

The Circles

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

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Winter 1979

Seven Psychic Circles: DECISION MAKING

BY KAYE COOPER
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

Decision making is the basic technique of circle progression. Every decision we make either advances or retards our circle attainment. Our lives are filled with a myriad of decisions, most of them small. All of us notice the big decisions — the crisis points. But the groundwork for those dramatic choices is laid long beforehand. For months or even years before such a confrontation we have been making the small, usually unnoticed, decisions which prepare us to make the big ones. Our success when a crisis comes depends on the spiritual habits we have developed during that preparation time.

Our need for opportunities to make persistent and repeated decisions necessitates a certain amount of conflict. We must have opportunities to choose new and better patterns of behavior. As we come to watch for decision situations in our lives, we will see the same basic situation face us again and again in a slightly new costume. Each time we make the right choice, those decisions will become progressively easier to make until we hardly even recognize that we have made a decision — the choice is habitual!

But what if we don't make the right choice? Then the conflict persists. We are faced repeatedly with a situation calling for a decision we don't want to make. When we have made the decision, because it is the wrong choice, we feel uncomfortable about it. Even worse, the next time we face a similar situation, it is frequently a more dramatic and difficult situation. Only when we begin to

make the right choices (choosing the higher alternative), will the persistent conflict disappear. Momentary conflict is necessary to religious growth. Persistent conflict indicates the formation of poor spiritual habits.

Fortunately we do not have to face every "temptation" the universe has to offer. We can learn efficiently from the conflict that

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THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH*

BY JAMES H. THORNHILL, JR.
HOUSTON, TEXAS

There is a small mountain in Jerusalem which is known as Mt. Olivet. It is mostly barren with a few trees scattered about, or at least it was approximately 2000 years ago. Today there is a modern and famous hospital located on Mt. Olivet. The Intercontinental Hotel, reportedly the finest in Jerusalem, occupies a choice spot on this mountain. Today's visitor may rent a camel for a modest fee and ride over and about this mountain or simply stand on its heights and look out across Jerusalem. I would guess everyone

who does this tries to imagine what it must have been like in that distant time, nearly 2000 years ago.

This land provided a staging for the most important event that has ever happened on this planet, for it was here that our creator appeared as the Son of Man and lived and walked among us. Although there are many other historical places in this Holy Land where important events in the life of our Jesus occurred, Mt. Olivet played no insignificant role. At

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For Circles

BY **BRENDI POPPEL**
BAYSIDE, NY

God inhabits the endless circle of eternity,
The neverending stream of personalities parade
past his grace,
receiving his embrace.

As the wheel whirls, quiescent universes come into
higher being,
divinely freeing,

The clockwork energy that pervades spacious time,
unlocks tick tocks,
metamorphizing rocks,

The First Source and Creative Center is sublime.

We rotate, revolve, and evolve to solve our Supreme dream,
Transcending, ascending, beginning the ending of a
patterned scheme,

The circuits reflectively, respectively control
the energy flow,
in cycles we grow,
in the spiritual know.

Seasonally changing, periodically rearranging our designs,
refining the lines,
the personality defines,

We are blessed and caressed with Adjustered minds. God finds.

Orbit of a celestial corps,
A round, sound evermore worships wise,
As the colossal congregation of GOD does rise.

Wire higher is the desire of the ages,
Regrouping in different circles of stages,
Be lifted, shifted, resurrected,
Be of the selected, respected, perfected mortals,
Enter infinity's divinity portals.

Come fly high on the worlds of the sky,
Spin into the music of God's lullabye,
sleep deep, tend the sheep,
many memories are ours to keep,
Our Creator calls, with mercy and love,
Traversing on our tracks, we target above,
we achieve the higher goals,
are received into the rolls.

We journey onward, attaining more light,
With angels to guard us, assuring our flight,
heavenly insight,
brightening our stay,
ever upward we pray.

Play on the circles, work, grow and rest,
There are challenges to conquer, give GOD your best,
pass the test, progress ahead,
our psychic sojourn is seraphically led,
to the Monitor of Mystery . . . forever be wed.

Spirit

BY JAN COOK HAZEN
DALLAS, TEXAS



If seeds in the black earth can
turn into such beautiful roses,
what might not the heart of
man become in its long jour-
ney toward the stars?

