiritual leader and father-friend.

If you admire Jesus as portrayed in *The Bible*, you will love and respect him more after understanding who he was before and after his earth life. Knowing that Jesus is Michael of Nebadon, we can more fully understand his words: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father, but by me. I am

the resurrection and the life." —Jesus, *The Bible*. "I am the open door to eternal salvation. I am the reality of endless life...I am the secret of eternal survival...I am the living bridge from one world to another. I am the living link between time and eternity." —Jesus, *The Urantia Book* P. 1965:4

When we understand our location in the universe, we see it is **impossible** to proceed to Paradise without first passing through and living in the local universe of Nebadon where Christ Michael reigns supreme. Michael is the way to eternal life. He is our hope and salvation, the desire of all the ages, and our loyal leader.

For greater understanding of Jesus, Part IV of *The Urantia Book* tells the complete story of his life and teachings.



Nearly two thousand years ago, from the headquarters of the local universe of ten million inhabitable planets, the "only begotten" Michael Son of Nebadon left his supreme leadership post to live on earth as Jesus of Nazareth. He repeatedly told his apostles that he was not of this world and that he had come from the Father.

Twenty Facts about Life after Death

1. Human beings are the lowest level of freewill creatures in the universe.

2. We are all born as children of the Paradise Father. Yet, to be resurrected, we must exercise faith and trust in our Heavenly Father.

3. After resurrection, we start our new life where we left off on earth.

4. When we awaken from the sleep of survival, we will recognize our family, friends, and acquaintances, and they will recognize us.

5. After checking in on the mansion worlds, our first ten days are spent on vacation. During this time, we can visit family and friends who have gone before us, explore our new home, and look over plans for the immediate future.

6. After we die, we are not permitted to communicate with anyone still living on earth. The *spirits of the dead* don't come back. There are no ghosts.



On the heavenly worlds the opposite genders will continue to fascinate, stimulate and comfort one another.

7. Men and women always retain their gender characteristics. Even after we have journeyed to Paradise and are full spirit beings, opposite genders will continue to fascinate and comfort one another.

8. On most of the heavenly worlds there are enormous circular crystal receiving stations. One of these stations was described by John in *The Bible* as "the sea of glass." Some measure nearly one hundred miles in circumference and thirty miles in depth. These crystals function as receiving and broadcasting stations and as landing fields. We will spend many hours around these seas of glass, listening to news, attending cultural performances, and worshipping the Paradise Father.



One mansion world day equals three days of earth time. At the darkest point of a mansion world night, the light is as bright as a full moon night on earth.

9. The experience of loving and serving others increases as we progress toward Paradise. The universe is dominated by love. "The more one loves, the nearer he approaches God, for God is the spirit of infinite love." —R. W. Trive

10. On the heavenly worlds we interact with resurrected mortals from many different planets. Even though all of us had different intellectual, spiritual, physical, and racial backgrounds, as former humans we shared these common features: we all stood erect, we were either male or female, we had two arms and two legs, we possessed the freewill to either accept or reject God, and we all had the opportunity for resurrection after death.



PATRICK VESH

11. On older, more evolved worlds, the departure of a loved one is not generally met with great sorrow or grief. Death is seen as a passage or a graduation, anticipated with happy expectations of the worlds ahead.

12. A child who dies before having the opportunity to make a freewill faith decision to accept God will be resurrected when either parent is resurrected.

13. Days are much longer as we get closer to Paradise. One day of mansion world time is equal to about three earth days. One day of local universe time is equal to about eighteen earth days. One day of su-

peruniverse time is equal to thirty earth days. One day on Paradise is equal to almost one thousand earth years.

14. The universe is a big school. We spend a great amount of time in education programs. When we are not working in service missions or playing, we are in training. As we progress from earth to Paradise, specialized techniques are used to communicate knowledge. One hour of training on Paradise equals ten thousand years of memory methods on earth.

15. Our earthly material bodies have five physical senses: sight, hearing, taste,

smell, and touch. Our morontia bodies have the potential of seventy senses.

16. In our local universe, there is an intelligent and friendly animal species called spornagia. Spornagia can be pictured if you were to combine the best traits of a horse, a dog, and a chimpanzee. These industrious animals are known for their expert gardening skills.

17. On the mansion worlds, we will have no need for a sanitary waste system. All of the food and water we consume is converted directly into energy.

18. Any genuinely worthwhile goal that we did not fulfill on earth can be accomplished in the heavens if that goal continues to remain on our priority list.

19. We will literally meet Jesus on the heavenly worlds. We will also meet and become friends with the pair of guardian angels who guided us on earth.



Angel wings are actually friction shields used during space flight.

20. After we attain the mansion worlds, much of our long distance travel will be aboard transport angels. They *ensera-phin* us and fly from world to world. What we have traditionally viewed as angel wings are actually friction shields that ensure safe space flight. Some angels travel at speeds of more than 550,000 miles per second.



Stage 5: Superuniverse Wards



Enshrouded in the subgalactic star cloud of Sagittarius are the majestic training spheres of our minor sector. Around these worlds, approximately one hundred local universes, including Nebadon, rotate in a gigantic spiral. Together they form our minor sector. A minor sector contains about one billion inhabitable planets.

The Minor Sector of Ensa

After we leave our local universe of Nebadon, we venture into Stage 5 of our Paradise Journey. Our first stop is at the training worlds of Uminor the third, the capital of our minor sector. Here we begin to master the material properties and physical organization of the superuniverse, preparing ourselves for an undisclosed adventure that will require us to have this scientific knowledge. This is a season of wonderment, of learning about the physical aspects of universe life. This education will prepare us for the intellectual challenges that await us at the headquarters worlds of our major sector of Splandon. "Heaven is not reached

at a single bound; but we build the ladder by which we rise from the lowly earth to the vaulted skies, and we mount to its summit round by round." —J. G. Holland

Stage 5 Continued: Life on the Major Sector Capital Worlds

Each superuniverse is made up of ten major sectors. Each major sector is comprised of one hundred minor sectors and about one hundred billion inhabitable worlds.

Umajor the fifth, the capital of our

major sector, is the cosmic linchpin of billions of inhabitable planets. It is surrounded by seventy spheres of majestic intellectual training. On these worlds, our minds are challenged, enriched, and expanded. Here, our superuniverse intellectual development is finely tuned. After visiting the nine other major sector capitals of our superuniverse, we are ready to complete our technical and administrative superuniverse education, and the final spiritual preparation for the ultimate journey inward.

