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on Human Destiny

Study Group of the Urantia*Book

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THE LETTER

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EDITORIAL

The "LETTER" undergoes some changes. We hope you are not frightened by evolution. You will find some reflections and diverse propositions which should bring some response from you, whether to encourage the editors or to criticize them.

The "LETTER" is neither an encyclic nor an epistle, so let us know your mind, but however expansive you feel, try and keep your ardour down to about one page; and be of good cheer !

You will also find a new heading " The news", which we expect to be fed by our overseas friends as well as by the initiatives taken by European groups.

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*** C.E.R.D.H. a non profit society, getting together readers of the URANTIA Book.*

DIFFICULTIES IN HAVING THE FIFTH REVELATION ACCEPTED

The first sentence of the Book that comes to my mind is : "It is always difficult to induce evolutionary minds suddenly to accept advanced revealed truth." (U.B. 92-6-8). However, Teilhard de Chardin wrote: "We have let go of the last line linking us to the Neolithic".

Let us take the example of the "worker-priests" who were looking for a new style of priestly service and have been rejected by the conservative authoritativeness of the church classes while they were trying to compromise, in a childish and provisory way, with the spirit of our civilization which is always on the move and always in peril.

The same failure awaits the followers of the liberation theology, and a new era is looming in which man will be confronted with automation in science.

We must be successful in something which, in the fourth revelation has been a partial but notable failure, namely in responding to the words of Jesus as contained in John's gospel : "You worship you know not what ...But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth... (John 4622-23).

All those who agree to living in spirit and in truth - even if they belong to thought systems different from ours - have left the harbour, gone to the high seas, where the prodigious and perilous adventure of the spirit awaits them; but the margin of error they can afford is only very small if they want to be credible with their brothers and at the same time want to satisfy the "terrific love" which God asks and expects from them.

We should be the living parables of our days, free from useless scoria, free from what is flitting or perishable . We should become the dispatchers of "a spiritual truth attracted by the divine" beyond all human system; we should bring ultimate truth independently from the philosophical, political or religious ideas of the present time. We may be only miserable worms of a material nature , but let us become "glow-worms".

But to do so we should be free from any definite form of culture, from any excessive solidarity with our original environment , from any purely emotional reaction so as not to shut out by our words , attitudes or acts , the announcement of the word of God - not in words but in truth. !

However, we are puzzled by the number of failures we meet when trying to get in touch with some groups in an environment which seems apt to recognize the Book as true and yet eventually refuses it.

We should assess our activities.

To begin with, practicing a certain kind of oecumenism with the tenants of the old Revelation seems very difficult if not impossible.

On the theological level discussions shows out too many differences :

- 1 - The christians do not distinguish between Jesus' personality and the Eternal Son.
- 2 - The christians have a view of the universe that dates back to the Middle Ages, an over simplified conception both mythological and childish, whereas, we accept by faith, the revelation of the Grand Universe and its

numerous personalities linked to our ascension towards the divine.

3 - Accepting the Fifth Revelation means breaking away from the reassuring clerical space all cosseted in the tenets of its dogma which turn the "believer" into an "autist thinker" in relation to worship, when we should take charge of our eternal destiny directly, not secondhandedly, thus carrying our brothers far from the burdensomeness of sects and evolutionary religions.

4 - Accepting the Fifth Revelation means being the servant who was given ten talents and having a mandate to explore an ever new and ever living truth and not to fall back on materialism or past values or even accepting that the spirit be submitted to all the tyrannies in the world which is the method taught by christianity

5 - Living the Fifth Revelation is proclaiming victory over death, the end of all sufferings due to the rebellion, and the forthcoming era of light and life; it is also preparing Urantia to be re-encircled in the Local Universe.

6 - Accepting the Fifth Revelation means recognizing the usefulness of our life on a material level, its transcendence on to the morontia and the spiritual level; it means renouncing the childish theories of reincarnation or, through mere physical death, the possibility of being put in presence of the eternal and infinite "I Am".

7 - Accepting the Fifth Revelation is daring to question the Fourth Revelation which is considered as final and sealed with a skillful but abusive "bolt". (See Book of Revelation 22-18-21).