Spirit moves so quickly,
an energy given and taken
between two souls,
speaking out to one another
as only those two souls can do;
No two personalities
respond in the same way.
Spirit is an illuminating love
transferred and quickly transcended,
as we glimpse at our reason for being:
To love one another.
Spirit helps us transcend
the barriers that exist
in a finite world,
Forever striving
for a means to be godlike,
and to express itself fully
in the love experienced
between two souls.
Spirit loves unqualifiedly,
every being created
with whom our paths cross.
Giving and sharing
of ourselves and our spirits
is the natural consequence
of our decision
to follow God's way.
Coming to know your fellow man
and loving him
for his own uniqueness
is the reason
I love you.

Becoming

BY JAN COOK HAZEN
DALLAS, TEXAS

Becoming more of who you are
each day progressing and developing
to your full potential.
That small seed within
blossoming into a beautiful flower
only if you reach within
your inner depths,
and discover your true self.
That special part of yourself
which only you know and treasure,
unbeknownst to anyone
but you and your Creator.
No flower exists
except as a separate part
making up the whole.
Each is as unique as the next,
with no two ever being the same,
which makes for a colorful
multitude of flowers.

When I
really look
I see -
the oak
in the
acorn.



I N S I G H T S

A SEARCH FOR LIGHT AND LIFE

BY NANCY JOHNSON

MESQUITE, TEXAS

(This is the conclusion of a 3-part series which tells the story of an imaginary trip to a world settled in light and life. In part one, the author observes living harmony among advanced mortals and becomes curious about how they achieve this state without any apparent struggle. In part two she goes to the earliest schools of child development to observe attitude formation and training techniques at the individual level. The third and final part takes us into one of the most important lessons we have to learn during our mortal career: teamwork.)

PART III

"Graduation" from the school of learning involves several formal counseling sessions coordinated with parents and counselors from both the schools of learning and religious training.

A summary of the child's aptitudes, training and progress is reviewed. The child is invited to offer his own summary of his training so far. Together the student, counselors and parents discuss and compare the two summaries, and in the process it emerges in the child's awareness that all of his training to this point

has been highly individual. Working side by side with many others, all the while exchanging ideas and discoveries and sharing enthusiasms, he had not focused on the idea that his experiences had been uniquely his own.

The counselors re-emphasize the importance of continuing self-realization. They encourage subjective thinking as a purposeful technique to be employed in matters concerned with his own unique growth and development. He is encouraged to continue striving in the direction of self-awareness and self-realization in response to the Father's call to "be you perfect even as I am perfect," to offer maximum contribution to the growth of the Supreme, and for his own satisfaction.

And now, he hears, it is time to begin a new kind of striving in cooperative group effort, and it will become necessary for him to cultivate the arts of self-forgetfulness and objective thinking. It is explained he will begin in small groups with single goals assigned, and advance to larger groups with multiple goals, as he demonstrates the ability to work cooperatively with others.

In the school for group training the new arrivals are eager to be reunited with some of their former classmates and are anxious to prove themselves. They are assigned to small groups consisting of new arrivals and students who have been in training for varying lengths of time. They are assigned a goal and instructed to see how quickly they can agree on the best way to pursue that goal, looking to the older students for guidance.

The Implications of Wealth

BY J. WEST
DALLAS, TEXAS

Since circle attainment helps to supplement human success and mortal achievement, how should the subject of material wealth and prosperity be approached? Our celestial teachers appear to hold high regard for earned wealth as long as it is the result of human

Jesus did not warn against accumulating wealth. When asked about wealth, he stated some basic methods of amassing material wealth, and then gave examples of equitable ways to dispense each type. From these statements it appears that Jesus sought to deliver man only from the "love of wealth" which would endanger his entry into the kingdom of heaven. He taught that spiritual values must *always* come first!

There is great disparity in the way individuals on a material world obtain and dispense their wealth. On the day of judgement those who have had material prosperity on this world will be asked to give an account. At least three questions must be answered: How much wealth did you have; How did you acquire your wealth; and

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**Wealth begets responsibility.
Great wealth begets great responsibility.**

— Lord Acton

effort — our own labor, knowledge, and organization. Such gains are representative of human accomplishment, the result of our reaching for higher attainment. It seems logical that as a civilization progresses, material wealth would become an outgrowth of the evolutionary scheme.

