

# The Circles

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*"Life is but a day's work—  
do it well."\**

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## Seven Psychic Circles: A MATTER OF WILL

BY KAYE COOPER  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

In ascending the seven psychic circles, we are involved in the process of integrating the physical, mindal and spiritual aspects of ourselves in a particular way. We are striving to balance our growth in the three areas as well as achieve a personal balance between them. Most important, we are seeking to establish the divine chain of command — spiritual to mindal to physical.

When a person achieves this superb integration of body, mind and spirit, he is described as having an integrated or balanced personality. Yet it is, in fact, the personality which integrates the body, mind and spirit or, more specifically, the functional aspect of personality — the will. This fact brings into focus the central importance of our personal will.

Of all the composite parts of a human being, the personality and its associated will are most truly ours. Our will is the only thing we "own," the only thing of value which we can give to the Father.

At one stage in my understanding of the relation between my will and God's, I expected to sit back and let God tell me what his will was in each situation. At another point I decided I was to sit passively and wait for the will of God to work itself out in my life, accepting results as "God's will." But I am now convinced that God does not expect us to surrender our

will to his or to submerge it into his.

Drawing an analogy with the parable of the servants to whom the master gave a sum of talents, if the Father has given us a "five-talent" will, he expects us to return to him a "ten-talent" will — a strong, healthy will that reaches energetically for decisions and makes them in harmony with its best understanding of the Father's will.

Let's imagine what the "ten-talent" will would be like. It would certainly be able to control the physical and emotional aspects of the person. Even very mundane choices are a matter of will: choices like feeding the body the quantity and quality of food it needs for good health, giving it proper exercise and sleep, choosing to be cheerful and positive, or channeling the animal-origin drives into productive outlets.

As an immature son of God our divine chain of command functions only occasionally. Our goal is to strengthen and expand its functioning in our lives until we are constantly in perfect control — the spirit directing the mind, and the mind directing the body. Obviously, the chain will continue to be weak unless each link is functioning vigorously.

Not only must the mind control the body, the mind itself must be controlled. Anyone who has endeavored to quiet his conscious mind in preparation for meditation, or said firmly (but

unavailingly), "I won't worry about that anymore," knows that our minds can be rebellious just as our bodies and emotions can be. The mind is controlled (with a varying degree of effectiveness) by our will. The "ten-talent" will should be able to accomplish feats such as overcoming our innate mental laziness, short-circuiting the habit of procrastination, building habits of meditation, prayer and worship, etc. Such a will would be a worthy gift to the Father.

The big question is: How do we get from a "one-talent" will to a "ten-talent" will? That is a technique. It seems to me that *The URANTIA Book* gives us goals and ground rules and then leaves us to discover the techniques by which to accomplish our goals. I suspect that one of the reasons for this omission is that the diversity of people requires a great variety of techniques to accomplish the same end. There are several valuable techniques for developing the will contained in the works of Roberto Assagioli (*Psychosynthesis* and *The Act of Will*). If any of you have other techniques you wish to share, please write to us.

### References:

*The URANTIA Book*, pp. 1274, 1101, 102, 22, 1221, 1285-6, 1916-7.  
Roberto Assagioli, *Psychosynthesis*.  
Roberto Assagioli, *The Act of Will*.



# Prayers in a Technological Age

BY CRETIA HARPER  
EXETER, MISSOURI

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This gift of time you offer  
Wrapped in reverent awe  
Releases us not from age-old fears  
Paintings on the wall.

We crouch in canes near fires bright  
Hear the mighty roar  
Of beasts within our darkened minds  
The pounding on the shore.

Shadows fade in the morning light  
We rise to greet the dawn  
Homo Erectus — a glorious sight  
Hope of a future unknown.

A consecration of this life  
Struggling no more for food  
Wandering through the portals of growth  
Searching for what is good.

To the Glory of God  
Creating and sharing  
Until we are fused.

With the innermost Spirit  
Indwelling us all  
To the Glory of God  
May we consecrate all.

## BROTHERHOOD

BY CLYDE BEDELL  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

I have been guilty of passing *The URANTIA Book* lightly through my mind.  
Sometimes its prescient words have thunderously awakened me.  
Its brilliance has sometimes briefly blinded me.

And its Jesusonian love has melted me.  
But always I have recovered quickly — and bent my mind and back anew to little matters of markets and meals, and tires and taxes and the tinselled trimmings of life that pass in and out the doors of my consciousness.

Yet—none of these are important enough to record in a sculpture of stone or a painting in bright colors to furnish and brighten the too-barren gallery of my soul.

In this hour, pondering again the inexpressible wonders of the Book — I felt time racing tumultuously through the ageing calendar of my veins.

I faltered at my tick tack work — presumably important — and saw as in mirage its wavering worth.

"I must," I said, "get my priorities in order."

The hints I've had! — A burst of light in darkness, an electrical invasion of my

soul's depths, a flooding response to some small kindness, a rainbow of celestial music in my heart!

All these suggest that just beyond my fingertips are truth, beauty, and goodness; mysteriously freighted with flavor, fragrance, and sustenance, for a thirsting soul.

