

C.E.R.D.H. **

Center of Study and Reflexion on
Human Destiny

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URANTIA* Book Study Group

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THE LETTER

"By the spirit fruits of your lives impels souls to believe the truth that man is a son of God, and that all men are brethren" (193-5-2)

SPRING 1993—N°31

SUMMARY

HAGUENAU, the Encounter
(End)

Digests of studied subjects in
study groups sessions and
proposed by J.DAVIER' s team.

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EDITORIAL

Promises are made to be kept; and so you will see that the participants in the Haguenau encounter were not idle and there have been many variations on, and even beyond, the proposed theme.

You will also find in this issue a parable on organisational problems. Such problems are hardly within reach the European Urantia readership but are, worth a thought or two. A tale is often weightier than a diatribe.

Last but not least you will find some "pondering" over the second of Kant's fundamental questions : what should I do ? but here seen from the perspective of doing the Father' s will.

J. Royer

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WORKSHOPS - HAGUENAU 1992

TO BE A PERSONALITY

Personality is a *gift of the Father*. An animal having received this gift has become a primitive man. The two primates who received this gift of personality became Andon and Fonta. This gift of personality renders the individual reflective, i.e. conscious of his conscience - he says «I» -

Personality is basically *changeless*; that which changes - grows - is the moral character. (1572 C)

“ When bestowed upon evolutionary material creatures, it causes spirit to strive for the mastery of energy-matter through the mediation of the

mind. ” (1225 C).

There we observe an harmonization research concerning the material, mindal and spiritual energies under the personality control. Well, personality, which is a Father's gift, is issued at the absolute level where spiritual, intellectual and material energies are one.

Here, on the time-space level, these energies are completely diversified, but they are called to become re-united as one in the eternal future, within the finaliter, because of the action of personality.

COSMIC CITIZENSHIP

During this workshop we quoted much from the Urantia Book. To recognize ourselves as cosmic citizens is a complex problem.

“ A child evaluates experience in accordance with the content of pleasure; maturity is proportional to the substitution of higher meanings for personal pleasure, even loyalties to the highest concepts of diversified life situations and cosmic relations. ” (1094 B)

“ The fact of the cosmic mind explains the kindship of various types of human and superhuman minds. Not only are kindred spirits attracted to each other, but kindred minds are also very fraternal and inclined towards co-operation the one to the other. Human minds are sometimes observed to be running in channels of astonishing similarity and inexplicable agreement. ” (191 D)

The work of our first life is considerable. We can apparently roam through different paths. But one day a great crossroads will be revealed to us. It will be like a giant unfinished puzzle. We will be afforded a panoramic morontial view of our life floating in the cosmic ambiance of the local universe

We are bonded in a life of personal growth aimed at the discovery of God through the service of others. We may find our apparent isolation difficult at times, but it is efficaciously compensated by the presence of our Adjuster.

If our love for our neighbour and our capacity for brotherhood are raised to the level of glowing, we need not be a member of «The reserved corps of Destiny» to reach cosmic comprehension. This cosmic comprehension can, by the way, be wholly

unconscious . It seems to serve as a spiritual insight channel.

A word from the revelators, dissappointed by the coldness of certain members of the

Forum, will conclude this short summary : «Do you realize what you have been given ? The Urantia Revelation is absolutely unique within our whole local universe of Nebadon.»

HEALING ONESELF

This workshop was conducted by Jean-Pierre Heudier.

We are invited to discover the close association between healing and spiritual growth. Freewill, which God granted men with, places him in such situations of choice, that his immaturity, his lack of thinking, human perversion or fatality bring him face to face with his own tragedies.

We must forge our own character, therefore our own destiny. Healing starts when we have found the right way, when we become conscious of recreating for ourselves a new destiny.

The Urantia Book warns us :

« If you have a great Adjuster, be ready to face circumstances calling for difficult decisions. »

Think of a quality you have developped. Let us say patience, a certain amount of abnegation, love tinted with courage for dear ones, for example. How did you acquire such a quality ? What appeared as tragedy, suffering were only scaffoldings preparing you to become what you are.