The assigned goal is fairly simple, but the new arrivals experience some difficulty compromising their views to arrive at a line of pursuit. They yield to the reasoning of the older students, and I swallow hard as I see the suggestion of disappointment that they will not get to prove themselves with quite as much personal recognition as they had anticipated. This is the first real indication of inner struggle with self I've observed.

Repeated experiments with group problem solving and goal attainment have a slightly sobering effect on the new students. At this time the older students begin to show more empathy and take the time to share their evolving philosophies about group effort. Some of it was over my head, but I did manage to pick up this much:

It is not possible to serve two masters at once. It's okay to have personal goals and ambitions — to want to excel. With the Heavenly Father's universal plan of ascension to inspire them, it becomes a noble aspiration and contributes greatly to the growth of the Supreme. But God's plan involves all his creatures, and he loves each of them equally. If they respond to his call to become perfect even as he is perfect, it requires each to love all others equally with themselves. Through group effort they learn to appreciate every individual's intelligent contribution, because without it they can realize only partial success. If each member of a group agrees on a single, worthy goal, then that goal must become "master," and individual desires must be harmoniously aligned toward the pursuit of that single goal.

The new students are refreshed by this talk and begin a new project with a lighter heart. Arriving at a working plan of action goes much smoother and faster this time, and they experience a new kind of glowing satisfaction, which can be feebly described as a

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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.

BUSY?

How busy is not so important as why busy. The bee is congratulated; the mosquito, swatted.

* * *

Two frogs once fell into a can of cream. One of them, after a fruitless effort to scale the smooth perpendicular wall of the prison, gave up disheartened and sank to the bottom. The other would not give up but kept endeavoring again and again to scale the wall. His furious splashing finally made a little pat of butter, upon which he was found standing by the dairyman in the morning.

— Aesop

* * *


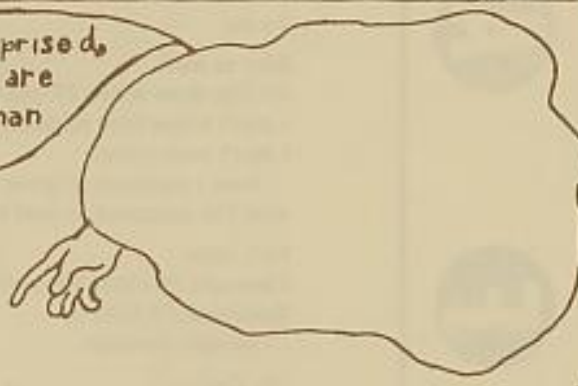
CONFUSED?


I know that you believe you understand what you think I said . . . but I'm not sure you understand that what you heard is not what I meant.

* * *

We, the willing,
Led by the unknown,
Are doing the impossible.
We have done so much for so long,
With so little,
We are now qualified to do anything,
With nothing.

I'm not really surprised, but the potentials are somewhat larger than I expected.



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.

GOD'S ANSWER

BY GINA DANIEL, AGE 9

God does not answer unless he is asked. He lets you go on your own accord. He lets you do what you think is best. If you ask and you really mean it in your heart, He will answer — just believe!

JUST A LITTLE NOTE

BY TERI LONG, AGE 14

I always seem to develop problems at the worst times, but I have discovered that if I just think about the problem awhile, talk to God about it, look over all the possible answers and look over my situation, I can play, have faith and forget it. (Now somewhere among this recipe, I sprinkle in quite a bit of crying.)

LIFE, AN INSPIRATION

(A WISH FOR MYSELF)

BY CORY DANIEL, AGE 14

Life is a mystery of everlasting searching to know who you are and to know how you think. Emotions and feelings are real in your mind; but if you stop searching to your thoughts, you are blind. If life does not bring you to question your existence, then how is life a challenge?

If you do not seek to learn of yourself, why learn of anything else? Life is yours always, nothing can take it away.

To know the meaning of life is to know yourself for who you are. If you are a being, you can never die if you are a spirit — have a soul. You may take different forms but your life is eternal. Until you reach the awareness of who you are, and how you think and every thought and feeling concerned — for just one moment are you pure. But even the second afterward, your thoughts will shift and you will continue to learn. To live is to search and to experience whatever your mind observes. This will never die. This is the meaning of life!

