



Conjoint Reader

A Publication of The School of Meanings and Values

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Letter from Polly Friedman

School of Meanings and Values Field Representative

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our Fall Issue of the School of Meanings and Values publication. Even though it has been several months since our last *Conjoint Reader* we have been busy with several projects and plans. The School Staff is totally made up of volunteers, so it is necessary to give priority to development and planning. We have grown in the number of directors, now eight individuals, of whom four are founding members.

We also see the need for teacher training and various plans are being discussed to begin classes in Urantia oriented education. YES, we are active, well, and enthusiastically going forward!

A Committee has been working on a Master Plan for the future. Fund raising is also being addressed as it is essential to basic fruition and growth of a master plan. We also see the need for teacher training and various plans are being discussed to begin classes in Urantia oriented education. Two directors are busy developing a new and improved Web site. Hooray! So in answer to questions that have come my way: “YES, we are active, well, and enthusiastically going forward!

One of my favorite reminders of the big personal mission we have is from the 16th and final morontia appearance of Jesus. It took place in the courtyard of

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AFFIDAVIT

Written by Meredith J. Sprunger, Oct. 24, 1998

Following my discovery of *The Urantia Book* in December of 1955, and after introducing it to a number of clerical colleagues and friends, I spent years researching with them the historical aspects of the book. We quickly discovered the Urantia Papers were received by a small group of people in Chicago. Their leader was Dr. William S. Sadler. Dr. Sadler was a highly respected psychiatrist and college teacher in the graduate school of medicine at the University of Chicago. For almost thirty years Dr. Sadler was also a lecturer in Pastoral Counseling at McCormick Theological Seminary.

On May 7, 1958, our group of ministers had an appointment with Dr. Sadler to discuss the phenomena associated with the origin of the Urantia Papers. My personal association with Dr. Sadler continued until his death in 1969. In the course of this friendship, we had many candid conversations about the materialization of the Foreword and the 196 Papers

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the following are my recollections about the authorship, and the issues surrounding the authorship, of *The Urantia Book*.

that were eventually published as the text of *The Urantia Book*. It is important to point out that in this regard Dr. Sadler was a professional researcher of

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“Living in Cahoots with Your Heavenly Father” Program Launched By SMV

By Will Sherwood, President of the Board of The School of Meanings and Values

Beginning with the promise — “No matter how you define ‘success,’ if you’ve ever wondered how you can create balance and power in all areas of your life using the matchless teachings of ‘The Urantia Book,’ then this seminar/workshop is one you’ll want to attend” — The School of Meanings and Values launched its most current workshop to great enthusiasm.

Participants learned to use the powers of affirmation, goal setting, meditation, and prayer to focus their spiritual energy and create a more successful life, based on the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Attendees at each of the 3 workshops given thus far learned how they can more rapidly become the person they’ve always dreamed they could be as suggested in “The Urantia Book.” Participants learned to use the powers of affirmation, goal setting, meditation, and prayer to focus their spiritual energy and create a more successful life, based on the teachings of the Book.

This very “hands-on” workshop combined quotes from “The Urantia Book” with personal development principles currently expounded by professional motivational greats such as, Jim Rohn, Brian Tracy, Zig Ziglar, Dr. Robert Schuller, and others.

What attendees are saying:

“Creating the collage was my favorite part. Now I see how I can trust the direction and out-working of my life to the safe-keeping of my thought adjuster.”

T ammy Horton, Lake Forest, CA

“This is really great stuff!”

John Ploetz, Vista, CA

“I’m going right home and begin practicing the meditation techniques you suggested, today!”

Andrea French, Poway, CA

The School sees this workshop as a part of its mission to train teachers and leaders. If you have a group of 20 or more, and would like further information, contact:

Will Sherwood
will@thesherwoodgroup.com
(661) 276-0017

An Interview with Barry Bedell

Talking about his parents, Clyde and Florence, the early Forum, impressions, and more — with Polly Friedman

Polly: Thank you, Barrie for doing this interview. You are one of the “old-timers” among the pioneers of the 5th revelation. When did your parents join the Chicago Forum and what were their first impressions?