Why have I not seen more clearly that as You have translated the symphonies of Paradise itself for us in our Great Book— We cannot hold them to echo forever in our memories unless we orchestrate them in our *personal* way into brotherly daily touching of other lives with words and actions!

...For these others, too, in the human state, suffer the malady that deadens us: Our preoccupation with everything that doesn't matter.

This be my resolve: I'll honor more resolutely the Book's so simple, yet transcendent truth —

That everyone I see or meet or hear about is in truth — MY BROTHER!  
And in each day's relationships it will be I who lets each know by attitude and word and action.

Dear God! Life is too short to enjoy all my brothers!

How have I so long been needlessly impoverished — fraternally and spiritually?

# UNTITLED

BY RUTH MARIE BASS  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Love is the source of existence for Man,  
An eternal energy, the great I AM.  
With Love there are no defeats for the Mind.  
It's even power for travel through Time.

We're human, you know, constantly growing.  
Evolution still dictates what we'll be.  
We're 3-D products, inwardly exploring  
And our potentials lie beyond what we've seen.

Love is an energy greater than Light.  
But, oh, how magnificent Light can be!  
It's giver of form to Earth's fertile tide,  
Provides for and defines our Reality.

But psyche mediated flow called Love,  
With a frequency much higher than Light  
Affects Light's realm; the properties thereof.  
Thus Love can alter our lives when we try.

Will we ever completely comprehend  
The vastness of this universe within,  
Where Love is the light that shines without end  
And the Karmic force in the lives of men.

## One Day at a Time

BY EDNA FEDERICK  
DALLAS, TEXAS

One day at a time to me is given,  
A sweet precious day sent right from heaven.

What would I do with it, pray tell?  
I'll take it and live it and live it right well.  
I'll live it so all can see  
Jesus lives only through you and me.

Kind things to others I always can say.  
After all, it is only a day.  
Each deed that we do will always follow  
When our bodies are gone and the grave is hollow.

So why would I waste a sweet day given?  
After I see my Saviour in heaven  
I want him to say, "My child, I'm not sorry  
I gave you each day."

# A FATHER'S REPLY

BY BILL COOPER  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

Son:

My father, I wish to know my purpose in life, to know my life's mission, so that I may strive purposefully to achieve it and not to overlook it when its time comes.

Father:

(After a long and thoughtful pause.)

My son, your purpose in life is everyone's purpose, to be the best example of humanity you can be. Although I believe that each of us in eternity will be given at least one opportunity to be of unique service in important circumstances, I have no idea what unique service shall be your opportunity. My son, your mission may not be during your mortal life, but all that you can become or achieve that has value or meaning will better prepare you to perform that mission.

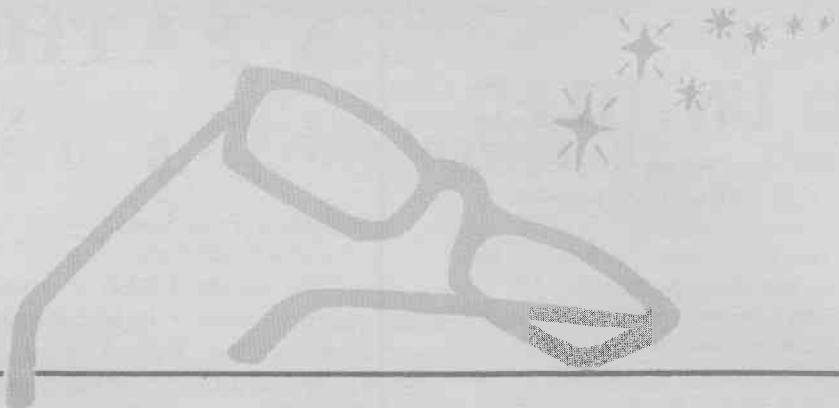
But if I knew your mission, whether in life or in afterlife, I would not disclose this to you, nor would I wish my Father to disclose my own mission to me. There is too much risk that one's creature will lead one to do that which seemed proper in mortal judgment to further the mission's achievement and thereby unbalance one's soul growth. There is also too much danger that one's mortal judgment might conclude that his mission had passed or had been achieved, and he would cease to strive. It is through striving that we grow and through growing that we prepare for and achieve many, many missions.

Therefore, my son, strive to be your highest concept of what you can be and trust completely that you will be used repeatedly in your Divine Father's service. But never expect to know in advance what that service may be.

If I  
Really Look  
I see ~  
My weeds keep  
turning into  
wild flowers!



# SPEC - U - LATIONS



## A Chance Encounter

BY J. WEST  
DALLAS, TEXAS

It was early in the universe morning on the day of tranquility and individual worship. I was at the community gathering facility, referred to by my fellow agondonter associates and me as "Solomon's Porch." I waited in anticipation for the arrival of a new acquaintance. I had recently met him a few local (Satania) days ago in Mansion World training headquarters. We had begun conversing in my newly learned universal language about our worlds of origin as we waited to hear of new assignments from the Mansion World Teachers. Patiently, he listened, seeming to understand not only my every word, but my thoughts as well. Stumbling through my new language, I explained my present level. Then, eager to know more of his existence, I listened while he explained that he was a Mighty Messenger who at the mo-

ment was on a temporary 1000-year assignment to this local universe. His companion from mortal existence had, at the time of assignment, been detailed to Superuniverse No. 2. As a result, at this particular moment he was undergoing the common two-faceted creature experience of the desire to do the will of the Father, yet, the still-present wish to continue with common experiences. I could feel his mortal-like reluctance to venture boldly into the unknown — even though adventurous — future.