We leave the major sector and travel inward toward the administrative and spiritual center of our superuniverse, the unfathomably immense star cluster of Uversa.

Is There Evil and Suffering on the Heavenly Worlds?

When we die and reawaken on the shores of the mansion worlds, we don't wake up in a blissful utopia as perfect beings. Elements within us have grown but each of us is very much the same person we were. With this in mind, it isn't surprising that we will encounter and create difficulties as we progress from imperfection to perfection.

Personal growth is not limited to humans. There are many other kinds of personal beings, similar to angels, who are imperfect. These beings also advance through the heavens toward Paradise. They too, having freewill, make mistakes and endure the consequences.

Although there are conflicts on the lower stages of the heavenly worlds, there is nothing to equal the disease, fear, greed, violence, hatred, despair, and sin we experience on earth. Neither are there natural disasters to make us fearful. Yet, there are courts, conflicts, and occasional disruptions. Potential evil is present when lower orders of beings are free to choose between right and wrong.

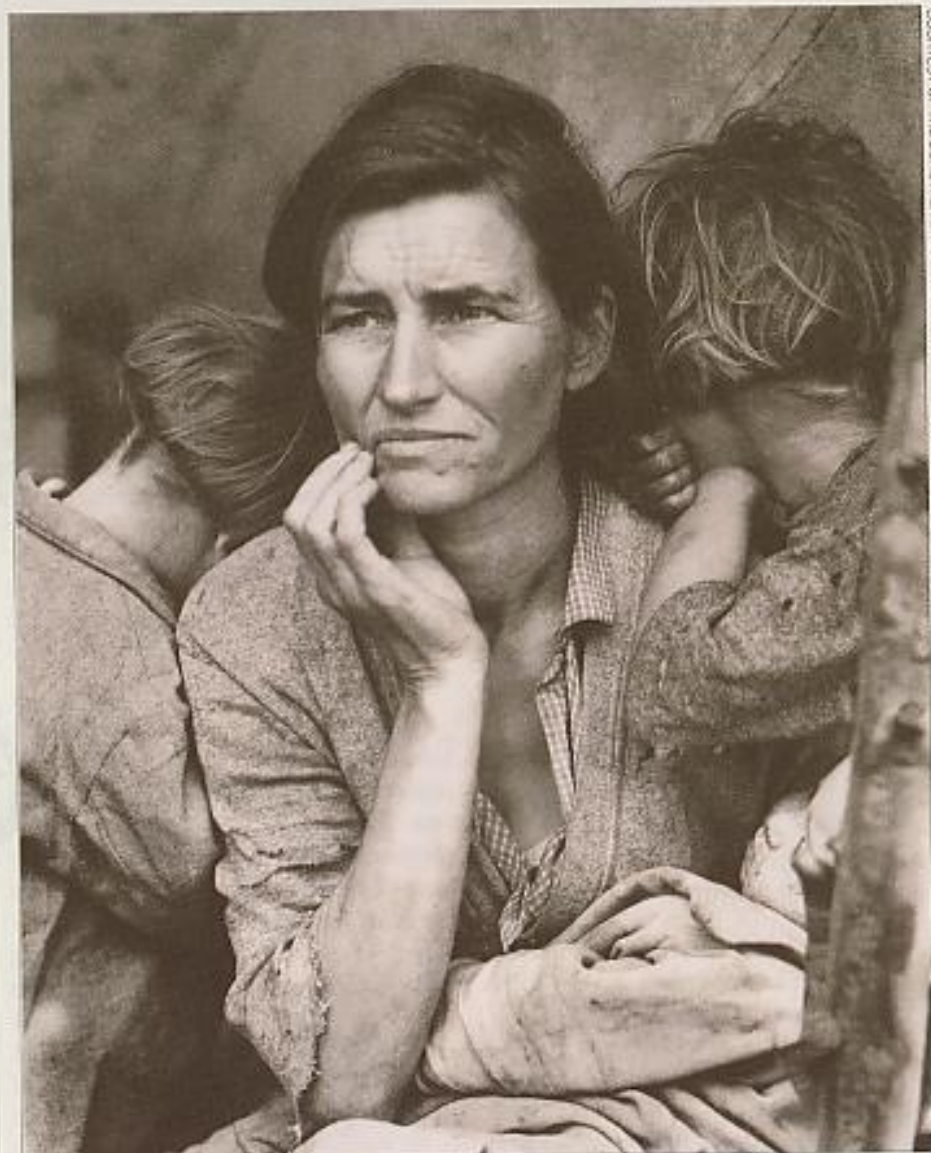
Although there are conflicts on the lower stages of the heavenly worlds, there is nothing to equal the disease, fear, greed, violence, hatred, despair, and sin we experience on earth.

Don't let this view of the heavens discourage you. Be of good cheer and know that as we grow nearer to our Paradise Father, life becomes more perfect. Even

though the first worlds we visit after death are not inhabited by all-perfect beings, life on these worlds is better than the most majestic visions we have ever imagined. There is an adventure ahead of us that is progressively beautiful, true, and good.

The universe is dominated by love, managed with intellectual fairness, ruled by mercy and justice, and stabilized by spiritual insight.

The universe is not an unjust accident or a sadistic joke played on struggling mortals. We could have been made perfect, but there was a better plan for us. We were created to progress from the simple human level to a status of earned spiritual brilliance.