Barrie: They were not married when they first attended the Forum. Father worked in an ad agency and noticed my mother, Florence, who also worked there. Soon after, he moved to San Francisco, but received a letter from a friend who told him about a high powered job in Chicago, so Clyde returned on the train, and got the job. Elwood, the friend, invited him to a discussion group at the Sadler’s. Clyde asked if he could bring Florence who he was trying to get a date with. They were enchanted by Dr. Sadler, his speaking ability and humor.

Polly: I understand questions were submitted to the “sleeping subject”, and members of the Forum were encouraged to ask questions. Did your parents contribute in this?

Barrie: When the people were submitting questions, Wilfred Kellogg collected them. “If you have any comment, submit to Mr. Kellogg”. At one time, Clyde responded by submitting 5 typewritten pages of objectives to the organization planning to publish “The Urantia Book.” One thing I recall is when the Declaration of Trust was formed, he was against the idea of a Trustee term being lifetime, and self-perpetuating.

Polly: How old were you when you can recall discussion about the teachings and/or the Forum?

Barrie: As long as I can remember, every Sunday without exception, they left home to go to the Forum. I asked questions and they said they couldn’t tell me where they were going every Sunday. For a time, I was concerned they were interested in the Nazi Fifth Column organization! About age fourteen my parents invited me to go along and I became a “member”, though never taking an oath. I did understand clearly that I shouldn’t divulge the content of the meetings. Sometimes I would read at 533. The last two years of high school I went to a military academy and then Dennison College in Granville, Ohio, which meant my attendance was mostly in the summer months.

My parents sent me to Sunday School in my early years. I would complain about a boy who was unruly. When I told my father he said, “Tell him to pipe down.”

I told him, “Dad, I did.” He said, “What did you do?”

“I hit him over the head with my Bible.” My father was very God-conscious. He had a strong religious faith.

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Letter from Polly Friedman

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Nicodemus where a large group of his followers were assembled in May after the resurrection.

“I admonish you ever to remember that your mission among men is to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom—the reality of the fatherhood of God and the truth of the sonship of man. Proclaim the whole truth of the good news, not just a part of the saving gospel. Your message is not changed by my resurrection experience. Sonship with God, by faith, is still the saving truth of the gospel of the kingdom. You are to go forth preaching the love of God and the service of man. That which the world needs most to know is: Men are the sons of God, and through faith they can actually realize, and daily experience, this ennobling truth. My bestowal should help all men know they are the children of God, but such knowledge will not suffice if they fail personally to faith-grasp the saving truth that they are the living spirit sons of the eternal Father.

“The gospel of the kingdom is concerned with the love of the Father and the service of his children here on earth.” *The URANTIA Book* p. 2052

Perhaps the greatest advance within the School experience has been in the area of teamwork and loving commitment. This takes awhile to establish, but we know from experience, the rewards in persevering with consensus and cooperation are great, indeed. It is inevitable that we will work in teams on the mansion worlds, so why not start now on a planet that needs every ounce of goodwill and brotherhood we can put forth! If you would like to contribute to our efforts as teacher, advisor, friend, please tell us about yourself. Contact me or any of the directors. Thank you for your support and your wonderful patience as we grow!

Sincerely, Polly

PS: As always, your donations are needed, appreciated, and are fully tax-deductible.

Affidavid

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unquestioned integrity.

Dr. Sadler categorically declared that there was no known psychic phenomena attached to the origin of the Urantia Papers. The final text of the Urantia Papers was materialized in written form, but it was not channeled or spoken, nor was it the product of automatic writing. Dr. Sadler stated that although the Thought Adjuster (a fragment of God that indwells all

Continued on next page

Affidavid

Continued from previous page

normal human minds) of the “contact personality” was somehow engaged in the materialization process by spiritual beings, the contact person was totally unaware of this activity. Neither this contact person, nor any other human, wrote any of the text nor authored or originated any material used in the revelatory text of the Urantia Papers, which consist of the Foreword and the 196 Papers.