He introduced himself as a Mighty Messenger, so I know from my education that at one point in time he had been through some type of rebellion and had passed the difficult test of universe allegiance. Even though superiors and probably even some friends unthinkingly followed an un-Godlike concept, he stood firm in the face of disloyalty to his beliefs in the Father's supremacy.

I was very curious and anxious to hear of his trying experience of time, but the bleeping of the signal resounding through the headquarters reminded

me of my duties which required me to be present as soon as possible in my assigned Mansion World. The Mighty Messenger sensed my almost overpowering desire to continue our interesting conversation. Being the sympathetic and understanding minister my Mansion World instructors had pre-

I understand that the Lord meant by His "Father's house" the whole vast universe . . . . Do not suppose that this world is all, or that beyond the veil, even the blessedness and joy of this world will not be surpassed . . . . This world is but one place of abode with God. There are innumerable more, . . . .

— Purves

dicted, he offered to meet me here today on my assigned day of rest.

As I see him approaching, streaking through the atmosphere in a blaze of light, I look forward to a continuation of our talk even more. Perhaps he was a firm believer during my own planet's

(Continued on page 12—)

*Angel is the only word in the language which cannot be worn out. No other word would resist the pitiless use which lovers make of it. Victor Hugo*

# about angels

BY GENE JOYCE  
RICHARDSON, TEXAS

The angels "love human beings, and only good can result from your efforts to understand and love them."\*

\* \* \*

*What mortals have said about angels:*

"Where the bright Seraphim in burning row  
Their loud uplifted Angel trumpets blow."

—Milton

"I love to hear the story  
Which angel voices tell."

—The Bible

"A ministering angel shall my sister be."

—Shakespeare

\* \* \*

## SPECULATION . . .

If we asked an angel, "What are ghosts?", we speculate that she might answer, "If, by 'ghosts' you mean 'spirits', spirits are all around you."

\* \* \*

In 1927, Charles Lindbergh, writing of his experience during the first solo flight across the Atlantic, said:

"It was the only occasion in my life when I saw and conversed with ghosts. They appeared suddenly in the tail of the fuselage while I was flying through fog. I saw them clearly although my eyes were straight ahead. Transparent, mist-like, with semihuman form, they moved in and out through the fabric walls at will. One or two of them would come forward to converse with me and then rejoin the group behind. I can still see those phantoms clearly in memory, but after I landed at Paris I could not remember a single word they said."

\* \* \*

\*Quotation from *The URANTIA Book* © 1955 URANTIA Foundation, used by permission.

# HUMAN HUMOR

*We are told that humor is essential to life here. We are also told that too much of our humor is coarse. We want to encourage everyone to discover or create and share worthy humor.*

## OVERHEARD IN THE RESSURECTION HALLS OF MANSONIA NO. 1

BY SUE BRAZELL  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

"I told you so."

"Well, what about that — it's true!"

"Do you need my Social Security number?"

"Where do I get my harp?"

"You're from Urantia? Never heard of it. I'm from Earth myself."

People don't ask for facts in making up their minds. They would rather have one good, soul-satisfying emotion than a dozen facts.

— Robert Keith Leavitt

When I think of  
the responsibility  
it staggers me!



Men are not flattered by being shown that there has been a difference of purpose between the Almighty and them.  
Abraham Lincoln

Aggie Doer  
Accent  
the steps to  
the spiritual  
Beat!



## OUTWITTED

He drew a circle that shut me out—  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.  
But Love and I had the wit to win:  
We drew a circle that took him in!

— Edwin Markham

\* \* \*

Heroism, the Caucasian mountaineers say, is endurance for one moment more.

— George Kennan

We would like to provide a clearinghouse for ideas helpful to parents. We hope readers will share techniques gained from personal experience, courses of study, *The URANTIA Book*, or other sources. We hope to receive reviews of books, toys, games, etc., for children which help parents to raise a well-balanced child (physically, mentally, and spiritually.) Reviews of "how to" books for parents would also be appropriate.

# PARENTS

## Blessings

BY KAYE COOPER  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

Blessings pop up in almost everything we do — especially those things connected with our children. Bill and I have had such nice surprises from our decision two years ago to change Jason's school. While public kindergarten had been just what we had wanted, first grade proved to be stifling, and (if rumor was to be believed) threatened to be even more harmful. In desperation we turned to a private church school with small classes, an adequate academic level, and a concern for the children as growing human beings. The only real problem lay in theology. The school taught Bible lessons daily, built heavily around the theme of sin, sacrifice and atonement.

We spent a great deal of time weighing each side. It was to a large extent a battle of fears. Fear of what another year in public school would do to his enthusiasm for learning, versus fear that he would be indoctrinated or, at best, unnecessarily confused by the school's theology.