A Cry for Help

BY KAYE COOPER
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

Eyes uplifted
To me.

Why to me?
All I've done is live 27 years.
I don't know how to guide him.
I don't even know
how I managed to grow up.
And I'm supposed to lead him.

He's mine.
I brought him into the world.
Somehow I'll have to
muddle through.

Oh, God —
Do you think
you could help too?



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MARRIAGE

BY TOMMIE CLENDENING
PLANO, TEXAS

So near and yet so far away. Can it be almost a year? I remember being single as if it were only yesterday. I was the one who would never get married, remember?

Marriage! Now there's a funny word, full of happiness and sorrow, today's and tomorrow's, and now, even yesterday's. It's a time for learning about yourself, mirrored in another person (and they mirrored in you). You ask, "Do you like it?" Well, I suppose. But as I remember the best times, it's not vacation, or birthdays, though

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comes our way. One method of efficient learning is to be alert to the lessons available to us in the form of decisions. We can greet each challenge with a gleam in our eye and enthusiasm for the fray. If we can't manage that, we can at least say to ourselves, "I'm going to learn what lessons are available here as quickly as possible, so this discomfort will go away!"

Another method which increases the efficiency of our learning from decisions is to learn by analogy. Often a relatively painless lesson has elements in common with a much more devastating situation. It may be easier, for example, to learn how to forgive an unfaithful friend than to be faced with an unfaithful spouse. Yet both situations call for similar skills.

A third method for streamlining our learning is to make the right decisions, instead of sidetracking ourselves into a habit which must be broken and replaced with a better one. We have help in knowing which choice is best. Both the Thought Adjuster and the Spirit of Truth participate in our choices between right and wrong. Jesus, who made the most efficient use of his decisions of any mortal in

they were great. No, it's the quiet, touching time, late at night when the magic door opens and you say, "Are you asleep? Can we talk?" Then I glimpse the gold behind the door; at times it makes me laugh; at times it makes me cry. But it's always the best time, because that's when I get to touch the warm softness that is you, without the cold, hard shell. Shell's are necessary out in the cold, hard world, but it's nice to have someone near enough and trusting enough who will keep guard while you come out and stretch. This is marriage to me.

this universe, habitually went to the source of every right answer — the Father. He always withdrew to commune with his Thought Adjuster when faced with a new or difficult decision. By adulthood he had achieved what we strive for now. In each situation he faced, he consistently chose the will of the Father.

Basically that is what all our decision making boils down to — learning to choose the Father's will.

References from The Urantia Book, pages 1708, 1097, 1095, 1192, 383, and 1515.

Our character is but the stamp on our souls of the free choices of good and evil we have made through life.

— Geikie

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state of radiating oneness. As they take a break to bask in the joy of their accomplishment, one of the students suddenly realizes he was so intent on "serving one master" that he completely forgot about trying to serve himself, and the others laugh in agreement. But one student, looking thoughtful and a little puzzled, asked how it could be, then, that he felt such a

By Many Paths

BY PAT WATERMAN
EULESS, TEXAS

*Continuing quotes from Urantia's
spiritual heritage*

Jainism



Ancient Jain OM



Nandavarta

"Reverence for life is the Supreme Religion."

* * *

"Giving each other mutual help, we cause each other to grow."

* * *

"Since you receive so much more than any other form of life, it is inevitable that you should want to give more."

* * *

"Just as a mighty mango tree is hidden within the stone of the mango, even so, oh man, God almighty is hidden within you. Rest not until you find him."

Jaina Scripture

Bhagwan Mahavir

great sense of *personal* accomplishment. Then he, too, laughed and said, "Maybe the only way you can have your personal glory is to quit working for it!"

An observing teacher entered in the records that the older students are now in possession of what they have learned, and it is time to prepare the newer ones for more complex goals.

— End —

TECHNIQUES

What's This from Bethsaida . . . ?

BY CLYDE BEDELL
LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA

A great many Urantians, experienced and devoted, and new and convinced, would like to see a revitalization of our movement. New planning for the future, new course-setting, new positive action, new warmth in communications. How many of us can say we have done, are doing, our utmost for our Great Book and Movement?

