

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)

SUMMER 1993—N°32

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EDITORIAL

A Summer is dying away like a final rehearsal. For many of us it is the symbol of the 2000th anniversary of Jesus which we would like to see as a decisive step toward the age of light and life. But in fact, 1999 years are just as important, for our cosmic duty must be done day after day. It is felt and carried out in meetings such as the one of St-Hyacinthe in Quebec this Summer or, on a more modest scale, in the meetings in France or Switzerland or elsewhere on August 21st. We ought to remember, as F.de Vinck wrote that we must : *"Trust and grow. The eternal now is the only time to live"*

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

OUR COSMIC DUTY

As I see it, our cosmic duty consists simply in our humble but active participation in planetary evolution, that is in the Supreme actualisation.

It behooves us then to determine how and in what circumstances can man contribute his voluntary participation in evolution, taking into account the fact that the human mind can understand only a small amount of what is really happening. Man is incapable of discerning the unfathomable purposes of the Creator, and an abyss separates the human mind from the divine.

But before attempting to answer these questions, I would like to throw some light on the distinction between «cosmic duty» and «cosmic service».

Foreword : «cosmic duty» and «cosmic service» .

At first glance, these two expressions appear to be synonymous, but as a matter of fact, a fundamental difference separates them. They don't belong to the same level of reality; to the spiritually mature personality, the concept of duty has been replaced by unselfish service, an expression of love.

As Jesus said : " *The consciousness of sacrifice implies the absence of the wholehearted affection which would have made such a loving service a supreme joy. The idea of duty signifies that you are servant-minded and hence are missing the mighty thrill of doing your service as a friend and for a friend.* " (1945 b)

We also read on page 1111-A : " *Evolutionary religion drives home to the individual the idea of personal duty; revealed religion lays increasing emphasis on loving, the golden rule.* "

The desire to serve is not the result of an intellectual process, it is born in our soul, prompted by our Thought Adjuster, who acts only out of love - and then this desire becomes conscious in our minds.

Having made clear this distinction, let's go back to the main theme of this study through which we will use the expression "cosmic duty"

which matches better with our present society spiritual maturity degree.

HOW CAN MAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANETARY EVOLUTION ?

As a whole, we know that evolution is partly supervised by the epochal angels, the angels of progress, the angels of the future, etc...(see paper 114, section 6). Therefore, only as he walks day by day the path of evolution can evolutionary man have an opportunity to make his contribution through the decisions he makes; for he is endowed with free will, something respected by the whole divine hierarchy.

Constantly must man make a choice between on one hand the selfish reactions of his ego and, on the other hand, the striving for perfection, a perfection made possible by the influence of his Adjuster and the Spirit of Truth who indwell him.

Man is always faced with making choices !

This is man's basic problem, maybe the hardest of all. Many people avoid making choices - and that is an act of cowardness, because what often happens is that the one who didn't make the decision will often criticize the choice made by the one who dared to make the decision.

Choice is a mental process which precedes any free will action. This is the moment of decision. The mind is alone in the process of making a decision; any influence from the divine helpers is absolutely suspended (stopped). It's only after the decision has been made that the spiritual helpers play a role again, helping man to get the best spiritual benefit from his decision.

Communication between man and his spiritual helpers will be enhanced as man calls on them. On one hand the limitations inherent in the finite condition of man have allowed him to take into account only a restricted number of parameters and to have a limited aim; while on the other hand the consequences of his decisions will be many and unexpected ! These consequences are the repercussions of the law of cause and effect; they are the expression of truth.

Thus the bringing of the kingdom of heaven on the earth partly depends on the consequences of sincere human decisions. *"By the process of gradually changing man's will and thus affecting human decisions"* (1863 A)

"The keys of the kingdom of heaven are: sincerity, more sincerity and more sincerity. All men have these keys. Men use them - advance in status - by decisions, by more decisions, and by more decisions". (435 D)

It's up to man to decide, and evolution depends on these human choices. This truth is clearly stated in the following quote :

"Mind is your ship, The Adjuster is your pilot, the human will is captain."(1217 C)

We can thus understand how *"The circumstances of life constitute a divine dispensation working along with the children of God."* (1579 D)

And the greater our faith, the more active will we be in applying the sincerity-decision formula.