The church school won, and we have never regretted the decision. From our experiences with his school in the last two years have come many blessings, one of which was a better understanding of unity. We are told that religionists must unite on the basis of their goals and purposes. In our own small way we have found unity with the religionists at Jason's school. We share with them a desire to develop a strong, healthy child who loves God and seeks to do his will; a child who respects and loves his parents; one who cares for his classmates and seeks to share their sorrows and joys.

We have discovered from this experience that religionists will never agree on theologic details, but it does not matter. The theology taught at Jason's school has provided us an opportunity to discuss with him many contrasting ideas from *The URANTIA Book*. Many of those discussions required all our resources to enable us to maintain his respect for his teachers and classmates, while introducing him to what we felt to be a higher truth. We grew to meet the challenge (we had to!).

More important than our growth has been that of Jason's. He has learned to respect the beliefs of his teachers and classmates even though they differ from ours. He has learned to keep quiet about beliefs he holds which might upset others. At the same time he is able to join his friends in prayer, song and other elements which he has in common with them. His most significant achievement, however, has been in his ability to evaluate the beliefs he comes in contact with, weighing those against what he knows.

I realized his progress in this area one day when he wanted to discuss a controversy that had been raging at school. It seemed that one side was insisting that events were predestined — meaning that God created some children knowing and intending that they would fail to find him and eternal life. The opposing side held the view that everyone has a genuine chance to find God. After listening to the details, I finally asked, "And what do you think?" It took several minutes of talking out his ideas, but finally he said, "I don't believe God would do that to us. He wouldn't play a trick like that on any of his children."

I felt the glow of motherly pride and also a new lack of fear. I knew Jason would deal with the details in his own way so long as he knew his Heavenly Father.

Fear tinges so much of our relationships with other people. I look forward to a day when we can ignore the details and join with all other sincere religionists without our protective cloak of fear.

**You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.**

**The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.**

**Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;**

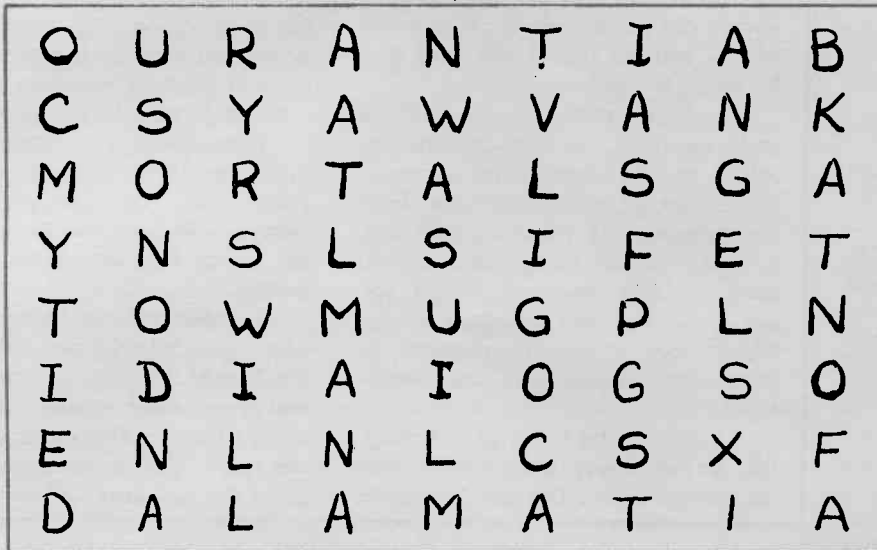
**For even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.**

**— Kahlil Gibran**

This section is for the children and teenagers. Since this is a wide age spread, it would be helpful if items were labeled with the age range for which they are suited. We would like to include books, toy and game reviews, stories, songs, art work, puzzles, speculations, etc. Items can be submitted by adults, teenagers, or children.

## WORD HUNT

BY JANICE WEST  
DALLAS, TEXAS



Find the words in the word list by looking across, down, diagonally, forwards & backwards. Circle the words you find.

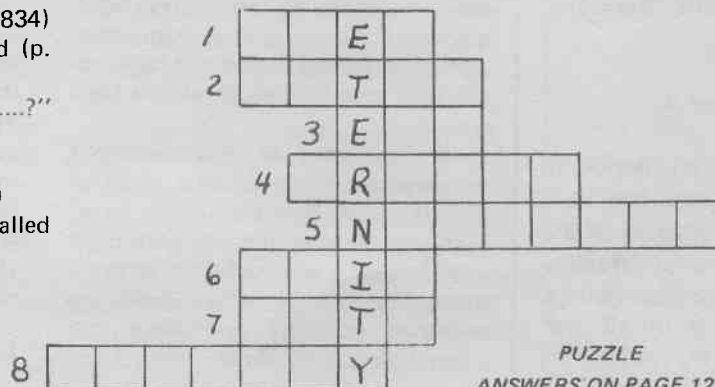
FONTA	URANTIA	ANDON
VAN	ANGELS	DEITY
WILL	COSMIC	WAY
SON	MORTAL	SOUL
MAN	DALAMATIA	MIND

"The Love of God binds everything together."