We have another handicap. We are all too often treated as a sect. Every religious movement which is out of the path is at the present time disconside-

red by the medias which on the otherhand flatter institutional religions in spite of their declining influence and their lack of adaptation to the epoch. We may always say that we have no church organization or hierarchy, neither have the scientology members, and yet they are violently criticized on account of the financial and psychological problems.

We have all renounced participating in this spiritual force and playing the role of cheap conjurers as pseudo prophets or apostles of the present time. I must read again and again "our task" by Meredith Sprunger to calm down my zeal.

Where do we stand ?

Let us risk a comparison between the two Revelations about 50 years after the divine messages were offered.

Circa 80 Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman armies of Titus. The apostles were dispersed throughout the mediterranean basin. The new believers were persecuted to death by Nero in Rome.

Before his physical death, Paul had organized the "church about Jesus". Wishing to be oecumenical, mithracism, the cult of the emperor and hebraic theology were all mixed with the divine message which is still surviving 20 centuries later....and among the worst errors a few phrases of spiritual probity linger on.

We should however note that in parallel with the revealed scriptures of the four gospels purely human texts have been admixed, and these will also be considered as sacred and dogmatic; such are the Paulinian epistles and the Acts of the Apostles; their abusive or fundamentalistic interpretation has engendered a tradition which is often completely opposed to divine revelation, thus creating differences and persecutions.

In 1990, some fifty years after the message was given in English, the Urantia Brotherhood seems to be organizing, each state in the U.S. seems to have at least a resource person a new reader can get into contact with.

The Foundation versus Brotherhood conflict, which was due to readers who have remained at the mind level in their understanding of the Book, should, after a period of confusion be a seed of progress- however, without unity everything will be at stake.

Before thinking of working towards the final goal which is to become perfect and to "recruit", it seems useful to avoid all "drifting" that would lead to splits, to repeated lies, themselves leading to the imposture of the present day religions.

Is there in our group a possibility of antagonistic attitudes between "scriptures and traditions" as we found in the Fourth Revelation? That is to say a difference of analysis between the U.B. and the texts which would like to be considered as "canonical" such as those coming from the U.S. summed up in "THE LETTER N°16" of the C.E.R.D.H. ?

We here, sum up the instructions not found in the U.B. :

- 1 - Protect the text.
- 2 - Have translations made.
- 3 - Let the Book be known from person to person.
- 4 - Form study groups from which teachers will arise...

Then, it was " Now, you are on your own".

If we entirely agree with these instructions, it is from this point namely : Book-beginning of a tradition that future differences may appear.

Should we, twenty centuries later, gather a new "Jerusalem Council" which saw the opposition of Peter and Paul, so as to avoid any future differences ?

Great is the temptation for some of us to edit a limited text of the Book, to take into account all the modern means of communication such as private radios, cassettes, pamphlets, so as to contact, not everybody, but those who are worthy and we can't get in touch with personally, for we are not ubiquitous.

Just as a reminder, many of us have been attracted to the Book through an advertisement in the French monthly magazine "Lumières dans la nuit" .

I would personally be tempted into looking for some new human resources among those who have been disappointed by the present day religious systems and who are ready to dedicate themselves, and to invest much in the truth of the religion of Jesus.

But how ? I fall back on the conclusion that a general meeting has become necessary to become personal and unadapted decisions or an unefficient wait-and-see policy.

Jean Davier - Aix-les Bains - France

ABOUT TRANSLATING FROM ENGLISH INTO FRENCH

A reader remarked that Jacques Weiss mostly used the word "pensée" to translate the English "mind" whereas the references used in "LA LETTRE" use the word "mental": he thinks that "pensée" is more correct.

As a member of the team that worked on correcting the text, I would answer that the U.B. is not the Bible, they are 2.000 years apart and our languages have evolved as well as our concepts. True, many references come from the Bible, and we must keep these historical references precisely because they are historical. But our concepts have evolved, in particular when such notions as spirit, thought and mind are concerned. We cannot keep to the Greek concepts, whether Plato's, Aristotle's or Plotinus'. The Urantia Book reasons in terms of levels. What is true on the level of God the Absolute is not true on the level of God the Supreme.

The English language has been lucky enough to evolve faster than the French language and has therefore made a distinction earlier than us between words like spirit-esprit, mind-mental and thought-pensée.. We must take that into account.

As we are approaching the end of the 20th century we are beginning to explore the realm of the intellect. We find a material base : the brain, through which information, in an electro-chemical form, circulates, this is the mind system and the result of this circulation is thought. That is at least, what the U.B. lets us understand.