What we call healing is forgiving, developping compassion, learning to see differently; healing from anger, fear and revenge. But how is it done ? In paper 48 §7 where we are presented the «understandable elements corresponding to morontia mota we learn that :

«The greatest affliction of the cosmos is never to have been afflicted. Mortals only learn wisdom by experiencing tribulations

(*12) . Anxiety must be abandoned. The disapointments hardest to bear are those which never come. « (*19)

One must not have an exaggerated sense of his own importance, because the self is very little compared with how it can develop in spirituality and brotherhood. Contemplation of the self is a sterile and exhausting activity.

The Urantia Book is ever there to reassure those who tend to crumble under the burden of what they feel to be too difficult. Let us use a last quote here :

“ The apparent cruelty of a perverse fate that heaps tribulations upon some suffering mortal may in reality be the tempering fire that is transmuting the soft iron of immature personality into the tempered steel of real character ”. (1305 C)

We must not on the other hand , be tied down to our past doings.

We must accept our limits and imperfections. Too often we feel guilty because we are not perfect, whereas we are not short of good will. But the feeling of being only imperfectly capable is quite different from simply feeling guilty overall.

The institutionalized churches profess that man is guilty, sinful and bad. But we should remember that after Jesus had healed the sick, he insisted that it was their faith that had healed them. Harmony ought to be created within, uniting our attitude, decisions and actions.

6—It is a visible sign that a group uses to communicate and commune in harmony.

7—A sentence of the Urantia Book is quoted by a participant : «The cult is the skeletal structure around which grows the living and dynamic body of personal spiritual experience - true religion.» (966 D)

8—Certain participants oppose the old cults which were imposed with authority by clergies and the minute of silence observed at the beginning and closing of our meetings.

9—A cult will probably appear. « Modern man must find some adequate symbolism for his new and expanding ideas, ideals, and loyalties. This enhanced symbol must arise out of religious living, spiritual experience. (966 A)

10—The future is important : symbolism will have to be created, it will express the unutterable with due care for words. This cult will have to be vitalized by prayer and worship.

11—The new cult will have to : «foster sentiment, satisfy emotions and promote loyalty; but it must do more : it must facilitate spiritual progress, enhance cosmic meanings, augment moral values, encourage social development and stimulate a high type of personal religious living».

12—Lastly, for one participant worship is a direct contact with God; it is synonymous with the dynamics of God with his sons. Worship marks evolution within the Supreme. Prayer leads to worship, bringing up to even illumination, an intense happiness , beyond description.

As a summary, to live the religion of Jesus is to listen, to pray, and to worship right up to Havona, with different beings and to love them. It is to share the remembrance supper and to contemplate silently what awaits us in the morontia worlds. To avoid emotional attitudes and transmute fear

into love.

Here is the goal of our lives and future living :

«The spiritual unification of, prayers, cult and worship» .



Spontaneous meditation.

Study groups are, in principle, of a spiritual nature. Each group starts with a silent meditation. After two hours of work on quite complex themes a nervous tension is felt. Many participants need a rest, while some pursue the work by a personal meditation in the chapel or by a stroll in the near by forest-park.

At that time, a workshop is also held to help better understand music; it is called «musicosophia» . It starts with quotes from the Urantia Book on the superiority of music as a language. The leader of the workshop requests that the participants forget about all the materialistic aspects of the music played and that we learn to listen with the heart. Every fifteen minutes the theme is replayed three times. Soon, only the harmonies of this music are heard as they reach the deepest parts of the self .We therefore attain high meditative states because of the nature of the pieces, chosen for their spiritual flavor.

Each morning, before breakfast, a free prayer period is scheduled in the chapel. This meditative prayer period is guided by vocal psalms on tape, which lasts about fifteen minutes.