A person animated by a lukewarm faith will passively go through a difficult situation, content with offering his suffering to the Lord.

A person animated by a strong faith, therefore born of the spirit, will live consciously his sonship with the Father and will react as an active, constructive way in the same given situation.

"It is a marvelous and transforming experience to become the living channel of spiritual light to the mortal who sits in spiritual darkness." (1430 D)

IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES CAN MAN PARTICIPATE IN PLANETARY EVOLUTION ?

Cosmic duties

We have just seen in the first part of this study how we can contribute to evolution by our sincere decisions. Now, let's have a look at the circumstances in which we are invited to take action. What are our cosmic duties ?

The reader of the fifth Revelation has a double cosmic duty : On one hand to share this

new acquired knowledge, on the other hand to apply that knowledge to help society to progress.

The first duty facing the reader is :

a) - *to make known and share the Urantia Book.* We know the authors of the Revelation have advised the "by word of the mouth" technique to do so.

b) - *to teach the concepts found in the Book,* which is fascinating, for the significance of preconceived ideas, dogmas, creeds and rituals are overcome by the logic and intelligence found in the Urantia Book. For example: the dogma of redemption cannot resist confronted with the principle underlying the gospel of the prodigal son, which expresses exactly the opposite.

c) - *to present basic concepts of the Urantia Book without quoting the Book*

If you take the Paris Telephone Directory and open it to "Church" section, you will notice that there are about hundred different Christian Churches : Seven Day Adventist Church, Apostolic Church, Orthodox Catholic Church, ...etc....Each one has its origin in a particular interpretation of the Gospel.

And yet, the Gospel is unique.

Each one of these Churches represents a different movement which I respect and from which there are certain things I can learn, but my search for truth makes me flee away from such complexities. I prefer to go back to the Source.

I remain fundamentally grounded in the basic concepts of the Gospel, in the very words of Jesus. And Jesus said, among other things : *"The kingdom is within you"*, which means that a divine presence lives within me. It is in this way that man feels that there is within him something greater than him, something of an absolute nature - that's what some people call *the divine spark which indwells all men, a fragment from the Father.*

The presence of the Father is within each one of us.....!

During one of his last talks with his apostles, Jesus said to them : *"It is best for you that I return to my Father, for then I will send you my Spirit of Truth which will dwell in all men to guide them to all truths, exactly as I am doing right now with you in the flesh"*.

And truly, on the day of Pentecost, the apostles had this extraordinary experience of

receiving this Spirit of Truth which gave them *"the strong urge to go out and proclaim the good news"*.

And this very Spirit of Truth is with each one of us..... !

Now, let's us see how we can progress in our search for God: Depending only on these divine gifts who indwell us, and with the simplicity and fervour of a child, let us wholeheartedly believe in Jesus' affirmations : *"seek and you will find"* , *"knock and the door will open"*. Answers to our daily prayers-questions-meditations will reach us directly from the presence of the Father within us, as well as the Spirit of Truth in us. These answers will progressively become clearer. That is living with Jesus in the presence of the Father.

The line of conduct to follow is very simple. Jesus said :

"Man's whole duty is summed up in this one commandment : Love the Lord your God with all your mind and soul and your neighbour as yourself". (1805 A)

To act in this way is to live our sonship with the Father, to yield the fruits of the spirit :

"loving service, unselfish devotion, courageous loyalty, sincere fairness, enlightened honesty, undying hope, confiding trust, merciful ministry, unflinching goodness, forgiving tolerance and enduring peace" (2054).

When an individual yields in his life the fruits of the spirit, he simply demonstrates the traits of character the Master manifested in his own life on earth. This is what it means to follow Jesus.