A comparison is not a reason, nevertheless we may try to compare the working of the brain with the working of a computer :

- The brain (in fact the whole body) would be the hardware.
- The circuits of the cortex would be the "chip".
- The mind would be the programme.
- Thought would be the output.

That is why the Thought Adjuster acts on the thought - i.e. the result - and not on the mind - the processing - which is left to the free will of the user : man's free will.

I would add that the brain functions with a "basic" compatible programme, meaning that there can be exchanges between brains, but evolution is linked with the spirit, here conceived as outside data. We can only progress in as much as we conform to the programmes of the Mother Spirit.

In this outline you can see that the brain is organized to receive a certain type of information to which outside information is added, but also that the spirit can only be interpreted through the mind .

One thing at least is clear, it is the distinction between the final product and all the intervening processes. That is why we must make a distinction between mind and thought i.e. mental and pensée in French.

URMIA 2

For some years now, many readers of the U.B. have felt the need for meeting other truth seekers and sharing with them, in a spirit of service and tolerance, the food the Father has given us so freely, whether it is spiritual, mindal and/or material. This need turned into a concept we called Urmia 2 and can become actual in the form of an international center that would work as Urmia did in the material, intellectual and spiritual realms. Lecturers and teachers of various trends would be asked to give lectures expounding their theses - study groups and brain tanks of a multinational composition would be formed to study and answer the great questions raised by our civilization. High ranking government and ministerial persons would be closely associated with the research and thoughts related to the field of their own responsibility.

We, readers of the U.B., are lucky enough to have a synthetic and cosmic approach of the individual, national and planetary goals of evolution and of being able to reset any problem in this perspective.. By facilitating such contacts we could help with a regeneration of ideals, ethics and health.

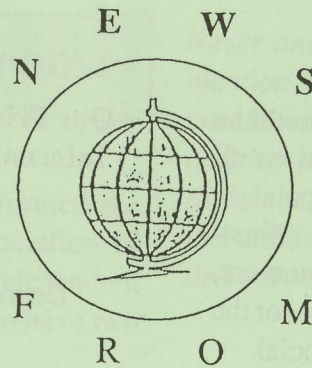
On the material level, we could treat such subjects as the quality of food and the long term repercussions of the use of synthetic products on the health of man and the planet, or the state world agriculture is in and the damage caused by an intensive

monoculture on the economy of some countries or again how to produce cleanly and economically, protecting nature from industrial and private deterioration; we could raise the true problem of public health in relation to health food, and introduce the notion of service to be progressively substituted to the notion of profit.

On the intellectual level we could consider science and ethics, religious philosophies, cosmogonies, family policies, parental and state education as well as many others subjects. On the spirit level, spiritual food is Love. The Father gives us that Love and the guiding urge of our Adjuster leads us to sharing it. This subtle mechanism is so dependant on our good will to cooperate with our indwelling God that it belongs to the realm of the factual experience of man and talking about it is a vain illusion. In fact, the visible manifestation of this experience is service, that's why it is with a genuine and unselfish spirit of service that we shall live this adventure together.

We submit this idea of an Urmia 2 to the readers, That they may send us their critics and suggestions. As this vast and complex project needs the mobilization of all the good wills, readers are welcome to contact the C.E.R.D.H. for further information.

Georges Michelson-Dupont - Blennes
France



The Foundation has decided on a program of book selling to individuals :

URANTIA FOUNDATION - DISCRETIONARY DISCOUNT SALES OF THE URANTIA BOOK

Thank you for ordering the URANTIA Book. By purchasing it directly from the publisher, URANTIA Foundation, you have received a forty percent discount from the suggested retail price. This discount is offered to readers of the URANTIA Book for the purchase of one to five copies during any calendar year, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.* URANTIA Foundation also has an active program of encouraging sales in retail outlets, and copies are available in bookstores.

The Trustees of URANTIA Foundation hope that copies of The URANTIA Book purchased at a discount will be reserved for personal use - for library placement or to facilitate outreach to friends and acquaintances - rather than for mail-order or other distribution to anyone with whom the reader who received the discount does not have a personal relationship.