And is there not something that each study group might add to its program, if it wished, beneficially for all? To make brotherhood become meaningful and functional? Real and growing? Here, I will make the skeleton of a suggestion I would like you to ponder.

Our association with a few others in a study group should activate us, as well as enlighten us and provide us a pleasant experience. It is not how big are our actions and services rendered to the people around us in the world — at least to start with — but that they are deliberate and continuing, as well as inspired. And *that they increase brotherhood and a sense of sonship*, because we are Urantians. And because we have all learned more than superficial Christianity from our Great Book.

I suggest that each study group determine upon some sort of venture into real gestures of brotherhood. For instance, at each meeting, members present might be asked to report on some initiative taken into expanding brotherlyness, translating our acknowledged theories into extra uncalled-for small gracious things. Or on some negative impulse overcome on behalf of brotherly love or concern. In short, samples of translating our beliefs into

actions. It is a certainty, I believe you will agree, that this procedure would lead us to be slower to become irritated, quicker to express a friendly gratuitous remark, or do a kindness, and more apt to help lift others' small burdens. And then, lo, in time these small things would of a certainty grow and increase into larger and still larger ones.

I would emphasize that there should be no contest to see who could detail the greatest friendly gesture. A timorous, very friendly word of sympathy spoken to a disturbed person might win a greater heavenly credit for a highly introverted person, than a great and glittering favor volunteered by an already gregarious and extroverted Urantian. The aim would be to begin to reach out a little further, spread out a little more, in Christian action, even if ever so little, because we are students of *The Urantia Book*, and we want to serve The Master by helping and gentling his children.

The idea would be to start with small and humble initiatives (unless a greater opportunity presented itself). Start small, so everyone can and will participate, and let the pleasant harvest assure continuity and growth. If half of a study group demurs, let volunteers start the outreach report — and others will volunteer later.

Now the catch in this, of course, is that if we are expected to report, we will be alert for opportunities to do what's worth reporting, and we will expect more of ourselves. And we'll soon find ourselves pleasantly trapped into a slightly more pleasant mode of life. And then the catch is — we

will be doing more and bigger, better things! And this, any Christian psychiatrist will assure you, becomes habitual, because it is a most pleasant way of self-growth.

If 100, then 300, then 500, then ultimately 1000 small study groups were actively, through all their members, leavening their great variety of human contacts in small ways, and reporting on them every week, what might they become in a year, or five, or ten? Long after reporting them ceased! And the study group members would profit more than the people they benefited in small ways!

Some people will object to this "doing and reporting" idea. "I don't want to do little things and come back and brag about them." (And similar objections.) It is, however, not to brag, but to teach and be taught . . . to share experiences of being a Urantian IN FACT, not in theory. One study group leader who heard this suggestion wrote me in warm approval saying it had not occurred to her that their study group in fact did nothing but read, talk, and eat.

At Bethsaida a huge camp was established for the training of evangelists. Jesus and the apostles taught. In five months several thousand came and went. The apostles taught in the forenoon. In the afternoon, the teachers and the taught would address the people — work with them. After the evening meal classes again! The evangelists would ask questions about their experiences, apostles would answer. Jesus once a week took the hard, leftover, unanswered questions.

If Urantia Book readers do not in a modest but determined way practice their beliefs, if they simply study and make no effort to help each other become Urantians in fact, how will the interests of our great Revelation be served? Do you expect God to give us the Revelation and then to distribute its message also? What part ARE we supposed to play — that of aloof, enlightened, stand-aside observers?

The Bethsaida school was conducted on the plan of learning and doing. Any sales manager will tell you training is ineffectual unless it requires reporting back and learning from the experiences of others. Reporting on successes, experiences, failures, actions — is for the good of others, not braggadocio. It is brotherly participation in mutual growth.

We have far too few study groups. We are supposed to generate 1000s. And those we have? Are they applying tough standards against themselves for translating our beliefs into actions and service? The Urantia Movement is supposed to *move*. Well, it's just an idea. An idea from Bethsaida — so long, long ago when Jesus in person was top Man.

Do not wait for extraordinary circumstances to do good actions; try to use ordinary situations.