Although Dr. Sadler was emphatic that no known psychic phenomena were associated in any way with the authorship of the Urantia Papers, he admitted that he was baffled as to precisely how the text of the Urantia Papers was materialized into the English language. He was very clear in his conviction that no human being edited, selected, or had any creative input whatever into the authorship of the Urantia Papers, nor in the arrangement of the text of *The Urantia Book*, which consists of the Foreword and

Dr. Sadler was also absolutely clear: Absolutely no human name or names should ever be attached to the authorship or materialization of the Urantia Papers and the publication of *The Urantia Book*.

Papers one through 196. Dr. Sadler was crystal clear that the members of the contact commission had no editorial authority whatever, and their responsibility was confined to spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Members of the forum were not even permitted to see the original materialized documents, and they had no input in their authorship. Dr. Sadler was convinced that the Urantia Papers are exactly what they purport themselves to be, an epochal revelation authored solely by celestial beings.

I have studied *The Urantia Book* in depth for over forty years, and I am likewise convinced that the authorship of the text was superhuman, and that it was materialized by unprecedented means that are not fully understood. In my best professional and personal opinion, I am absolutely convinced there was no human authorship or creative input, and there were no human editorial decisions involved with the materialization of the Urantia Papers. I believe the truth of what Dr. Sadler wrote—and personally disclosed to me numerous times: the Urantia Papers were published just as received, and the contact commission had no editorial authority whatever, and its role was confined solely to the clerical tasks of spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Neither did the

forum members contribute to the creative contents of the Urantia Papers. The forum was similar to a modern focus group in that they were used by the celestial authors solely as a gauge to measure human understanding.

Dr. Sadler was also absolutely clear about two related things: (1). Absolutely no human name or names should ever be attached to the authorship or materialization of the Urantia Papers and the publication of *The Urantia Book*. Even the printer, R. R. Donnelly and Sons, was not permitted to place an indicia in the first edition which stated their identity. (2.) No human being knows, or ever knew, the exact method by which the Urantia Papers were materialized. We can only be categorically certain that there was no human authorship, no human editorial involvement, nor any human activity in creating, selecting and/or arranging the Urantia Papers, which consist of the Foreword and Papers one through 196 inclusive, and which constitute the text of *The Urantia Book*.

Dr. Sadler made it plain to me that the revelators held total authority over the process by which the Urantia Papers were materialized. The revelators suggested the submission of questions, and, at one point after the contact commission and forum had read some of the papers, requested that more significant questions be developed and asked by the contact commission. Dr. Sadler said that in a particular session a celestial personality who claimed to be a student visitor to our planet stated to the commission: "If you people realized what a high spiritual source you are now associating with you would stop making these puerile investigations to detect fraud and would ask

"If you people realized what a high spiritual source you are now associating with you would stop making these puerile investigations to detect fraud and would ask some significant questions about the nature and reality of the universe."

some significant questions about the nature and reality of the universe." It was at this point the forum was engaged by Dr. Sadler to help him formulate appropriate questions in answer to the challenge of the revelators. The forum had originally been assembled by the Sadler family as an group of lay persons who gathered together in Dr. Sadler's home for tea and an hour or two of informal discussion and social exchange. The revelators soon answered the questions the forum had asked, and these answers were presented to the forum by the contact commis-

sion. Shortly after this the revelators directed Dr. Sadler and the contact commission to make the forum a closed group, and required each member to take a vow of secrecy about their knowledge of what the contact commission was doing and what information the revelators had disclosed to the forum through the contact commission. "The forum, as it were, was taken away from us" wrote Dr. Sadler. He was indicating that the general discussions in the forum ceased, and the revelators henceforth directed the agenda of the group through the contact commission, and used the forum essentially as a focus group for the Urantia Papers.

Dr. Sadler said no forum member, except members of the contact commission, was ever present during any of the contacts with the revelators. He also said that only one "sleeping subject," or person was involved throughout the entire process of materializing the text of the Urantia Papers.

Dr. Sadler told me that at one point he and his son Bill wrote a draft for an introduction to the Urantia Papers, and submitted it to the revelators. At a contact session with the revelators they were told that although they meant well, such submissions were not acceptable, and the revelators made the comment, referring to the introduction written by Dr. Sadler and

Dr. Sadler and other members of the contact commission assured me that no human wrote, edited, or arranged any of the text of the Urantia Papers, which consist of the Foreword and all of the Papers from Paper one through Paper 196 inclusive.