On the last day this meditative period was bonified by a symbolic dance recalling moments of workshop, prayer, and offering. It was proposed by two dancers who only gave this rendering, not requesting the attendants' participation.

SEARCH

FOR THE MAIN STREAM OF ACTIVITY WANTED BY THE
REVELATORS FOR THOSE WHO DEDICATE THEIR LIFE
TO DO THE FATHER'S WILL.

The Fifth Epochal Revelation is reactualizing the life of Jesus, placing it in its cosmic frame, allowing us to become cosmic citizens ourselves through the recognition of our universal citizenship .

The Fifth Revelation reveals to us what comes after our earthly life - the life in the kingdom - It is a life with a fragrance of adventure, with sequences of work, travels, leisures, whose main theme is partaking in our universal evolution . A life in an atmosphere of righteousness and unselfish service. A life we begin with the character qualities we acquired along our earthly life.

But how do we have access to this life in the kingdom ? Which are the entrance duties ? What efforts are we asked to invest ?

Jesus said : « Unless you are born anew , you cannot enter the kingdom»

So , one only has to be reborn to enter the kingdom of heaven ! This statement leads us to strive to define as best as we can what does be "newly born" or "born anew" mean?

To be born anew means a new birth and this leads us to define the first birth limits.

The first birth is the birth to material or animal life which is imposed to individual - it is the result of man with woman coupling.

The second birth is the birth to spiritual life, it is preceeded by the soul appearance. The soul appears, in an embryonic form through the conjoined action of the Thought Adjuster (A Father's fragment indwelling the mind of man) and the child moral mind, this happens

when the child is 5, 6, 7 years old.

When a child normally grows in the evolutionary sense, he will sometime or other discover the pleasure of giving, or doing to others a good turn, or becoming conscious of God's presence in him and of desiring this contact. This choice of looking for God is the earmark of the soul birth; the soul has left its embryonic state to be born to life. This individual is now reborn, he lives on the soul level, he leads an altruistic life, he has become immortal since it is the soul that survives.

This choice depends solely on the individual free will. (Love imposes liberty of choice.)

One of the goals of terrestrial evolution has been attained : a son, a daughter of God is born. This second birth is the great turning point of evolution. Now, planetary evolution lies directly upon the free will of this newly born human from here on. He is naturally inclined toward contact with his Thought Adjuster. This way is he answering the call of the Fifth Revelation : « The great challenge to modern man is to achieve better communication with the divine Monitor that dwells the human mind. « (2097 A) .

« Only through and by appeal to, this spirit can mankind ever attain unity and brotherhood «. (1672 D)

The task awaiting us is therefore a purely personal work of spiritual maturing which goes from the knowledge of oneself to the mastery of oneself. This work is realized under the guidance of the Thought Adjuster, the enlightenment of the Spirit of Truth which at each instant is there to reveal truth, our mind activation by the Holy Spirit, and the help of the seraphic guardian.

That is not a collective task or a group work. It means for each of us to set out on a peace mission and to follow Jesus : cultivating in our own, tolerance, forbearance, patience and forgiveness by becoming able to love our enemies by constant effort to understand their deep motives.

It's doing the Father's will, since the Father's will can be done in any earthly occupation, no matter how trivial it may look, if only it is done with love. And if we act this way, we are permeated with a feeling of plenitude and happiness.

Evolution is a progressive actualization of love in the soul's life.

-Only soul can love - Love is an apanage of the spirit level - God is love.

Mind remembers, wishes, wills, thinks, perceives, feels, reasons, appreciates,...but mind does not love .

Love is called to motivate all our actions and to supply all the energy we ever need because *love cannot be separated from the very concept of energy.*

Let us remember that we are told that «God upholds the universe of universes by the constraining force of his love.

The Fifth Revelation was needed, among other reasons, because institutionalized religions had introduced - for understandable reasons at the time - dogmas, interpretations, ritualsin contradiction with Jesus' teachings, and which had become nonsense to the sound logical mind of a 20th century God seeker, such as :

-The dogma of redemption which creates a basic guilt complex, therefore hampering sound mental reasoning - This dogma is in clear contradiction with the reality of God's forgiveness expressed in the prodigal son's parable.