— Jason Cooper

- Jesus washed the apostles' .... (p. 1939)
- Assistant to Lucifer, head of rebellion on Urantia (p. 604)
- Mother of the violet race (p. 834)
- Man's attempt to talk to God (p. 996)
- "Can any good come from .....?" (p. 1363)
- .... killed Abel (p. 848)
- Jesus' youngest sister (p. 1389)
- Thought Adjusters are also called ..... Monitors (p. 1177)

## PUZZLE



PUZZLE  
ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

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# By Many Paths

BY PAT WATERMAN  
EULESS, TEXAS

Continuing quotes from *Urantia's*  
spiritual heritage . . . .

## Hinduism



(Quotes from "The Song Celestial," by Sir Edwin Arnold, a Quest Miniature, The Theosophical Publishing House. This is a translation of the *Bhagavad-Gita*, known in the west as the "Gita," the sixth episode from the epic poem, "Mahabharata.")

From Chapter III:

"Do thine allotted task! Work is more excellent than idleness; the body's life proceeds not, lacking work. There is a task of holiness to do, unlike world binding toil, which bindeth not the faithful soul; such earthly duty do . . . free from desire, and thou shalt well perform thy heavenly purpose."

From Chapter VII:

"Of many thousand mortals, one, perchance, striveth for truth; and of those few that strive . . . nay, and rise high . . . one only . . . here and there . . . knoweth me, as I am, the very truth."

From Chapter X:

"The great unbroken silence in learning's secret things; the lore of all the learned, the seed of all which springs. Living or lifeless, still or stirred, whatever beings be, none of them is in all the worlds, but it exists by me!"

# INSIGHTS

## ON FREEDOM

BY PHIL EVERSOU  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

A few days ago I made an amazing discovery. I realized that all my life I have been doing exactly what I chose to do. I may not always have cared for the consequences of my actions, but I always did what I chose. A moment later, I realized that if this were true for me, it is true for everyone.

We always have a choice — choice as to meanings, attitudes, viewpoints, values, beliefs, relationships, purposes. Even when we believe otherwise about ourselves and our situation, that, too, is a choice. We have always chosen what our own meanings, beliefs, values, etc., are, and we have always chosen our actions in response to those inner dispositions and perceptions.

So, within the limits of the possible, we have always done exactly what we wanted to do. The great liberating

key is to admit to ourselves that this is so — that we have always created the meaning of life for ourselves exactly as we wanted to and acted accordingly in all situations. The trick to using this key to liberation is to see that even the firmest *disbelief* in our personal causation of the meaning of our experience — believing ourselves to be trapped by circumstances and by others ("it" or "they" are doing it to us) — is itself a choice. We have always lived and always will live in the beliefs we choose to have as to the nature of reality.

We have always been free, even when we believed we weren't. We don't *gain* freedom so much as we *realize we have it* and become *obligated to use it*. This eventually entails the assumption of complete responsibility for our own perception of, and

## IN SEARCH OF LIGHT AND LIFE

(The following is the first part of a three-part fiction series submitted by Nancy Johnson, Mesquite, Texas.)

When I feel bogged down, I sometimes take an imaginary trip to a world settled in light and life to refresh myself and absorb the wonders of harmony in action. They can't see me, and I can't participate in their affairs, but I can observe from whatever vantage point I choose. It's music to soothe the savage beast . . . fascinating to observe. It's easy to see how it is that these light-and-life natives usually proceed directly to the universe headquarters for training after translation, instead of having to die and begin on the first mansion world of the local system.

The potential of their marvelous temperament is no doubt a result of the thorough blending of the races. With that kind of heritage getting its start in such a culturally rich environment, how can they lose? Everything seems so perfectly in balance; yet, when I switch to X-ray vision, I can

see that the potential for failure exists here just the same as it does on *Urantia*, and I'm curious to know how they cope with that. Maybe an overview will show me something . . .

There's a sort of wide river bed down there with clear water, which flows rather smoothly for the most part. Here and there the river bed is rocky, and the water churns and tumbles at a somewhat hazardous pace, but there are paths in between the rock beds where the water runs reasonably steady, though very fast. A lot of people are swimming in the river, and I notice they're all swimming more or less with the current. Some are laughing and splashing and racing as if for the sheer fun of it, while others seem intent and purposeful, as if working to perfect their strokes or sharpening their skill at gliding past the treacherous rocks. Occasionally some turn and try to swim against the current, but after awhile they begin to tire and cease to make headway. They stop to tread water, only to discover they're losing ground, and eventually they



This section is a place to share those truths that emerge from living day to day.

relationship to, reality. It means we can no longer blame others or circumstances for our state of mind and soul. And this is why most of us are reluctant to leave the circumstances that seem to be entrapping us. It means taking full responsibility for our inner life of mind and spirit and as much responsibility as possible for our outer lives. It also means becoming conscious of when we do *not* assume this responsibility, shifting it onto others and onto circumstances. We can now perceive our falsifications and correct them. To be a mature self is to be conscious of exercising ultimate freedom over the meanings, values, directions, relationships, beliefs, intentions, etc., in our lives.

In taking these realizations to the cosmic level, it becomes clear that the only way events happen, on any level of reality, is that they are initiated by

someone's choice, human or divine. Nothing happens at the various levels of reality until choice is made. The source of all physical energy/pattern activity in time and space is personal choice. The physical level, relative or absolute, inherently reflects the choices made upon it or within it. It does nothing of itself, for it has no choice and no consciousness.