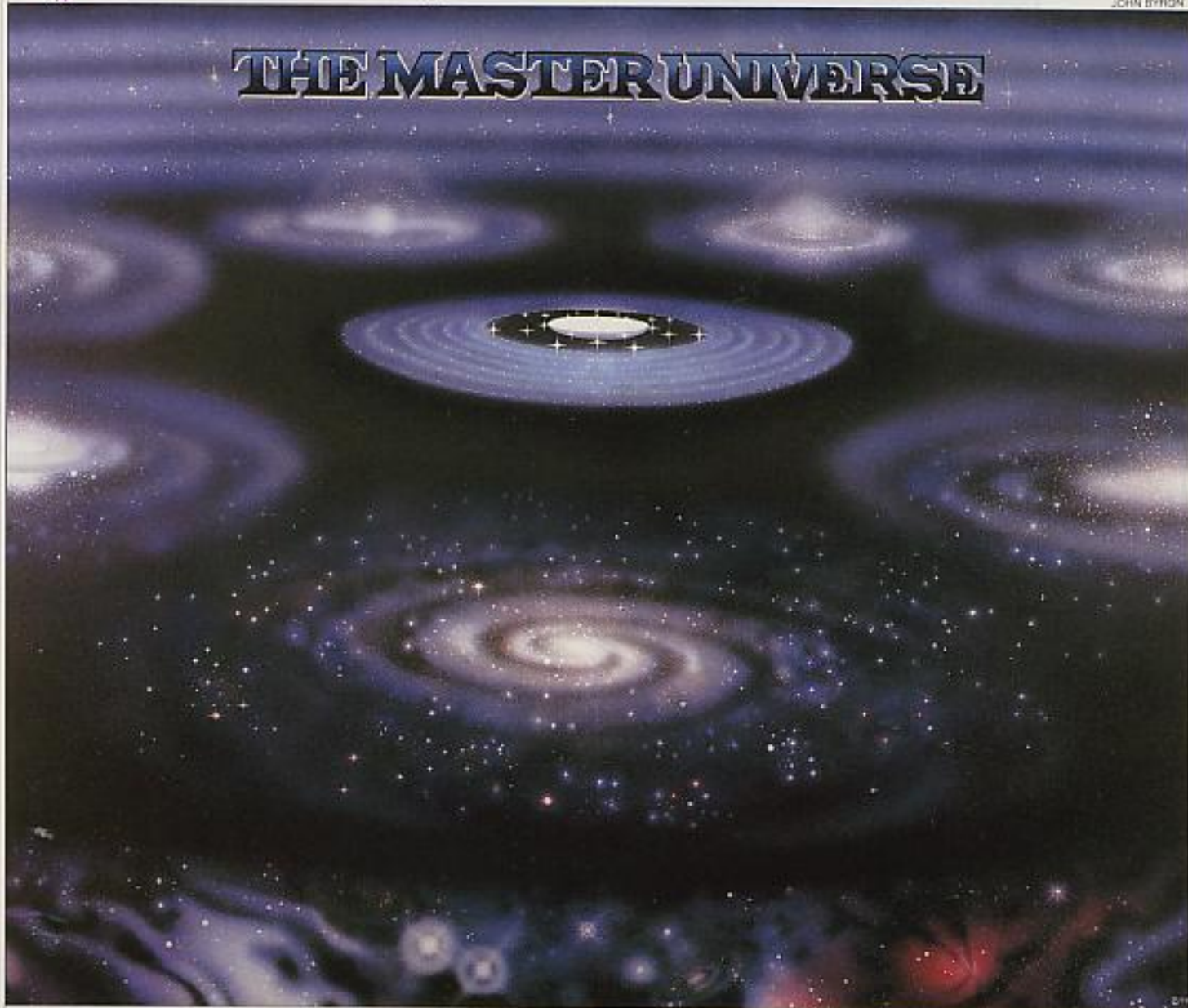
The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials.
—Chinese Proverb.

COURTESY OF THE DONOHUE/LANDE COLLECTION © The City of Oakland, The Oakland Museum, 1988. Migrant Mother, Nipomo, CA, 1936 DONOHUE/LANDE



Stage 5 Continued:
**Our Superuniverse Capital of Orvonton,
our Last Stop before Havona**

JOHN BYRON



The master universe is the enormous inhabited and uninhabited universe as it currently exists. But, because God is infinite, there are no boundaries to the full potential of the heavens.

Seven superuniverses constitute the Grand Universe. Ours, the seventh and newest superuniverse, is named Orvonton. The capital is Uversa. The administrative center of our superuniverse is located at the starry center of our Milky Way Galaxy.

The unparalleled magnificence of Uversa and its satellites overshadows all our previous experiences. On the seventy

worlds of advanced cultural training, our preparatory spiritual enrichment is completed. Our experiences and our intellects are further cultivated.

The cultural diversity of the superuniverse is staggering. On our approach to the infinite, we mingle with ascending beings from nearly one trillion planets, as well as with the perfect beings from the central universe of Havona and Paradise.