-Marriage is not a sacrament, it is purely social.

-The sacrament of baptism has to be revised , it has to depend on the individual freewill, it

follows the second birth.

-In the «Ave Maria» ,Mary is presented as the mother of God - but, Mary's maternity is limited to the first birth, the one of Josua ben Joseph.

-The concept of Jesus born of a virgin under the Holy Spirit's action denies Jesus reality as a man, making him a superman. That deprives humanity of knowing Jesus as a man among men. And not only it denies the reality of sexuality, but it also makes sexuality guilty.

-In the prayer «Our Father in heaven» , the phrase «do not lead us into temptation» would imply that God could do such a thing ! The true phrase is «help us when we are tempted «.

-etc...

On the social level, our task is to remind society of family values; to teach that marriage is the mother of all human institutions, for it leads directly to home founding and home maintenance, which is the structural basis of society. (939 B)

To teach that the family is the fundamental unit of fraternity in which parents and children learn those lessons of patience, altruism, tolerance and forbearance which are so essential to the realization of brotherhood among all men.(941 D)

To teach that the differences of nature, reaction, viewpoint, and thinking between men and women, far from occasioning concern, should be regarded as highly beneficial to mankind, both individually and collectively. (938 D)

To teach that, while the sexes never can hope fully to understand each other,they are effectively complementary. (939 A)

To sum up, the real work of the urantian is to spread the truth of the Fifth Revelation, without even having to quote the Book. To sow these truths in all directions. It is no longer time to give priority to the spreading of the Book, the time is now to individual work by which each believer can show that the law of love applies to every situation in life. This is the way Jesus showed us, the way leading to peace. Let us follow Jesus .

Jesus came « to proclaim liberty to the spiritual captives », therefore, let us avoid becoming captives of any human organization whatever it may be. Now is the time for each individual to act, depending only : - on his Thought Adjuster who is the very presence of the Father in his own mind - on the Spirit of Truth of Jesus which is the truth as revealed to his soul by showing him the evolutionary meaning and spiritual content of the present situation - on the Holy Spirit who

activates his mind through the 7 Adjutants and on his Guardian Angel, dispenser of rules of conduct, who is in constant contact with him if he is determined to do the Father's will. Such a person is a lighthouse which enlightens his environment. The Fifth Revelation goal is to bring those lighthouses to existence. Each of us is called .

Jacques Dupont.

LANGUAGE AND THE ABSOLUTES



EFFECTIVENESS OF LANGUAGE.

" The spread of civilization must wait upon language. Live and growing languages insure the expansion of civilized thinking and planning. During the early ages important advances were made in language.

TODAY THERE IS GREAT NEED FOR FURTHER LINGUISTIC DEVELOPMENT TO FACILITATE THE EXPRESSION OF EVOLVING THOUGHT."

(the capitals are mine) 81.6.8

We are fully aware that being finite beings we are limited in our understanding of Infinity and the Absolutes, but if the Urantia Book tells us something of the Absolutes it must mean that we are nonetheless able to grasp something of it. Is it because our personality has, among its seven potential dimen-

sions, one dimension on the absolute level ? (see 112.1.2.) Whatever the answer we must admit that our present day language is largely inadequate to express the "happenings" prior to time and space. For example the book never ceases to tell us of the Primacy of the First Source and Center, while reminding us that the Second Source and Center or all the other Absolutes are coeternal. In an attempt to make us aware of that William S. Sadler Jr. introduced the words "eternaler" and ,why not? "the eternaest". That's a first step. But when we try to discuss what happened we are always confronted with the impossible " when ", " after ", " then ", " at the same time as", sequences always being linked with time in our languages.