There are universal laws and universal necessities derived therefrom, and our human freedom of choice must operate within this framework, but the universal laws are the reflection of the universal choice-maker. Necessities cannot create themselves. Only freedom can create necessities. While we humans must operate within universal law, we are free to choose our relationship to it at all times. We have always been free.

\* \* \*

**No man can produce great things who is not thoroughly sincere in dealing with himself.**

— James Russell Lowell

turn around to swim with the current again. This seems to restore their energy and coordination.

I look back at Urantia and see a similar river, only the water is somewhat murky. The rocks are not so visible, but the foam and splash above are a clear sign of the dangers beneath. The most noticeable difference is that most of the people are swimming upstream — against the current.

I continue on and presently my attention is drawn to a busy place below. What I finally recognize to be a school doesn't appear to be a school at all. Least noticeable are the teachers. At first I have the impression they must be student observers, or, that the teachers are the students learning from the children. The children seem to be doing all the explaining. I watch awhile and see that it is very effective.

Evidence of truth, beauty and goodness abound here, and I wonder if I can see how they strive for spiritual achievement. Hoping to pick up a few of their techniques, I drift over to a worship gathering but can't seem to maneuver myself in close enough. Some kind of bright energy is emanating from their midst, which I can't

penetrate.

Well, I surmise that must be the *effect* of spiritual achievement, and I'm really looking for techniques for learning this, so I move from one place to the next to see how this learning takes place. I find that universe values, religious philosophy, and goals and aspirations are taught or discussed just about everywhere, but I find no place where any particular "techniques" for spiritual growth or communion with Thought Adjusters are taught. It's as if spiritual growth just automatically takes place as a repercussion of some other form of striving.

I search for evidence of striving and almost fail to recognize it because of the absence of obvious suffering. I see the looks of dedication and joy that accompany their striving and slowly begin to realize that most suffering isn't actually necessary if we strive intelligently — like swimming with the natural river current. They teach that suffering is a creature-manufactured condition produced by negative attitudes, suspending creature progress until such negative attitudes have been redirected and harmonized with universal laws. *(— To be continued)*

# Roots

BY TERENCE J. ELLIOTT  
CARROLLTON, TEXAS

Recently I spent the greater part of a long, hot day working and sweating to uproot a dead tree from my garden. It had an extensive root system and for quite awhile defied all my efforts to dislodge it from its lifeless hold upon the soil. I broke my new ax chopping furiously at the roots and was finally forced to rent an electric saw.

The added power enabled me to cut through the hardened dead roots at the base, and I turned all my energies toward extracting the whole thing from its grave in the soil — a nearly back-breaking process. My tenacity paid off when at long last it was gone, and a gaping hole remained where once had lived a lovely tree ... the focal point of the whole garden. I filled the hole with sand and prepared the soil for the living tree I had chosen to take its place. Soon there stood the new tree in its new home.

An aching back and blistered hands were a constant reminder of that day's work. The dead tree had stood in our garden for many months as I procrastinated, until finally a determined, back-breaking effort accomplished the task.

The bad habits of a lifetime are like that tree. Wanting earnestly to uproot them isn't enough. Only the added power of determination and persistence can cut through the dead roots. Then, we must be sure to replace barren or dead habits with fruitful, living actions.

**The unfortunate thing about this world is that good habits are so much easier to give up than bad ones.**

— Somerset Maugham

\* \* \*

**Great souls are portions of Eternity.**

— James Russell Lowell

\* \* \*

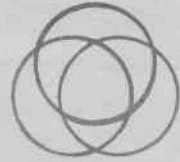
**Mishaps are like knives, that either serve us or cut us, as we grasp them by the blade or the handle.**

— James Russell Lowell

We invite our readers to submit reviews of books which have contributed to their lives.

# SPHERES of INFLUENCE

By  
Gene Joyce  
Richardson, Texas



Surely Heaven smiled upon the union of Anne Morrow and Charles Lindbergh, and continues to smile as the resultant blessings pour forth upon our planet, Urantia. The influence of these two is impossible to estimate —

genetically and socially in their five surviving children, mindally in their contribution to our literature, both general and scientific, and spiritually as their high ideals and values permeate our philosophical progress.

I can pack for a trip with great speed,  
For I know in advance what I need:  
It isn't clean socks  
Or toothpaste or clocks—  
It's an armful of new books to read.  
— Eve Merriam

THE FLOWER AND THE NETTLE, by Anne Morrow Lindbergh, a Helen and Kurt Wolff Book, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York and London, 1976.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh was at the pinnacle of world affairs during the years covered by her most recent book (1936–1939), *The Flower and the Nettle*. Fate, as well as her own intrinsic worth, had a hand in establishing her unique position to comment upon and dissect the affairs of the world at large as well as her personal life. She was the daughter of Dwight Morrow, U. S. Ambassador to Mexico at the time she met her future husband, Charles Lindbergh, the foremost hero of his day. Both her innate shyness and devotion to the privacy of the individual fostered her powers of perception and ability to paint exact, poetic word pictures of her various roles as wife, mother, homemaker, and writer within the grander frame of international affairs. She is equally adept at bringing to life the events of her flying travels with Lindbergh as he made official trips to Russia and Ger-

many during these crucial prewar years. In penetrating detail she discusses the far-reaching effect upon the Russian and German peoples of their respective forms of government. "Will the Nazi regime tend to produce super athletes," leaving out mental and spiritual development? Will the Russian purges kill enthusiasm, vigor, and creativity in a land where "the cream of humanity is constantly being skimmed off the top?"