"Brothers and sisters, if the Gospel is revealed today to little children, if it remains hidden from the wise, it's because it's very simple, simple as an act of love, simple as an extended hand, simple as the smile of a child. Learn before to look at all things through the eyes of love. Simply welcome all men with a heart made compassionate by the presence of the God of love. You will then live joyfully. Love, is a very simple way, both God and your brothers, love God in your brothers, love your brothers in God. You will then been living the Gospel of love" . (excerpt from the Homely given by father François-Dominique Charles, on October 4, 1992, at the Franciscan monastery in Paris)

The fruits of the spirit, our sincere and friendly service, are the powerful social lever capable of

lifting the races which are in darkness; and the Spirit of Truth will become the fulcrum which will strongly enhance our power of action

To act in this way is to release the crystallized forms of religion in order to give the free flow of enlightened sonship.

The second cosmic duty consists in :

using the data presented in the Urantia Book to help society to progress :

As an example, let's choose among these data the one found on page 910 :

"At first life was a struggle for existence , now for a standard of living; next it will be for quality of thinking, the coming earthly goal of human existence."

Let's add to this revelation the one found on page (1922 C) :

"A child is wholly dependent on his parents and the associated home life for all his early concepts of everything intellectual, social, moral and even spiritual since the family represents to the young child all that he can first know of either human or divine relationships. The child must derive his first impressions of the universe from the mother's care; he is wholly dependent on the earthly father for his first ideas of the heavenly Father. The child subsequent life is made happy or unhappy, easy or difficult, in accordance with his early mental and emotional life, conditioned by these social and spiritual relationships of the home. A human being's entire afterlife is enormously influenced by what happens during the first few years of existence."

The combination-integration of these two revelations brings to life an extraordinary social opening :

The second quote is a challenge to improve parents's quality of thinking, therefore everyone's quality of thinking.

And the first quote tells us that quality of thinking is the evolutionary goal for the present.

The field is now wide open to creative thinking to answer this challenge !

Such an undertaking would greatly serve society :

-It would progressively reduce

unemployment, because the number of teachers-educators to be trained would probably exceed the present number of unemployed people. Moreover, the emphasis placed on children being educated by the mother during the early years require the mother to take on her nursing-mother role during the last months of her pregnancy and during the early years of childhood. She would receive financial compensation for her time, in the form of allocation.

- In this undertaking, man would possess the power "by controlling the educational training of the younger generation, greatly to modify the evolutionary course of evolution" (909 C)

This would resolve the drug problem and the delinquency problem by attacking them at their roots.

In the same realm, the Fifth Revelation also suggests we replace our educational system by workshop-schools, a method which would address the issues we always have to face, namely :

- The mind potential, different in each individual.

- The fact that the awakening of the mind stretches over several years.

- The rate of adaptation.

- The fact that "the intellectual life grows out of, and upon the foundation of, the physical." (398 C)

- And so on...

the exegesis of the Urantia Book has allowed us to have a look at this cosmic duty towards society (a duty chosen among many others). Now let's talk about the cosmic duty we have towards ourselves.

another cosmic duty personal cosmic duty .

The duty towards ourselves is to make a success of our lives.

To make a success of our lives means to fulfill the program which the Adjuster has established for us when we were about 6 years of age, the time when we made our first moral decision.

The essential part of this program is to make us go through different stages: from our first birth (our arrival on earth) to our second birth, the time when in our soul, our morontia self, we become conscious of our sonship with God; and then, from here, to progress by yielding the fruits

of the spirit in our lives.

This second birth(which can be symbolized by the true baptism) is the result of the greatest decision in our lives made in the full consciousness of our free will. That decision completely changes our sense of values, causing our motivation to swing from selfishness to loving service.

All along our lives, the quality of this progression is measured by our self-mastery.

"Self-mastery is the measure of man's moral nature and the indicator of his spiritual development." (1609 B)

"These achievements of self-control were the real rungs on which man climbed civilization's ascending ladder." (975 B)

It does appear that self-mastery is our personal cosmic duty

another personal cosmic duty :

is to follow Jesus who taught that "Man's whole duty is summed up in this one commandment : Love the Lord your God with all your mind and soul and your neighbour as yourself."