— Jean Paul Richter

*Only when we recognize how strange
the universe is will we understand
how simple it is.*

John Archibald Wheeler

Letters

to



the

Editors

The biggest Urantia Conference in Alaska's history took place beneath a towering mountain on October 7th and 8th at the lake-side Chugach Camp. Sixty-three attended the conference which was highlighted by the Oklahoma study group multimedia presentation of *Jesus, God and Man*.

Berkeley Elliott, Van and Helen Butler, and Tom Allen were guests from Oklahoma, and Alice Clark and Fran Huntington visited from Washington. Alaskan friends from Chitna, Talkeetna, Soldotna, Wasilla, Eklutna, and Palmer attended.

Alice Clark shared news and future plans from the Northwest regional area. There were eight short talks by local study group members, three delicious meals, prayer and worship, and music and singing by a warm campfire.

We went forth from this conference inspired and even more ready to help the world be a better planet on which to live.

— From Alaska

A while back you asked us readers of *The Circles* to speculate on the nature of those extra senses our unseen friends have told us of. Well, I came across the following in an old book tucked away in the Tulane Library, and thought y'all might be interested. The name of the book is *As It Is to Be*, written by Cora Linn Daniels in 1892. The quote is from page 36:

"We have added senses, senses of perception and conception, senses of will, of estimate, of deduction, of conclusion, all of them fingers of the mind, able to grasp ideas as you grasp objects with your hands . . ."

The writer claims to have been in mindal communication with various beings who spoke with her in English in a process she describes in the book. It's a fascinating account, and one which I heartily recommend to any serious student with an inquiring spirit and an open mind.

My best to you and yours, and to all those loyal Circlers . . . keep up the good work!

— John Lincoln
New Orleans, LA

I can't say how much I enjoyed the last issue, especially the two articles by Clyde Bedell and Charlie Lamar. While I agree with Clyde that there are many hungry souls on the planet today, I must also agree with Charlie that when people are starving, they will eat anything, as events in Guyana have so tragically illustrated. As we go about acting as leavening agents, we should take care not to fling our dough into cold ovens. Let them become preheated by the tension (which Charlie points out) between the newly discovered facts of science and the established values of religion. Only then will our kitchens become fragrant.

Leo H. Elliott, Jr.
Louisville, KY

Living The Way We Pray

I knelt to pray when day was done,
And prayed, "Oh Lord, bless everyone;
Lift from each saddened heart the pain,
And let the sick be well again."
And then I woke another day
And carelessly went on my way.
The whole day long I did not try
To wipe a tear from any eye;
I did not try to share the load
Of any brother along the road;
I did not even go to see
The sick man just next door to me.
Yet once again, when day was done,
I prayed, "Oh Lord bless everyone."
But as I prayed, into my ear
There came a voice that whispered clear;
"Pause, hypocrite, before you pray —
Whom have you tried to bless today?
God's sweetest blessings always go
By hands that serve Him here below."
And then I hid my face and cried,
"Forgive me, God, for I have lied.
Let me but live another day
And I will live the way I pray."

(Continued from page 4)

How was your wealth dispersed? The accumulation and disbursal of wealth can lead us through different paths, but always will an increase in personal wealth and prosperity lead to additional responsibilities in this life. It is on this material planet that we begin the process of building our souls. It is up to each individual to see that the lifestyle he selects augments, not detracts from, that process.

Much has been and will continue to be accomplished for this revelation by those who can contribute sincerely in an unselfish manner, thereby disbursing their belongings in the spirit of brotherly love in order to uplift mankind. Wealth in the hands of people who attain intellectual greatness, moral worth, social cleverness and cosmic insight can raise our society to lofty heights. It is not simply a matter of accumulating wealth, but also of wisely using it once it is acquired. Wealth confers an additional responsibility not only to accept it without undue pride but to disburse it with grace in the true spirit of brotherhood.

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:

An ancient Hebrew legend tells that angels were appointed by God to make the newborn male resemble his father to preclude the charge of adultery, which otherwise might be brought against the mother.

"We should pray to angels, for they are given us as guardians."

— St. Ambrose

The Angel Eloi — "A female angel born of a tear shed by Jesus."

From the poem *Eloi*
by Alfred de Vigny

Lighten your
life by
seeing more
fun and
adventure!



SPECULATION . . .