My only regret while reading this captivating story of the life and times of Anne Morrow Lindbergh is the omission of the intimate side of her relationship with her husband. Far from wishing to invade her privacy during her lifetime, I can but wish she would make a gift of this aspect of her life posthumously, for this true story as told by her, would assuredly climb to the heights and touch the stars.

In the meantime the reader, through the senses of an exceptionally endowed woman, can attend the balls at Buckingham Palace and have personal interviews with most of the men who ruled the world during these action-packed years.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF VALUES, by Charles A. Lindbergh, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1977.

Charles Augustus Lindbergh, in his *Autobiography of Values*, published posthumously, tells the enthralling story of his life (1902–1974) as it was woven into the fabric of the 20th century. His influence upon the birth and development of aviation literally changed the environment of our planet. Not so well known are his contributions in the fields of statecraft, genetics, medicine, endangered species, pollution and conservation of resources. He was truly attached to destiny and at least partially aware of the fact when he made the statement, "For me the 'Spirit of St. Louis' was a lens focused upon the future."

Literally a study in the evolution of meanings and values, this book reveals Lindbergh's progress throughout his lifetime from believing that the contribution of science in general, and particularly the airplane, would automatically benefit mankind to the realization that it depends upon how they are used. In the final chapter entitled "Beyond Survival" he concludes: "To venture beyond the fantastic accomplishments of this physically fantastic age, sensory perception must combine with the extrasensory, and I suspect that the two will prove to be different faces of each other. I believe it is through sensing and thinking such concepts that the great adventures of the future will be found." Indeed, few men have "ventured" so close to the peak of their potential as did Charles Lindbergh.

*It may be a good thing to copy reality; but to invent reality is much, much better. —Verdi*

## Who Is the Urantia Brotherhood :

BY MEREDITH J. SPRUNGER  
FT. WAYNE, INDIANA

## A RESPONSE

The "Balance" section of *The Circles* provides an opportunity to discuss issues of importance to students of *The URANTIA Book*, and in doing so I believe it is furnishing a much needed platform to verbalize frustrations, clarify confusion, and contribute significant insights to the URANTIA movement.

Phil Eversoul's article, "Who Is the URANTIA Brotherhood?" which appeared in the Spring, 1978, issue of *The Circles*, is a thought-provoking presentation. It is helpful in that it is representative of confusion of facts and debatable issues which are somewhat general in URANTIA Brotherhood. I welcome the opportunity to respond to his article.

### Confusion of Facts

1. URANTIA Brotherhood is not chartered by URANTIA Foundation. The Foundation and the Brotherhood are separate and independent organizations. The Brotherhood issues charters to societies. The Foundation does license the Brotherhood to use the name "URANTIA" and to use the concentric circle symbol. Neither organization controls the other. They have clearly defined areas of responsibility and service. They strive to work in mutual cooperation and support.

2. URANTIA Brotherhood is not mostly a Foundation service organization. The Brotherhood formulates its own policies, practices, and program. To some degree the trustees of the Foundation, as persons, do influence Brotherhood decisions, because four of them also serve on the Executive Committee of the Brotherhood. But I should like to point out that any time the majority of the General Council believes there is a conflict of interest in this double service, the trustees can be voted out of the Executive Committee. How much influence the Foundation trustees, as persons, have in the Brotherhood is a function of the democratic processes of the Brotherhood.

And I can assure you the General Council will be governed by constitutional democratic procedures. URANTIA Brotherhood is organized and acts independently on the basis of the highest spiritual guidance available to members of the Executive Committee and the General Council.

3. URANTIA Brotherhood should not be confused with the spiritual brotherhood of all mankind. This confusion is widespread. When the social-religious organization of URANTIA Brotherhood is identified with the spiritual brotherhood of man, all kinds of misconceptions take place. And all of them are bad! URANTIA Brotherhood is merely a social organization dedicated to the spread of the teachings of *The URANTIA Book*. In time, no doubt, many such organizations will come into being. The Brotherhood, furthermore, makes no claims to any official interpretations, methodologies, or exclusive "roads to heaven." We do not even urge people to join URANTIA Brotherhood. Please, let us never confuse URANTIA Brotherhood with the spiritual brotherhood of all mankind!

### Debatable Issues

1. Should the term "URANTIA" be under the supervision and control of URANTIA Foundation?

Early leaders of the URANTIA movement were instructed by the revelators to protect the name "URANTIA," to register it, and to guard it by civil law. There are two basic reasons for this action. First, the registered marks, after the copyright runs out, are a means of identifying the untampered version of *The URANTIA Book*. Second, these registered marks are a reliable means of identifying those groups who are governed by the basic philosophy and constitution of URANTIA Brotherhood. This will help to distinguish URANTIA Brotherhood from extremist groups who could bring much confusion and dis-

ruption in the growth of the Father's kingdom on earth.