**We now stand unique
in all the universe—
spirit children of the
Universal Father.
We are on our way to
Paradise.**

SUPERUNIVERSE WARDS

STAGE 5

UNREVEALED
SERVICE

UNREVEALED
SERVICE

7TH
STAGE

PARADISE

PARADISE
ARRIVALS

6TH
STAGE
HAVONA
PILGRIMS

HAVONA

5TH
STAGE

UNIVERSA

SUPER-
UNIVERSE
WARDS

U MAJOR
THE
5TH

U MINOR
THE
3RD

4TH
STAGE

HALVINGTON

EDENTIA

MORONTIA
PROGRESSORS

JERUSEM

3RD STAGE
MANSTON
WORLD
STUDENTS

SEVEN
MANSTON
WORLDS

2ND STAGE
SLEEPING
SURVIVORS

SLEEP
OF
TIME

1ST STAGE
PLANETARY
MORTALS

NATIVE
PLANET

GRAND UNIVERSE ASCENSION CAREER

QUATERNARY
TERTIARY LEVEL
SECONDARY SPACE LEVEL
PRIMARY OUTER SPACE LEVEL

HAVONA

SEVENTH
SUPERUNIVERSE
ORVONTON

MAJOR SECTOR SPLANDON
MINOR SECTOR ENSA

LOCAL UNIVERSE NEBADON

CONSTELLATION NORLATIADEK
THE LOCAL SYSTEM

MANSTON WORLDS

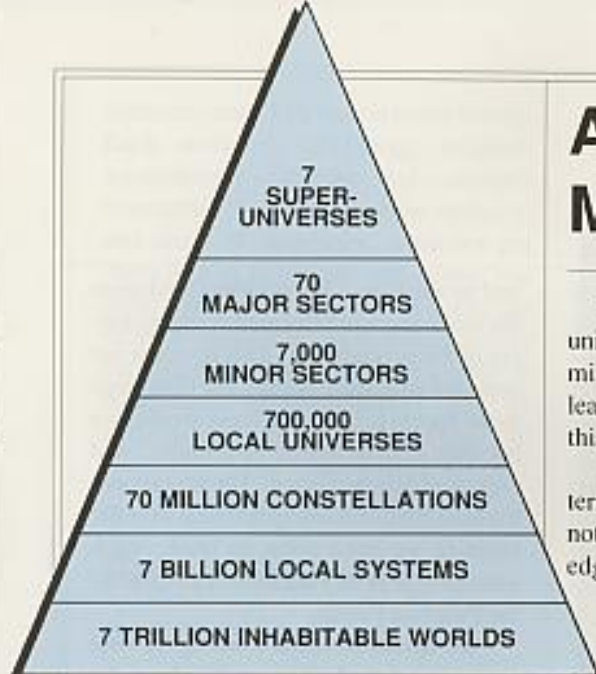
EARTH URANUA

A Conceptual View of the Master Universe

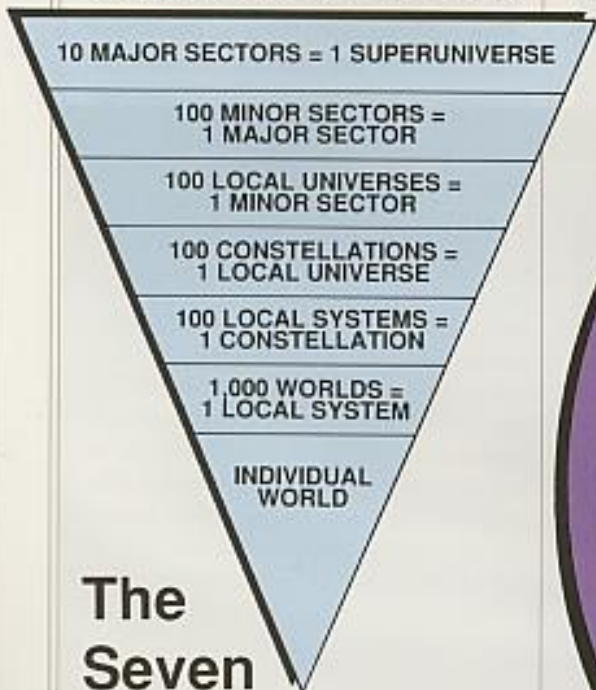
This simplified conceptual chart of the universe illustrates the astronomic and administrative layout of the universe. At least two major problems exist in using this chart to depict the universe.

First, the physical astronomic patterns are evolving. Symmetrical lines do not accurately represent the true rough-edged patterns of creation. Second, there

exists great error in using this conceptual view to estimate size. The outer space levels are so large that the Havona worlds and the seven superuniverses would fit into the fourth outer space level as a grain of sand would fit into a city the size of Paris. Nonetheless, the chart does give a feel for the way in which the universe is governed.



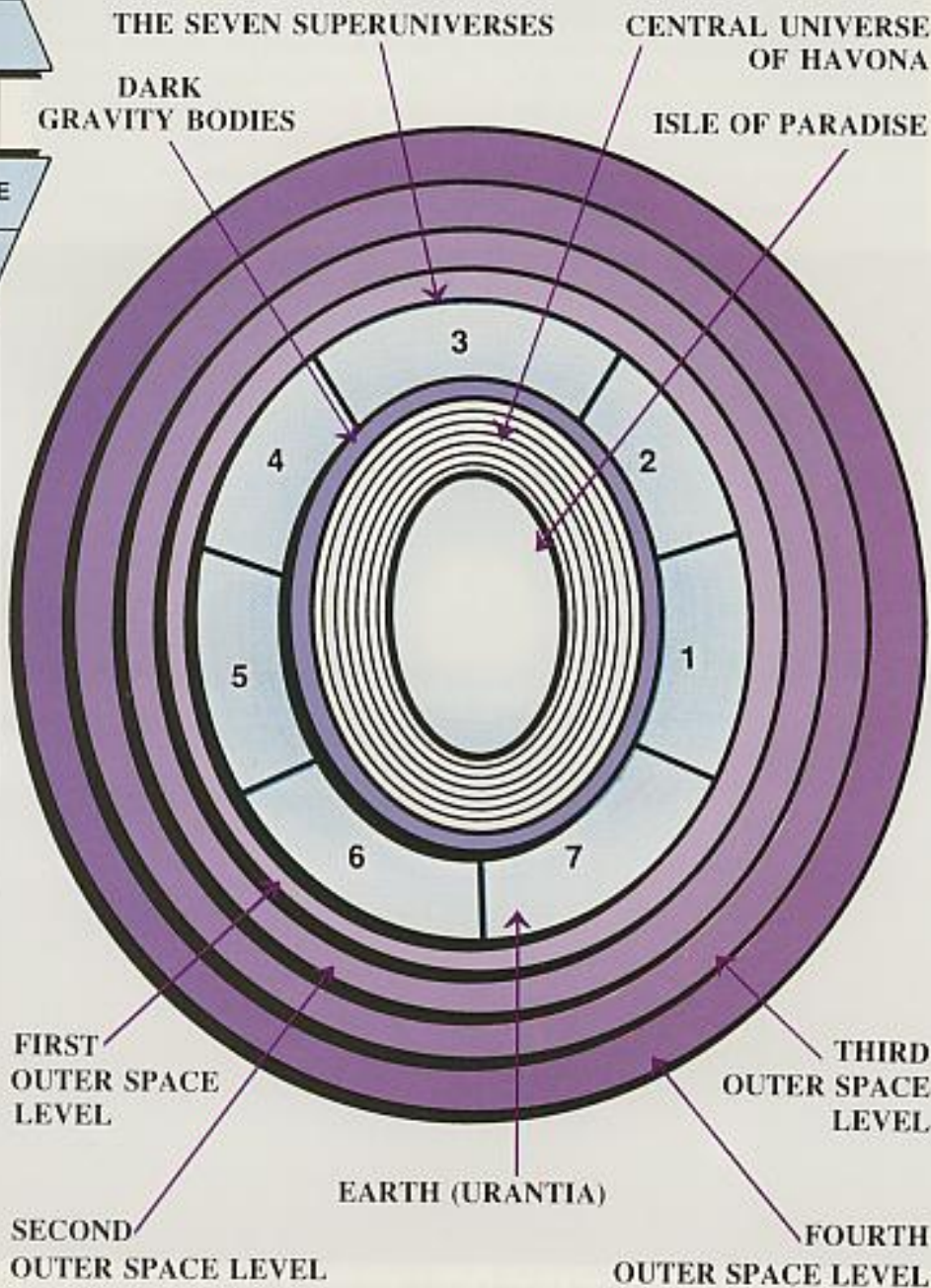
THE SUPERUNIVERSES



The Seven Superuniverses

These charts depict the cosmological structure of the superuniverses. The upper triangle shows the names and numbers of the major administrative divisions within the seven superuniverses. The lower triangle depicts the divisions within one superuniverse.

The seven superuniverses surround the Havona worlds, which in turn, surround Paradise. The superuniverses and Havona constitute the Grand Universe.