This is another double cosmic duty : on one hand to personally practice this commandment, on the other hand to teach and spread this teaching.

To conclude, let's see what is our relationship towards God the Supreme .

With God the Supreme, "achievement is the prerequisite to status: one must do something as well as be something." (1260 A)

- 1 - To do something - is to do our cosmic duty - and that's what we have just talked about.

- 2 - To be something - is to be a son - it is to live our sonship with God the Father - it is to be born again and to yield the fruits of the spirit. "and the fruits of the spirit are the essence of the highest type of enjoyable and ennobling self-control, even the heights of terrestrial mortal attainment - true self-mastery." (1610 B)

In the light of this study, each one can evaluate what his or her status is with God the Supreme.

Saint-Hyacinthe



When we registered for the triennial conference organized by the Quebec readers together with the Fellowship, we were asked to talk about " Our Cosmic Duty ". That is why, Marlène, Jacques and I prepared a " beautifully packaged talk " showing how we had reached our present intellectual beliefs and convictions. And so, trusting in the accumulated knowledge covering altogether over 60 years of regular reading, we fled toward St-Hyacinthe, happy and somewhat self-satisfied.

Once on the spot, we met a group of readers from Quebec who held some off conference meetings. Each of the members in a bold, brunt or even juicy language, would share with the audience his or her experience of the difficult and sometimes painful times of his or her life, his or her personal encounter with the Urantia Book, and the repercussion it had on his or her daily life. They would also speak of their personal beliefs and their spiritual commitment to themselves, to Jesus, or to men. We were far from the intellectual hairsplitting of highbrows, far from the learned talks about the U.B. While listening to them I could feel they were not appealing to my mind but to my heart and to my soul.

We have, therefore, decided to go to a meeting held by Lise, a woman who seemed to be coordinating the activities of the group. She was talking on : "*What an adventure* ", and it WAS an adventure. Her style was provoking, both colourful and humourous; she described the ascending steps of a mortal from the animal stage of existence to the Finality Corps.

But make no mistake, beneath the humourous tale she was actually offering us the teachings derived from her own experience, and each one of us could hear and feel his or her own doubts, struggles and emotions. She allowed us to *share* in the experience of her quest for God and here and there, would throw in some "pearls of truth" that reached their goal because we could feel they were genuine and experiential.

When we came out, Marlène and I, looked at each other, feeling somewhat shaken by what we had just heard but so enthused that we decided to meet Lise privately. We had several rich and in-depth talks with her about her experience as a " fisher of men ", the kind of fish she was looking

for, her technique and her motives. Her mighty living motive was unceasingly renewed by her passion for God, and the unselfish service she showed in favour of her fellows was the visible consequence of it, it was the fruits of the Spirit. In this fishing for lost souls *the U.B. was her fishing apparatus.*

So, Marlène and I decided to leave aside our prepared speech and talk about our inner life and purely human reactions in relation to what we thought to be our Cosmic Duty, towards our Father, ourselves, our mate, our children, our relatives and loved ones. What had we done with the talents that God had lovingly trusted us with ? What could we do to ourselves and in ourselves so that these talents yield more profit ?

We had a definite feeling that the audience was vibrant with emotion, for we were talking of things we had lived, experienced, and it rang a bell in the very experience of the listeners. They too, lived or had lived the same conflicts, had asked the same questions, and they were glad to note the similarity of experience. When the time came for questions and answers, they were also glad to share with others their own discoveries. We realized that, thus sharing our inner life we were speaking TRULY and our dialogue was on the level of the soul. At the end of our talk we received much evidence of love and friendship from the audience. It was heart warming for all.

We all remarked that reading our Book has given new perspectives to our lives. Something of an eternal depth has been added with the hope of fusion with God, and from then on, the incidents, the inevitabilities we are assailed by, become relative when seen in the perspective of our potential divine destiny. For, as we can read :

" Personal, spiritual religious experience is an efficient solvant for most mortal difficulties; it is an effective sorter, evaluator, and adjuster of all human problems. Religion does not remove or destroy human troubles, but it does dissolve, absorb, illuminate, and transcend them. True religion unifies the personality for effective adjustment to all mortal requirements. "(2093-6) This quotation contains in itself the solution to all our problems whether psychological or material and the Urantia Book is a mighty tool because it describes and

explains, in a magisterial way, the intimate mechanism of the inner life and of the relationships with the outside, with the others.