I believe early leaders were wise in placing the registration and supervision of the registered marks with the Foundation, thus separating these legal responsibilities from the teaching and fellowship responsibilities of the Brotherhood. As much as possible, it is good to have the Brotherhood primarily concerned with spiritual ministry and fellowship.

2. Should all URANTIA Brotherhood organizations be unofficial in the legal sense?

Any nonprofit organization in our culture which receives tax deductible contributions must have a constitution and be properly recognized by the state. To this extent it is a practical necessity to be legally registered by the state.

But there are more important reasons why URANTIA Brotherhood should be legally governed by a constitution and be recognized by the state. Not since the coming of Jesus to our planet has there been a dynamic spiritual nucleus, which is contained in *The URANTIA Book*, around which so many competing and divisive groups would arise. URANTIA Brotherhood is necessary as a formal (legally valid) organization to discourage the formation of numerous other organizations, to protect against egocentric and predatory minorities, to prevent confusion and disruption, and to guard individual freedoms.

Contrary to what many spiritual idealists assume, a philosophic or religious movement without legal organization or regulation does not bring greater freedom to the individual. Evolutionary experience has taught us that the individual has the greatest freedom in an ordered society. It is regulation and law which insures liberty and freedom for the individual. Material, legal, and spiritual functions

(Continued on the following page—)

must be a part of every sound and lasting religious social organization. Obviously, organizations can also be sources of evil!

Even though URANTIA Brotherhood hopefully may discourage the formation of some competing organizations — each claiming to be the "true" guardians of *The URANTIA Book*, it is probably wise and prophetic to recognize that, human nature being what it is, groups will be organized which either disagree with or do not wish to be directly associated with URANTIA Brotherhood. Such groups will no doubt pick auspicious names like "World Fellowship of The Urantia Book" and will promote their own programs. If and when this happens, we should not be disturbed. In a pluralistic society we must learn to live with different and differing organizations. This potential probability underlines the importance of having URANTIA Brotherhood's name protected by law.

We should also recognize that some people and some groups function more comfortably in the URANTIA movement in an unofficial capacity. For these people and groups such a non-official relationship can actually foster better interpersonal relationships and augment the spiritual quality of the Brotherhood. We would encourage such people to maintain their non-official status.

3. Should the material and legal be disassociated or eliminated from URANTIA Brotherhood?

This is the hope and illusion of the spiritual idealist — and we are all such idealists at times. We can intellectually distinguish among these areas, but in the concrete process of living they are all fundamental necessities. I, for one, am frequently irritated with what appears to me to be a preoccupation with material or legal aspects of individual or group functions. In reality, the material and the legal cannot be eliminated from life on this planet or URANTIA Brotherhood. The best we can do is have proper priorities. Even on Paradise the material and the spiritual are harmonized. It is much more difficult on Urantia. But I would hope that URANTIA Brotherhood will always strive to give priority to the spiritual and allow the spiritual to dominate and control the material and legal necessities.

Lucifer Rebellion or even managed to prevent an upheaval of error in another universe. I am anxious to learn not only of his courage and strength then, but also how he evolved to that level and managed to maintain it for an extended period of time. As he arrives, I happily greet him, looking forward to our hours of communion on this beautifully significant day. I have the privilege of communicating with a fellow ascendant mortal who has a universe-established personal record of fidelity and devotion to our heavenly Father.

**A BAG OF TOOLS**

Isn't it strange  
That princes and kings,  
And clowns that caper  
In sawdust rings,  
And common people  
Like you and me  
Are builders for eternity?

Each is given a bag of tools,  
A shapeless mass,  
A book of rules;  
And each must make—  
Ere life is flown—  
A stumbling block  
Or a steppingstone.

— R. L. Sharpe

**— STAFF —**

- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Tommie Clendening | Randy Harwick |
| Bill Cooper       | Nancy Johnson |
| Kaye Cooper       | Gene Joyce    |
| Jean George       | Janice West   |
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**"So ho!" cried the smith, not at all distressed by Taran's wretched and rueful expression. "Did you think to gain a worthy blade at first go?" He laughed loudly and shook his head.**

**"Then what must I do?" Taran cried, appalled at Hevydd's words.**

**"Do?" the smith retorted. "What else but start anew?"**

**— Lloyd Alexander**

**IT ISN'T THE TOWN, IT'S YOU**

If you want to live in the kind of a town  
That's the kind of a town you like,  
You needn't slip your clothes in a grip  
And start on a long, long hike.

You'll find elsewhere what you left behind,  
For there's nothing that's really new.  
It's a knock at yourself when you knock  
your town;  
It isn't your town—it's you.

Real towns are not made by men afraid  
Lest somebody else gets ahead.  
When everybody works and nobody shirks  
You can raise a town from the dead.

And if while you make your stake  
Your neighbor can make one, too,  
Your town will be what you want to see,  
It isn't your town—it's you.

— R. W. Glover

**The Spiritual Awakening**

**"... there wells up a realization that life is one, and an outpouring of love flows through the awakening individual towards his fellow beings and the whole of creation."**

**— Roberto Assagioli**