SUPERUNIVERSE WARDS

STAGE 5



Stage 6: Havona Pilgrims

One Billion Worlds, Billions of Opportunities

After leaving the superuniverse, we enter the sixth stage of our journey to Paradise. We are on our way to becoming Havona Pilgrims, traveling inward toward the center of all things in a completely unconscious state of sleep. We will pass through the silent zones between the evolutionary universes and the

central universe of Havona. Then we travel through the tall insulating circuits of dark gravity bodies, those "dark holes in space" that physically enshroud Havona, hiding it from the superuniverses.

At the dawn of eternity, the central universe already existed. The one billion perfect worlds surrounding the Eternal Isle of Paradise are not a creation of time. They existed before time. These replete worlds constitute the basic life patterns that are replicated on the evolutionary worlds. Every one of these worlds is filled with endless discoveries.

The Havona worlds are arranged in seven concentric circuits around Paradise

and its satellites. We pilgrims land upon the receiving world located at the periphery of the seventh ring. This is where our personal education begins, the final steps in the ascent to God. On these worlds we become intellectually, spiritually, and experientially perfected. The investment in our extensive training reminds us of the promise we have come to trust: each ascending mortal is of supreme value to the Paradise Father.

We live, travel, and learn as we visit every one of the billion worlds, from the seventh to the first circuit of Havona. One can only marvel at these gigantic worlds. They are beyond anything we could have imagined on our journey through the

JOHN BYRON

THE CENTRAL UNIVERSE



The one billion perfect Havona worlds surround the Isle of Paradise and its twenty one sacred spheres.

superuniverse. Life here is never boring. Each world is refreshing, original, astonishingly different, and curiously wonderful. "Love of adventure, curiosity, and dread of monotony...were not put there just to aggravate and annoy you during your short sojourn on earth, but rather to suggest to you that death is only the beginning of an endless career of adventure, an everlasting life of anticipation, an eternal voyage of discovery." *The Urantia Book* P. 159:7

From Havona, we periodically visit Paradise

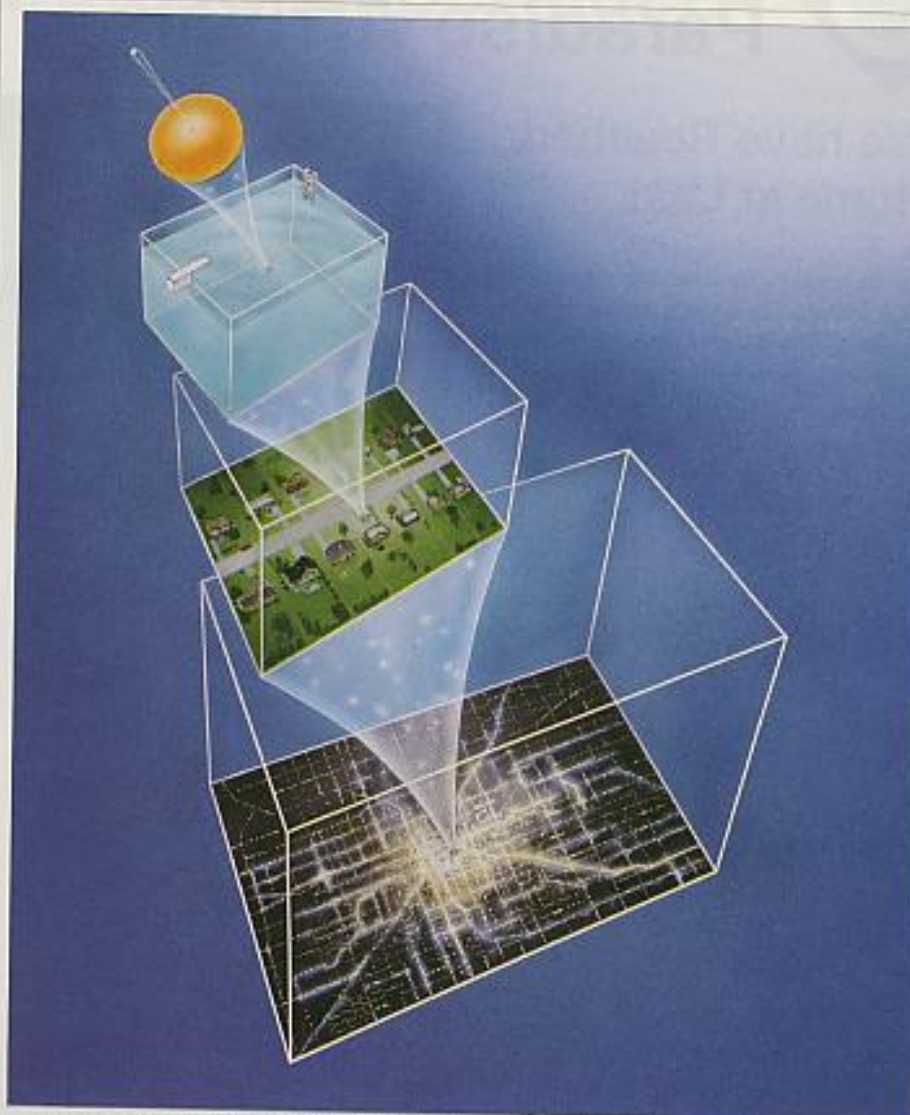
World by world, from the seventh circuit of Havona to the fifth circuit, we have increasingly felt the personal presence of the Universal Father, the creator and upholder of the heavens. Long ago, we achieved fusion with the Father's indwelling spirit. We have long since recognized the Father in his Creator Son, Michael. We have worshipped and prayed to the approachable Father while being comforted by His intelligent and loving ways.

As we advance from the fifth to the first Havona circuit under the instructions of angelic guides, we are granted passage to the sacred spheres of Paradise. Besides vacationing here, we are schooled in techniques which expand our insights to enable us to recognize the Father once we are in His presence.

Our final period of training is completed on the inner ring of the Havona worlds. From here, for the third and final time, we shall surrender consciousness and enjoy the relaxation of the ages. When awakened we are on Paradise.

We have emerged out of chaos to the gates of Paradise. Looking back over our long evolutionary struggle, we are acutely aware that our journey is nearing its end. Somehow, we even appreciate the uncertainty and trials of our days on earth. Our passage to Paradise has been earned. With the help of our Heavenly Father, great things have happened. We have been made perfect by our choices and steadfast dedication to be and to do that which is right.

How Large is the Master Universe?



The size of the universe is infinite yet the boundaries of the material universe are definable. In order to define size, we begin with Paradise. Paradise is the largest single body of matter in the universe. Its shape and composition are unlike anything else within the time space universe. It is beyond time and space and is actually not a part of the universe. So, to simplify our discussion, we shall leave Paradise out of our equations.