The Urantia Book says our seraphim "guard" us. When engaged in worthy endeavors we can safely rely upon our Father's watchcare through the mediation of the angels.

Lloyd Sumner, a modern adventurer, set out to circumnavigate the planet on a bicycle with \$200 in his pocket. Four years and some 28,477.9 miles later he arrived safely home, having increased his monetary resources to \$500. Because of the very real dangers he encountered during his travels, he became convinced that he was guided and protected by his own personal Guardian Angel — this, after escaping from a gang of drunken toughs who were intent upon murdering him for fun when they discovered the bicycle tracks leading to his solitary bivouac in the desert of Arizona. Saved this time because the inebriated leader of the gang fell headlong into a barrel cactus and his followers lost interest in the chase, Sumner first entertained the idea of supermortal watchcare. He began to call this higher force Loga, the acronym for Lloyd's Own Guardian Angel. This theory was further reinforced after encountering a man-eating leopard in Sumatra, surviving a chase of several miles with a mad elephant in Malaysia, and being stoned by natives in Java.

Unconvinced at the start of his trip, Sumner records in his own words his emerging belief: "Strange happenings went beyond the limits of coincidence, beyond the edge of luck, beyond any other explanation I could find . . ."

The above quotation is from Lloyd Sumner's recent book, *The Long Ride*, published by Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pa., 1978.

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

(Continued from page 1)

this place, at approximately 7:30 on what we may assume was a mild and pleasant morning on May 18, A.D. 30, Jesus made his final appearance before ascending to sit at the right hand of his Father and ours. From a point about two thirds of the way up the side of Mt. Olivet and at a place overlooking the city of Jerusalem, Jesus and his subdued, slightly bewildered band of apostles stood as a small group.

Can't you imagine their feelings at this point! These were simple and probably average men of their day, but they had the faith and courage to follow a man who became their respected and beloved leader, and who eventually they grew to accept as their lord and God.

Can't you imagine their sorrow and loneliness, and their sense of loss and inadequacy? Think about it. It creates a sharp contrast with what happened later that same day . . . and has a direct bearing on our subject, the Spirit of Truth. Here was a man who had selected or accepted them from all other men. Here was a man they had grown to love and respect, each in his own way. Here was a man who had shared with each of them so many short, but precious, moments of life. Here was their leader who taught them many things about a little understood "kingdom not of this world" and who had been patient, wise and tolerant of their inability to fully understand or comprehend. Here was their leader who had arisen as he had promised. Here was their lord and their God . . . and he was about to leave them.

As the unhappy, disconsolate but resigned apostles knelt around him, Jesus made a short farewell address and then simply vanished in what has henceforth been known as "The Ascension of Jesus."

Jesus said to them on this occasion, "I bade you tarry in Jeru-

salem until you were endowed with power from on high. I am now about to take leave of you; I am about to ascend to my Father, and soon, very soon, will we send into this world of my sojourn the Spirit of Truth; and when he has come, you shall begin the new proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom, first in Jerusalem and then to the uttermost parts of the world. Love men with the love wherewith I have loved you and serve your fellow mortals even as I have served you. By the spirit fruits of your lives impel souls to believe the truth that man is a son of God, and that all men are brethren. Remember all I have taught you and the life I have lived among you. My love overshadows you, my spirit will dwell with you, and my peace shall abide upon you. Farewell." (p. 2057) And Jesus left them.

That moment and those words are worth remembering and should always be sustaining in moments of stress which we humans seem eternally to face. This event removed the sense of loss and sadness from the apostles as we shall see.

On that same day, they gathered around them one hundred and twenty of the foremost disciples of Jesus who were living in Jerusalem and reported the entire event that had transpired on the mountain of olives. At approximately one o'clock in the afternoon while this group was engaged in prayer, they became aware of a strange presence in the room and all became conscious of a new and profound sense of spiritual joy, security and confidence . . . and all had the strong urge to go forth and publicly proclaim the gospel of the kingdom. This was the bestowal of the Spirit of Truth which Jesus had promised. It moved these loyal followers to take the steps which were to see the spread of the Gospel of Jesus across the entire world. It does many things for and to men who seek and accept it.