Bill Sadler, Jr.: "A candle cannot light the sun." At the proper time, the humans were assured, an introduction to the book would be materialized. When the revelators produced the Foreword to the Urantia Papers, Dr. Sadler stated that he and his son realized the inadequacy of their own attempt to write an introduction.

Dr. Sadler and his son were, however, given permission to compose a Table of Contents for *The Urantia Book*. Bill Sadler compiled the titles as they appeared in the Papers, and the section headings from the Papers, and he briefly outlined some of the material that was originated in the Urantia Papers, and incorporated it into a Table of Contents for *The Urantia Book*. Dr. Sadler and other members of the contact commission assured me that no human wrote, edited, or arranged any of the text of the Urantia Papers, which consist of the Foreword and all of the Papers from Paper one through Paper 196 inclusive. Dr.

Sadler told me that one individual, not a member of the contact commission, but rather a member of the forum, who made suggestions to “improve” the Urantia Papers was vigorously informed by the revelators (through the contact commission) that no human additions to the Urantia Papers would be allowed. Dr. Sadler said that every possible precaution was taken to see that the text of the Urantia Papers was presented just as the revelators had authored and materialized it.

It should be emphasized that there is not now, nor has there ever been, a human authority on the content or the origin of the Urantia Papers. However, Christy often requested that I reply to many of the letters Urantia Foundation received from readers requesting information on the origin of the Urantia Papers. As these requests increased, I produced a paper on the essentials of the origin of the Urantia Papers, which constitute the text of The Urantia Book. This paper was approved by Urantia Foundation, printed, and freely distributed for several years by both Urantia Foundation and Urantia Brotherhood.

In regard to outreach efforts by Urantians, the following statement was written by Dr. Sadler under

“[N]othing is done to interfere with the energetic and enthusiastic efforts of any individual to introduce The Urantia Book to his friends and associates.”

the heading, *Distribution of the Urantia Book*: “However, one thing should be made clear: While it is the policy of the Brotherhood to work slowly in the distribution of the book, nothing is done to interfere with the energetic and enthusiastic efforts of any individual to introduce The Urantia Book to his friends and associates.”

Signed,
Meredith Justin Sprunger

ADDENDA TO AFFIDAVIT:

MEREDITH JUSTIN SPRUNGER is a minister in the United Church of Christ and a college professor, now retired from pastoral and teaching responsibilities. For many years Dr. Sprunger was active as a counselor and psychological consultant, holding a Private Practice Certificate in Psychology in the State of Indiana. He has served congregations in the Midwest and taught at Elmherst College and Indiana Institute of Technology, functioning as the head of the Department of Psychology, chairman of the division of Liberal Arts, and as President.

Dr. Sprunger has served as a Field Representative,

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chairman of the Educational and Fraternal Relations Committees, and President of the Urantia Brotherhood. He is founder and Executive Director of The Christian Fellowship for Students of The Urantia Book, a trustee of Jesusonian Foundation, and editor of The Spiritual Fellowship Journal. Dr. Sprunger is the only living professional educational colleague of Dr. William S. Sadler associated with The Urantia Book. Dr. Sprunger may be reached at: 4109 Plaza Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46806, (219) 745-4363, Email: MJSprunger@aol.com ■

An Interview with Barry Bedell

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Polly: Did your parents bring home the knowledge they learned? For instance, were their unspoken influences you now realize?

Barrie: They were both God-knowing, and God-loving, and that was conveyed to us. One lesson I’ll never forget happened in 1937. My folks liked to take auto trips. They took me on a trip to New Orleans, LA. And through Mississippi. He drove his new Ford V-8 auto into a parking lot and ordered the attendant to park the car in a large, haughty voice. (Cold response)

Another day, we went to a different parking lot and he was kind and sympathetic with the attendant. He said, “Did you notice the difference in the way I’m talking and do you know why?”

I understood that we are to treat everyone with kindness and respect and have never forgotten this lesson.