The universe is enormous. Some *Urantia Book* scholars have developed the following model to illustrate the size. First picture a tiny grain of sand and imagine it represents the size of Havona, the dark gravity bodies, and the seven superuniverses (seven trillion inhabitable planets). The grain of sand represents a distance of more than one million light years. Now suspend the tiny grain of

sand inside a large orange. This would illustrate the relationship between Havona and the superuniverses within the first outer space level. Next, place the large orange inside a cubic swimming pool. That relationship approximately equals the difference between the first and second outer space level. Next, imagine the swimming pool inside a cube the size of a city block. This is the relative difference between the second and the third outer space level. Finally, imagine the city block inside a thirty-two mile cubic city, a city about the size of Paris. That would equal the difference in size between the third and fourth outer space levels.

The relationship between the inhabited and the uninhabited universe is similar to the size relationship between a tiny grain of sand and a cubic city the size of Paris.



Stage 7: Paradise Arrivals

We have Reached Home at Last

We have reached the seventh and final stage of our journey. We have arrived on the Isle of Paradise, the eternal source of all things, the center of infinity. All that is, was, and shall be is here. All gravity, energy, creation, mind, morontia, personality, and spirit draw life from this inexhaustible source.

Our journey began billions of years ago on one of the lowest evolutionary worlds in the universe. And now, richly endowed with experience, knowledge, and wisdom, we have climbed the stairway to heaven. We were once finite mortals who achieved perfection by the evolutionary quest for the Father in Heaven.

Paradise is the worthy headquarters of the universe. It is not like any place we have visited on our long journey. Once we arrive, we are greeted by superb beings who hold citizenship on the eternal Isle of Light. After our initial period of freedom, we begin our association with other beings who have also completed their training.

Worship is the supreme satisfaction of Paradise residents. Sharing directly with the Paradise Father is the joy of all ages. Yet, we were not given extensive experiential, intellectual, and spiritual training solely for this purpose. On Paradise we join ranks with ascendant mortals, angels, and other spirit beings. We become members of the *Corps of Finality*, a group of beings who ascend to Paradise and then venture back into the superuniverses to serve others.

A most interesting and speculative phenomenon seems to be associated with the service duties of the members of the Corps of Finality. Their work appears to be temporary. Since the outer space levels are completely uninhabited, it is possible that another major creation is being planned for those space regions. The permanent service duties of the members of the Corps of Finality may be in the outer space levels.



Paradise, the Eternal Isle, is the one stationary and most immense creation in all the universes. Paradise is a real place as well as a spiritual residence. It is a material world in the shape of an elliptical disc. This Isle of God is the home of the Father and his eternal associates, the Eternal Son and the Infinite Spirit. "God dwells, has dwelt, and everlastingly will dwell in this same central and eternal abode. We have always found him there and always will." *The Urantia Book* P. 118:3

Post Paradise Experience

After Reaching Paradise, a New Adventure Awaits Us

Will we be sent to create and administer new worlds in the outer space levels?

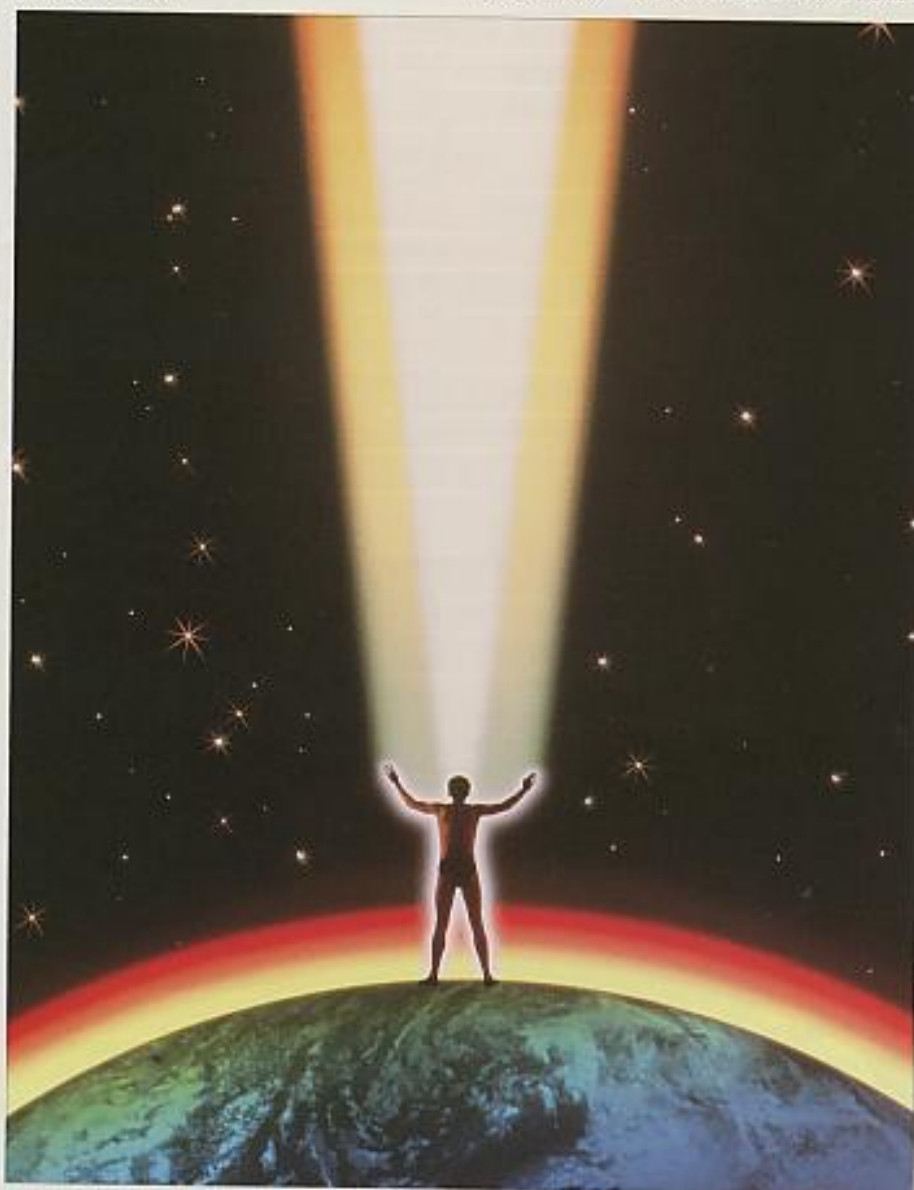
We do not know what the future holds for us after we have attained Paradise and joined the Corps of Finality. In the present universe age, our goal is to achieve perfection by the time we reach Paradise and then return to the seven superuniverses on service missions.