So, those who have gone through difficult times and have managed to design a personal technique with a view to better their inner life and the quality of their reaction to the environment, are able to share the fruits of their discovery with all those who have embarked on a sincere quest. Lise's technique seems to be founded on that principle. It is not an appeal to the mind but to the soul for, it is experience, meaning, therefore genuineness and truth, which is dealt with. True, the mind is not completely absent since we must understand and interpret, but its role is limited to that. In fact, sharing one's intimate spiritual experience allows the seeker to compare, it reminds him of similar situations he has been through and to which he or she had not found a satisfactory issue, and above all it allows for the start of a proper dialogue on the level of experience therefore of meanings. One learns to know the other better and the other discovers himself in the process.

An inner life which is God searching and reaching is an inspiring life and that's what Lise shares with the others.

Lise has perfected a personal technique to find and approach truth seekers, and it bears abundant fruits. With the help of other members of her group she distributes small posters for display in the local stores so they can be seen by the customers. The message reads something like : "Come and see the URANTIA Revelation. "It is completed by the name of a hotel in which a "souper-conférence" (an evening meal followed by a debate) will be given at

a specified time, the name of the speaker, the price of the meal and two telephone numbers for reservation.

No big crowd is expected to reserve, but if one or two persons do, that's a success! In this kind of fishing, quantity is not important, and even if no one comes, it just means postponement. In the evening, when the meal is started, people get acquainted, they fraternize, they share in their struggles, their beliefs and their life experiences. Then, the speaker presents his or her theme, sharing his or her own experience with the people present. Questions will then crop up and lead to the Urantia Book. Something like: Where do you get your information from? Answer: The U.B. ... (readers may easily imagine some dialogues)

Now, this is happening in Quebec dozens of times a month. Lise's method has been scattered around and at least a dozen groups have these "souper-conférences" every two weeks at fixed dates. The new participants usually

come back with friends or relatives and the movement is catching impetus. Steadfastness is requested as well as a real passion for God.

We really want to thank you Lise, and all your group, for the living example you offer us, for it is obviously true that :

" When man consecrates his will to the doing of the Father's will, when man gives God all that he has, then does God make that man more than he is" (1285-3)

Marlène & Georges Michelson-Dupont
Blennes / France



" The miraculous fishing "
engraving from Jérôme Natalis book:
"The life of Jesus Christ"

TOUCH THE WORLD

Impressions on the conference organized by the Quebecois and the Fellowship

A conference such as the one in ST. Hyacinthe (about 700 people) is not something easy to prepare and we must congratulate our friends from Quebec and the Fellowship for the way they worked together, organized and coordinated the different activities prepared for the participants.

Much voluntarism and many efforts has been engaged and, for us members of the audience, it is difficult to imagine the many details, the number of meetings, of talks and debates which have been necessary to organize in order to decide, to choose, and to convince, sometimes with difficulties, the right person, or to take the right decision. . . and all this to give everyone the opportunity to meet with another, and to learn more about each other. In the name of the readership, we thank you !

THE MATERIAL FRAME.

We stood in an innkeeper complex, entirely climatized, with several inner swimming-pools, cafés, restaurants and night-club. We were comfortable, in spacious bedrooms. The plenary room and the workshop-rooms were large enough to wellcome all the participants. The food was ordinary and many of the participants met the nearby chinese restaurant. The weather was "capricious" and this was better so!

THE INTELLECTUAL FOOD.

The opening and welcome ceremonies were sumptuous, with many giant slides and an electronic organ. (let me seize the opportunity to correct an historical mistake, in this brief evocation, made by the presentator, affirming that this conference was the first international conference organized outside the United States. Of course there were many before, including in Australia and France, welcoming readers from many countries and different continents.)