The Spirit of Truth has its own missions. The first is to foster and personalize truth. It is a teacher. There is a saying, "know the truth and it shall set you free." I think that the truth, at least on our level as mortal beings, will free us from the bondage of fear, anxiety, and other unnecessary and harmful attitudes, which will in turn allow us to absorb more and higher truths, and, in so doing, to advance ourselves spiritually as far as possible during our lives as human and morontial beings. Another mission of the Spirit of Truth is to overcome the sense of loneliness which we have, by virtue of having known of Jesus, and having lost his physical presence as the natural function of the fulfillment of his mission. The Spirit of Truth is his replacement and comes to dwell in the hearts of all men who believe. The third mission of the Spirit of Truth is to help the believer to witness the realities of the teachings of Jesus and of his life as he lived it in the flesh. Jesus lives and teaches again in the life of each sincere believer. The Spirit of Truth helps men to recall and understand the words of the Master as well as to illuminate and reinterpret his life on earth.

From across the span of nearly 2000 years in accordance with an ageless Divine Plan, the simple message of our creator rings loud and clear, and lives and abides in the vibrant form of the Spirit of Truth. We are sons of God and brothers to all men, and we must love one another as Jesus did.

May the peace of this kind, loving and gentle man from Nazareth who was and is our creator and who fulfilled his mission on our planet and left us a rich and eternal inheritance . . . may his peace abide upon us.

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

SPHERES of INFLUENCE

BY GENE JOYCE
RICHARDSON, TEXAS



For the dedicated reader there are few joys in life which can compare with the discovery of a brand new author. Not that the writer has just begun to write — perish the thought — this is a writer of many volumes, the more the better, of whom the reader was unaware. The writer need not even be unknown. I recently heard of a thirty-year-old who had "discovered" Dickens, and was using the time spent riding public transportation to read his entire works.

Some years ago a friend introduced me to the mystery writer, Dorothy Sayers, and what a reading binge that instigated! More recently another friend recommended the British author, Iris Murdoch. Miss Murdoch is primarily a novelist, although she has also written three plays (one in collaboration with J. B. Priestley) and three volumes listed under philosophy, one of which, entitled *The Sovereignty of Good*, should hold special interest for readers of *The Urantia Book*. Listed in the front of her recently published *The Sea, the Sea*, are some eighteen other novels which constitute the largest backlog of projected reading I have had since my mother presented me, aged nine, with the complete works of Louisa M. Alcott. In addition to entertain-

ment, *The Sea, the Sea* presents a valid psychological aspect of life concerned with reassessment and interpretation of one's experience which often occurs when a person is approaching that magical seventh decade.

One of my own more serendipitous discoveries occurred several years ago just prior to a cruise of the Greek islands. Searching a rack of paperbacks in my Athens hotel for reading material for the boat trip, I came across two books by Mary Renault, who has become my favorite writer of historical fiction. They were *The Persian*

THE LONG RIDE, by Lloyd Sumner, Stackpole Books. — 1978

Anyone for adventure — albeit secondhand? Lloyd Sumner's tale of his travels around the world by bicycle is a treasury of unique encounters with different countries, cultures, animals, and, above all, human beings.

Sumner's easy narrative style is conducive to a feeling of active participation on the part of the reader as he distills four years of wandering the face of the earth into vivid word pictures of nature, the joys of solitude, tropical storms, underwater exploration, etc. Always choosing the more

Boy (about Alexander the Great) and *The Mask of Apollo* (about an actor in Greek tragedies).

Miss Renault has just published another book of the same genre entitled, *The Praise Singer* (about Simonides, the Greek bard). As with her earlier works it embodies the flavor of the age. Raised on the "stern" island of Keos, Simonides makes note of the fact that it is no longer the law that any person reaching the age of 60 should drink hemlock in order for there to be enough food for the warriors. "Now," he says, "it is merely considered good manners."

difficult path, the highest mountain, and the greatest challenge, the writer exemplifies a Urantian concept of life — living it with one's cup filled to the brim and overflowing. As Sumner himself expresses it: "Everything is more beautiful, more meaningful, more interrelated, more natural when one travels — like a wild animal — without security . . . I was living my dream, filling my memory, stretching my limits."

This is a book to swallow whole in great gulps or to sip sparingly, with pauses for reflection, depending upon the chosen method of satisfying your particular reading appetite.

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