Speculation abounds in *The Urantia Book* about the future. When all the worlds in the seven superuniverses have been settled in perfection, will those highly trained beings who came from the evolutionary planets be sent into the uninhabited outer space levels to help create and administer new worlds? Will a new universe age dawn beyond the boundaries of the known universe? Will the former humans become servers of the new realms?

In eternity, we shall fully understand the plans the loving Creator Parent has for us. Today, we can be assured that the Paradise Father loves each one of his earth children. "Do not allow the magnitude of the infinity, the immensity of the eternity, and the grandeur and glory of the matchless character of God to overawe, stagger, or discourage you; for the Father is not very far from any one of you; he

dwells within you, and in him do we all literally move, actually live, and veritably have our being." *The Urantia Book* P. 139:1

"There is a great and glorious purpose in the march of the universes through space...We are all part of an immense plan, a gigantic enterprise..." *The Urantia Book* P. 364:4 "The goal of eternity is ahead!...The race for perfection is on! whosoever will may enter, and certain victory will crown the efforts of every human being who will run the race of faith and trust..." *The Urantia Book* P. 365:5



"I believe that man will not merely endure: he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance."

—William Faulkner

POST PARADISE EXPERIENCE

Glossary

A

Angels 1. A vast group of personal beings that inhabit the universe. Angels are subdivided into many orders such as guardian angels, seraphim, and archangels. Angels are positive and negative, rather than male and female. 2. A word popularly mis-used to describe most personalities above the order of human.

Architectural Worlds 1. Specially designed non-evolutionary worlds. 2. Administrative capital worlds.

Ascendant Mortals The name humans are given as they advance from the evolutionary planets into the universe.

C

Constellation An astronomic and administrative section of the universe containing approximately one hundred thousand inhabitable worlds and one hundred local systems. We live in the constellation of Norlatiadek, whose capital is Edentia.

Corps of Finality 1. Ascendant Paradise graduates. 2. The title that ascendant mortals are given after they have obtained perfection on Paradise.

Creative Mother Spirit The personal creative partner of Michael of Nebadon.

F

Father, Universal 1. The First Source and Center of the universe. 2. The Paradise Father of all personalities. 3. The first member of the Trinity. 4. The creator and controller of the universe. 5. The personal aspect of God.

H

Havona 1. One billion perfect worlds that surround the Paradise complex of

worlds. 2. Seven circuits of gigantic worlds near the center of the universe.

L

Local System The most elemental unit of heavenly government containing approximately one thousand inhabitable planets. There are one billion local systems in a superuniverse. Earth is a part of a local system. The capital of our local system is Jerusalem.

Local Universe An astronomic and administrative section of the universe containing approximately ten million inhabitable planets. There are one hundred thousand local universes in a superuniverse. We are in the local universe of Nebadon whose capital is Salvington. Nebadon is governed by our Michael Son who once lived on earth as Jesus of Nazareth.

M

Major Sector An astronomic and administrative section of the universe containing approximately one hundred billion inhabitable worlds and ten thousand local universes. There are ten major sectors in a superuniverse. We are in the major sector of Splandon whose capital is Umajor the fifth.

Mansion Worlds 1. Seven sub-satellite worlds that revolve around a satellite of the capital of the local system. 2. Initial resurrection worlds for most humans coming from earth.

Michael Sons 1. A high order of universe sons who create and administer vast regions of inhabited planets. 2. God-like Creator Sons who are perfect representatives of the Heavenly Father to the worlds of time and space. 3. Jesus is a Michael Son who oversees our planet as well as millions of other planets.

Minor Sector An astronomic and administrative section of the universe containing approximately one billion inhabitable worlds and one hundred local universes. There are one thousand minor sectors in a superuniverse. We are in the minor sector of Ensa whose capital is Uminor the third.

Morontia 1. The intervening levels between material and spiritual existence. 2. The form in which we are resurrected after we leave earth. 3. Personal or impersonal realities.

P

Paradise 1. The material, spiritual, mindal, and gravity center of the entire universe. 2. The actual home of the Paradise Father, the First Source and Center of all things and beings. 3. The location of the Trinity.

S

Superuniverse An astronomic and administrative segment of the inhabited universe that contains approximately one trillion inhabitable planets. Currently, there are seven inhabited superuniverses in the grand universe. We live in the superuniverse of Orvonton, whose capital is Uversa.