My Dad was involved in community work. He wrote campaign ads for WWII War Bonds, and the State st. Arsenal. He was active in the Park Ridge Community Church. At one time they needed a new sanctuary which Clyde raised money for. He persuaded them to float a mortgage loan to give the congregation members a chance to invest in their own church. He was always interested in political issues, and promoted the one world idea. Both political parties tried to get him to run for town mayor. After my folks moved to California, he became very involved with anti-Communist activity. He even had a run-in with Stanford University. He thought after the URANTIA Book was published, his role as an advertiser would be useful. However, it was agreed there would be no promotion. He went along with this and was not unhappy. He felt free to move to California in 1957.

Polly: In what way were the lives of your parents changed by the URANTIA papers, and how were they called into areas of specific service?

Barrie: After they came to California, they lived in Altos Hills. Both read. My father marked up his book a lot and started to keep a notebook listing topics

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Bedell — Continued from previous page

alphabetically. Eventually his secretary typed up the notes on regular size paper and he would add new entries. After moving to Santa Barbara to go into business ('68 or '69) he had 100 typed pages of references. Bob and Ruth Burton came to visit them. They wanted a copy, and Burton contributed to a printing project to motivate a good copy and a nice printer printed up the references in an 8 1/2 by 11 booklet with a mustard colored cover. The few hundred printed sold like hot cakes. Because by that time Clyde was semiretired, he decided to spend more time on this project. He called it - the "Concordex" which is a coined word combination of concordance and index.

The Foundation wanted to oppose the second edition. One issue was the Introduction my father included. The Introduction was added to stimulate interest in the URANTIA Book by discussing 30 to 40 topics in the book. The CONCORDEX was not only meant as an aid ,but as an overview to increase the sales of the URANTIA Book. He wanted to help readers find parts of the book suited to their own particular needs and interests. He felt this project was his mission.

His vision was to produce a book that would attract and serve the reader so he could get the most out of his reading.

Polly: What differences did your Dad have with the leadership in the Urantia movement?

Barrie: My father never questioned the advisability of a copyright. However, he didn't like the idea that everything written, all secondary materials in those days, had to be submitted to the Foundation for approval. He believed in "free use" and wrote a paper on this topic. Some publications were so restricted to the extent they had to give up publishing. My Dad was on fire to disseminate and he felt that people should be able to quote liberally within Free Use. We agreed that "to *not* have a copyright of the URANTIA Book would have been irresponsible." Clyde did want to move the concepts into the mainstream faster than many.

Polly: Thank you Barrie. One last question. You haven't said much about your mother and her influence on your life. Could you sum this up in a few sentences?

Barrie: My mother, Florence, was a remarkable woman. She was kind and gentle and compassionate. She was beautiful and vivacious with big brown eyes and always quick to smile and laugh. She was artistic, created a beautiful home, and loved to entertain. She was calm, steady balance for my father, unflappable on those occasions when he tried to be too bossy. Both were unique and unforgettable and wonderful people. Jeffrey and I are fortunate to have had them as parents. Though gone now for more than 15 years they are dearly loved and missed. ■

"Tolerance" Program Received with Great Enthusiasm

By Will Sherwood

How much are we supposed to tolerate? Are there limits to what we should tolerate? Is it possible to develop more tolerance over time? And, if so, how?

Participants learned to use the powers of affirmation, goal setting, meditation, and prayer to focus their spiritual energy and create a more successful life, based on the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Attendees at this exciting, fun, and interactive workshop/presentation discovered they were in for a BIG treat! Whether the activity was throwing tennis balls at a velcro target to learn how flexible the Father's will is within our lives, discussing the meaning of the selected "tolerance" quotes from the Book in small groups, or cutting and glue words into a Venn diagram, our presenter, Jane Ploetz, made the day pass far too quickly.

Jane shared, in her own unique and dynamic way, her method of helping people to integrate the teachings of "The Urantia Book" regarding tolerance into their lives. Each of her sessions were fun and interactive. And best of all, everyone got the opportunity to participate!

Jane has been a student of "The Urantia Book" for more than 20 years, and has been teaching at the Vista Academy, a public magnet school in the visual and performing arts, for the past 11 years. Jane is best-known in throughout the Urantia movement for her ability to combine art and music to make learning fun.

What attendees had to say:

"This very effective workshop helped us more easily integrate 'The Urantia Book' into our daily lives."