I would here suggest a series of neologisms that might detach us from the temporal sequence. I would speak of *achronotopy* (a—privative,

chronos—time, topos—place), for all those dealings that are devoid of time or space, the adjective would be *achronotopic*, and the adverb *achronotopically*.

Some will say that it does not make sense, and I fully agree, remembering that : " Enlargement of vocabulary does not signify development of character. " (100.1.3.) Nevertheless it should, just like "eternaler" if not liberate us from the fetters of time, at least make us aware of the non time sequence.

All those of you who have met with such difficulties are most welcome to submit your suggestions knowing, however, that most artificial creations are due to be obsolete even before they have been used; linguists call these words "nonce-words".

J. ROYER

THE LIGHT



A small group of men and women to whom had been entrusted a new kind of light which was to transform each of their lives, decided promptly and with great enthusiasm to go and open the road that leads to light.

After having proceeded only a few miles, one of them remarked: «we need a leader». Another added: «We have to define tasks for each of us». And a third one said: «We have to raise funds». Therefore they left the road and stopped to get organized.

In the heat of their debate, they were caught by nightfall and had to sleep as they could in open air. As soon as sunrise came, they rapidly agreed to build a shelter, to make provisions and to settle as comfortably as possible.

They then decided that they ought to write speeches, develop slogans, produce posters and recruit followers in order to maximise the success of their endeavour.

A few months later, it became evident that they should build a headquarter edifice worthy of such an enterprise. They also needed permanent structures, well documented budgets, appropriate titles, objectives and strategies, plus fund raising systems.

But inadvertently the light must have been lost; probably on the very first day, in the tumult of their early planning to light up the world.

One day a young child, sparkling with beauty and joy, came up to the reception area of the Organization and asked where he could find the leaders. And suddenly he appeared in the middle of the spacious boardroom where the board of directors was in session.

He said: «I have found on the road just near this place an extraordinary light. I had the intuition to swallow it because I thought it was meant to light up from within. I wanted to show you its marvellous effects.»

He was promptly thrown out onto the road.
Meanwhile the boardroom remained flooded with costly artificial light.

LOVE IS ...

«Love must always be redefined on successive levels of morontia and spirit progression» 196.3.23

If it must be re-defined it must first of all be defined, so what does the Urantia Book say about it ?

A simple and probably naive way to find an answer is to look up in the book «love is». Not so easy, because the words are often preceded by qualificatives like God's, the Father's, divine, human, mother, and with the exception of the last one, as sons and daughters of God who aspire to be like him we should realize that all of these should apply relatively, at least, to a general definition.

Let us however start with unqualified love, unqualified in the grammatical sense of course.

«...love is all-embracing of truth, beauty, and goodness.» 5.4.6

«But love divested of truth, beauty, and goodness, is only a sentiment, a philosophic distortion, a psychic illusion, a spiritual deception.» 196.3.23

«Love is the secret of beneficial association between personalities.» 12.9.2

«Love is the greatest of all spirit realities... love is the supreme relationship.» 143.1.4

«Love is the greatest relationship in the world _in the universe.» 143.6.4.

«Love is the greatest thing in the universe.» 56.10.17

«Love is the greatest thing in the world.» 192.2.1

«Love is the desire to do good to others.» 56.10.18

«Love is infectious... love is more catching than hate.» 100.4.6

«But only genuine and unselfish love is contagious.» 100.4.6

«Love is truly contagious and eternally creative.» 188.5.2

«Love is the essence of religion and the wellspring of superior

civilization.» 102.6.3

«Love is dynamic. It can never be captured; it is alive, free, thrilling, and always moving.» 117.6.10

«Love is the rule of living within the kingdom _supreme devotion to God while loving your neighbor as yourself.» 142.1.1

«Love is never self-seeking, and it cannot be self-bestowed.» 156.5.11

«Love is the outworking of the divine and inner urge of life. It is founded on understanding, nurtured by unselfish service, and perfected in wisdom.» 174.1.5

«Love is the ancestor of all spiritual goodness, the essence of the true and the beautiful.» 192.2.1