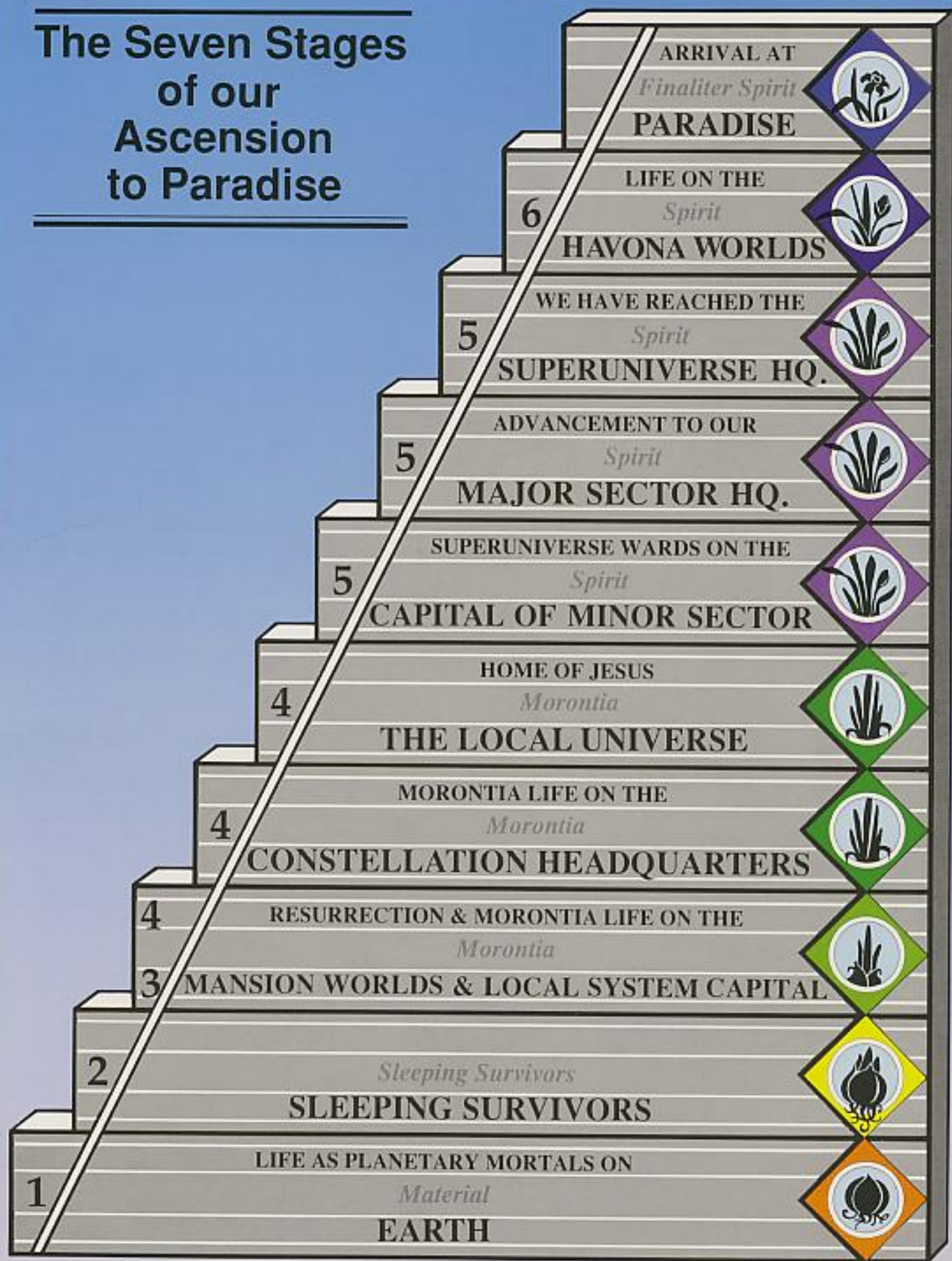
T

Thought Adjuster 1. The actual fragment of the Paradise Father that lives within each human mind. 2. The spirit of God within.

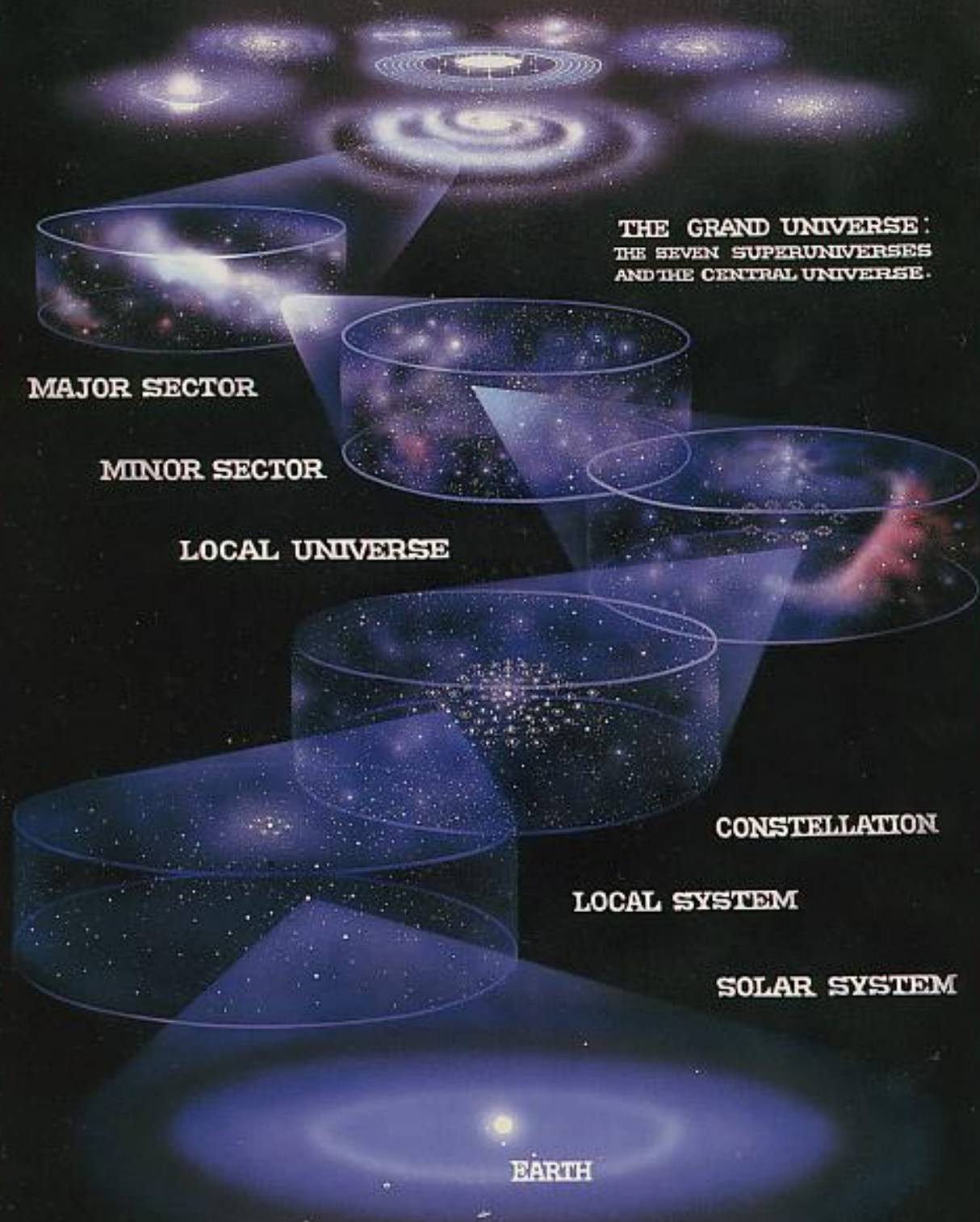
U

Urantia 1. An inhabited planet on the outer fringes of the seventh superuniverse. 2. An inhabited planet in the local universe of Nebadon. 3. The designated universe name for our planet, Earth.

The Seven Stages of our Ascension to Paradise



JOURNEY TO PARADISE



Journey to Paradise is a conceptual painting by the American artist, John Byron. His art depicts the major stages of our journey from Earth to Paradise. Our life on this world is just the beginning of a great adventure. As Victor Hugo said; "Winter is on my head but eternal spring is in my heart. The nearer I approach the end, the plainer I hear around me the immortal symphonies of the world to come . . . Life closes in the twilight but opens with the dawn."