Richard Omura, Los Angeles, CA

"I especially liked the way that each of us were given a chance to participate"

Mar go Sherwood, Valencia, CA

"Jane excels when it comes to using different interactive media to teach 'The Urantia Book.'"

Chick Montgomery, Tujunga, CA

"What can I say? She's the best!"

John Ploetz, Vista, CA ■

The School of Meanings and Values Needs Your Help to Continue The Good Work. . .

The Mission of The School of Meanings and Values

The School of Meanings and Values is designed to provide a forum for individual and group spiritual exploration based on the principles and teachings of the fifth epochal revelation; to foster the integration of these teachings into the practical lifestream; to offer the opportunity for in-depth study of "The Urantia Book." and to train teachers and leaders in the ideals and philosophy of Jesus for worldwide service.

Organization of the School

Board of Directors — The Board is self appointing and oversees the operation of the School; appoints members of the Advisory Council and the Teaching Staff; cooperates with the URANTIA Foundation and their affiliated groups such as the IUA, the Fellowship for Readers of the URANTIA Book and their Societies.

Advisory Council — Coordinates with study groups; facilitates in implementing projects endorsed by the Board; survey needs of the URANTIA community; facilitates fund raising efforts; offers computer and clerical support; and generally functions to improve service opportunities within the School.

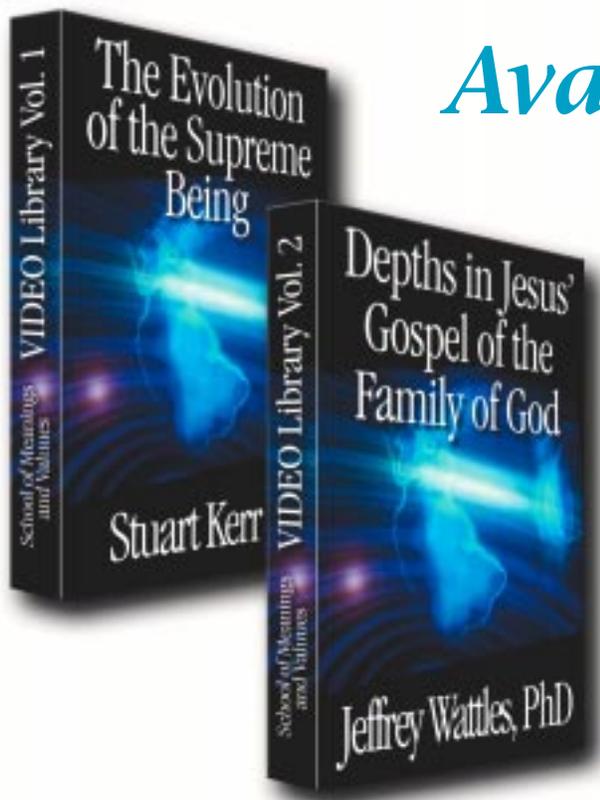
Volunteer Staff — Aply assists Directors and Advisors in accomplishing goals and objectives of the School; assists teachers in conducting courses, and provides support services to meet the basic needs of running the School, workshops, seminars and other School presentations and projects.

Teaching Staff — Dedicated soldiers of the circles who design, conduct and work to evolve meeting the educational and spiritual guidance needs of the planet.

Students — The teachers and leaders of tomorrow.

We welcome and encourage your participation as students, teachers and supporters. Please direct all correspondence to:

The Board of Directors,
The School of Meanings and Values
PO Box 3324
Camarillo, CA 93011



Available Now!

Videos from the School of Meanings and Values

Jeffrey Wattles on The Gospel of Jesus

University Professor Jeff Wattles takes a thirty-year passion for Jesus' simple and complex gospel and pours forth for the purpose of inspiration and training. A superb lecture! 2 Hours. \$29.95

Stuart Kerr on The SUPREME

Gifted at simplifying the difficult concepts of The Urantia Book, Stuart expounds on the reality of the SUPREME as a great avenue on which the love of God flows outward and the children of God flow inward. A fascinating discourse! 2 hours. \$29.95

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ConjointReader

The Conjoint Reader is a bi-annual publication of The School of Meanings and Values, a California nonprofit 502(c)3 organization.

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