Early, in the morning, we gathered together for one or two hours in the plenary room, for some plenary praises, worship, and arts presentations. People were singing together or listening to music and singers performed in groups or individually. This was a mixture of "Gospel" and "american show"



The Logo of the conference

that went down well but also surprised others. Then, breakouts were proposed, either in english or in french or both. We attended those in french and we did appreciate "La passion du réel", "expansion spirituelle au sein de la famille", "quelle aventure", "comment communiquer avec les êtres invisibles", and "comment rejoindre le monde en respectant les objectifs des révélateurs".

THE SPIRITUAL CONTENT.

As far bas I am concerned, the spiritual content of any conference is not to be found in words but in the behaviour and contacts between people. And those conferences, large or small, have the advantage of giving the opportunity to gather truth-seekers. This, we owe to God, our Father in heaven, because He is the very One who gives us this immediate feeling of brotherhood. Those moments, when discovering a new sister or brother, are "magic". It's as if we had already known each other for a long time! Like "kindred spirits" we are inexplicably attracted and, beyond the spoken words, our souls commune in a common outburst of brotherhood. Marlène and me had the opportunity to enjoy many of these moments.

We flew back to Paris, exhausted with the time lag, but so happy of having "touched the world"

Blennes—FRANCE

G.Michelson-Dupont

Happy Birthday

It seems that we were 21 adults this Saturday August 21st to meet, some for the first time, at Blennes, in the home of George and Marlène and with the complicity of Jacques. We certainly had something special to celebrate.

A particularly warm afternoon did not prevent quiet but enriching exchanges, but I believe we were all, consciously or not, waiting for the remembrance supper.

It was, for many, a grand première. The reading of the text, the blessing of the bread and wine, in the absence of any priesthood, the presence of the Comforter—the Spirit of Truth, and the brotherhood supported on the material level by the superb welcome of our hosts, all this urged us and still urges us to a thanksgiving prayer which is the first step toward worship.

Campredon—FRANCE

J.Royer

NEWS FROM . . .



C.E.R.D.H. has still in stock about 12 "Livre d'URANTIA" at the current price that is:

190 F.F plus the postage cost.

We ordered, at the beginning of september, 40 french books along with 10 spanish and 10 english books to URANTIA Foundation. Because of the shipment they will be in Blennes for the end of October and, with the

rise of the price, the new cost will be:

290 F.F. plus the postage cost.

In addition, with the recent rise of the postal cost and the re-organization of the postal french service, there is no more preferential rate for books. The rates articulates around two services, fast or economic, in or outside France, normal or registered. Outside France, but within E.E.C and Switzerland, Austria and Liechtenstein, the new rates are as follow :

Fast service : 102 F.F.
 Registered fast service : 125 F.F.
 Economic service : 70 F.F.
 Registered economic service : 93 F.F.

Prices are degressive with quantity

the C.E.R.D.H.

Dear readers, the C.E.R.D.H. wants warmly to thank all of those who participate to the spreading of "The Letter", either with subscription or circulation. It is a "link" between URANTIA Book readers, as it is for "Reflectivité", from our québécois friends, or "Brèves Nouvelles" from Claude Castel. "The Letter" is sent to about 250 french-speaking subscribers and 125 english-speaking readers, in 22 countries disseminated in four continents.

In order to increase the audience and the interest, reader friends, we invite you to share, with the readership, your spiritual inner experience, your discoveries while reading the URANTIA Book, your personal experiences in practicing Jesus' Gospel, or more simply to give us some

news from your study-group or your sharing-group. The readership would also appreciate to know more about the way you spread the teachings of the URANTIA Book. So, if you have any desire to communicate, don't hesitate.

Often, too often, we receive very good articles that we cannot publish because they are or too long (four pages maximum) or the matter has nothing to do with the URANTIA Book, or the subject is not meant for URANTIA Book readers.

Editors are waiting, with great interest, for the fruits of your works and wish you a good autumn term.

The C.E.R.D.H.



NEWS FROM ...



Informational text or contact details, possibly including a name and address, located at the bottom of the page.