«Love is only born of thoroughgoing understanding of your neighbor's motives and sentiments.» 100.4.6

«Love is the true guide to real insight.» 195.5.10

«Love is the highest motivation which man may utilize in his universe ascent.» 196.3.23

«Love, John, is the supreme reality of the universe when bestowed by all-wise beings, but it is a dangerous and oftentimes semiselfish trait as it is manifested in the experience of mortal parents.» 177.2.3

Qualified are the following :

«God's love is universal.» 2.5.2

«God's love is by nature a fatherly affection...» 2.5.3

«...love is the dominant characteristic of all God's personal dealings with his creatures.» 2.5.12

And also :

«...love is a father's attitude.» 2.6.5

«The Father's love is the real and eternal source of the Son's mercy.» 6.3.4

«Human love may indeed be reciprocal, but divine love is outgoing in all its satisfaction-seeking.» 156.5.11

«Mother love is instinctive; All mammalian mother love is the inherent endowment of the adjutant mind-spirits of the local universe and is in strength and devotion always directly proportional to the length of the helpless infancy of the species.» 84.1.6

«This compelling love is the handicapping

emotion which has always placed woman at such a tremendous disadvantage in all her struggles with man.» 84.1.7

All of these references can help us understand something of the nature of love but, according to me, one can be of practical value to us, namely: Love is the desire to do good to others.

J ROYER

NEWS FROM . . .



FRANCE

PENTECOST MEETING

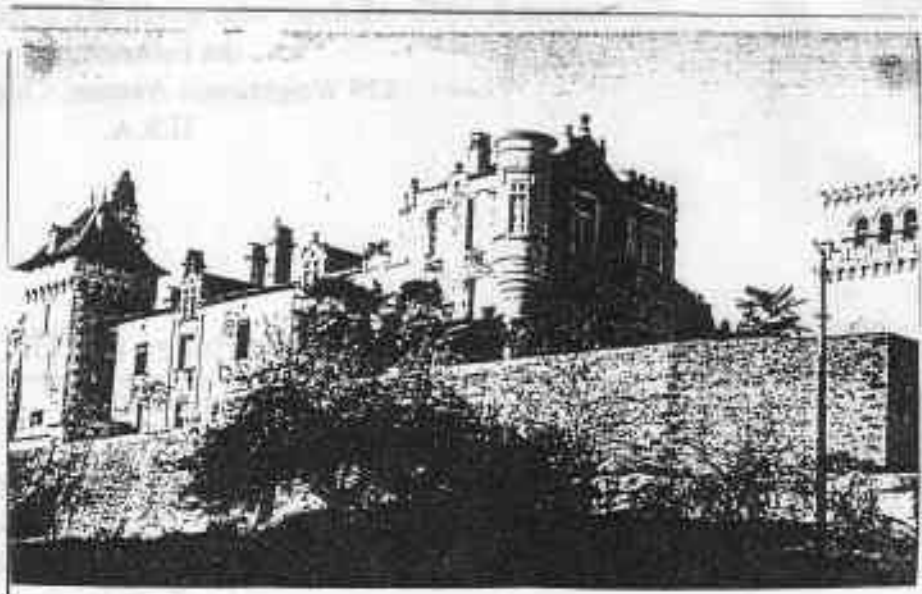
May — 29, 30, 31, 1993

To be held at Auros, near Bordeaux, in
the Abbaye du Rivet
Theme: "The Spirit of Truth"

Auros is located 40 miles south of Bordeaux and 5 miles south of Langon which is the railway station where we can pick you up if you ask for in the reservation form.

Price of the 3 days full board is :

450 F.F.
(25 participants max.)



Single, double or treble bedrooms available. Arrival on *Saturday morning the 29th* before noon and departure on *Monday morning the 31st* after breakfast. Reservation must be sent with the payment of 450 F.F per person to:

Michel Pouvreau
15 rue Léon Jouhaux

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