The Trustees of URANTIA Foundation hope that copies of The URANTIA Book purchased at a discount will be provided to others just as

they were received - wrapped in the original dust jacket, accompanied by the original leaflet that tells about URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood Association, and not accompanied by other literature generated by other groups or organizations.

The Trustees of URANTIA Foundation want readers of The URANTIA Book to understand that our policy of discount sales to readers is only one aspect of our efforts to encourage quiet, person-to-person dissemination of the teachings. URANTIA Foundation's essential goal is worldwide dissemination of the authors' ideas, ideals, and insights, so that they can eventually illuminate the lives of men and women of all nations, races, and religious backgrounds. Book sales are only a means and must be carried out in ways that lead to this outcome.

By enabling other men and women to have access to the teachings of The URANTIA Book in their original form, without intervening interpretation or commentary, you will make it easier for them to draw their own conclusions and relate to these transcendent truths in their own way. It is human to be impatient, to want to see "results" in one's lifetime. But we believe that such restlessness is unwise and inappropriate. On page 911 of The URANTIA Book, an Archangel of Nebadon offers us these momentous insights :

"No great social or economic change should be attempted suddenly. Time is essential to all types of human adjustment - physical, social, or economic. Only moral and spiritual adjustments can be made on the spur of the moment, and even these require the passing of time for the full outworking of their material and social repercussions. The ideals of the race are the chief support and assurance during the critical times when civilization is in transit from one level to another."

The URANTIA Book can certainly be considered a potent repository of the ideals of the race, and the Trustees of the URANTIA Foundation are convinced that the Archangel's insights apply to our efforts. We hope that you, a participant in URANTIA Foundation's program of discount sales to readers, will also take these important comments to heart.

The Trustees of the URANTIA Foundation
Decembre 1990

* This discretionary authority includes the right to sell or not sell to any individual.



The C.E.R.D.H. has a stock of "Livres d'URANTIA" as well as "URANTIA Books" which at the present time can be purchased for 170 Frs F. +postage.



A trial is currently going on between the Foundation and some reader/s who have reproduced The URANTIA Book on computers disks and distributed it free with a research program.



Our Friends in QUEBEC organise an International Conference in august :

INVITATION

Dears friends and readers of the URANTIA Book.

We wish hereby, to warmly, invite you to a conference for the readers of the URANTIA Book which will be held on th 16th, 17th and 18th of August 1991 in the province of Quebec (Canada) near the town of Trois-rivières, on the shore of the St-Laurent river at the camp of Notre-Dame de-la-Joie.

This conference lies within the scope of the triennial conferences (Lac Beauport 1988. Ile d'Orléans 1984) which have been organized by readers from here and elsewhere. Its theme will be "Revelation and the self". The "Groupe d'Action des lecteurs du Livre d'URANTIA of Quebec" - a non-profit-making organization dedicated to activities favourizing the spiritual development of the U.B.readers - has elaborated, for you, a special programme according to a proven formula, and including : - Nine conferences.

- Sharing group workshops.
- Collective entertainment activities.
- Free leasure-time (canoe, swimming and all sorts of ball games)

Further informations (detailed programme, cost, routes, transport, reservation) may be obtained if you write to :

Eric Gagnon
2921 Providence
Sainte-Foy, QC 61 W 2C1
Canada.



NEWS FROM THE ANTIPODES

Our Australian friends have just formed the A.A.S.U.B. - The Australian Association of Students of the Urantia Book. It is independent of any other association and seems to have two main objectives:

- 1 - To encourage local, informal URANTIA Book study groups.
- 2 - To encourage the social interaction of readers by supporting an annual conference, a national newsletter and to facilitate contact between readers .



The "channeling" phenomenon : Channeling refers to people (agencies) transmitting messages from the Superior Hierarchy; the phenomenon has reached Australia, coming from the States, That is why "Six O Six " (ex newsletter) is now made up of two parts - one that relates directly to the URANTIA Book, and a supplement that addresses broader issues.



**Proposed meditation topic :
HOW TO TEACH ?**

Here is how Jesus, for six months , taught the leaders of the Cynics, the Stoics, and the mystery cult, in particular the Mithraic group :

Never once did he attack their errors or even mention the flaws in their teachings. In each case he would select the truth in what they taught and then proceed so to embellish and illuminate this truth in their minds that in a very short time this enhancement of the truth effectively crowded out the associated error. (1456 a)



EDITORIAL