

# COSMIC REFLECTIONS COSMIC REFLECTIONS

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## MISCELLANY

I'm sure that you all notice that I have not retained the two column format for this issue of Cosmic Reflections. The two column format requires a good deal more time to lay out, so unless I hear a lot of complaints about this format, I'll probably stick with it.

I'm pleased that I was able to include a well researched article by Ken Glasziou from Six-O-Six newsletter on plate tectonics. Ken has given himself the assignment of comparing the cosmology and science of The URANTIA Book with that existing during the time extending from the reception of papers to the publishing of the book. Ken is a retired scientist; his field was biochemistry.

I've not published news before in this journal, but I do want to let everyone know that there will be a society in Florida next year. It has tentatively been named First Urantia Society of Florida. It's about time that there was a society in the southeast part of the country, don't you think?

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### THE SECOND REMARKABLE PREDICTION by Ken Glasziou

CONTINENTAL DRIFT: The URANTIA Book states quite categorically that all land on earth was originally a single continent that subsequently broke up, commencing 750 million years ago (p.663), followed by a long period of continental drifting during which land bridges were repeatedly formed and broken.

The idea of continental drift was mooted in the 19th century and first put forward as a comprehensive theory by Wegener in 1912. It was not well accepted, being classified with gee-whiz science, and becoming more and more discredited until the 1960's. I can still remember attending a geology lecture at Sydney University in 1951 when the lecturer dismissed the concept of continental drift with the comment that there were no known forces that could wrench continents apart. The change in attitude was initiated by the discovery

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of long mountain ranges on the ocean floors, such as the Mid-Atlantic Ridge that stretches from Iceland to Antarctica. During the 1960's, careful examination of the ocean floor revealed that the rock from the Earth's mantle is being melted, then forced upwards resulting in sea floor spreading. This upwelling would be expected to push the continents apart, and thus provided the missing evidence for a physical mechanism that could bring about continental drift. However, it was not called continental drift, and instead was given the more scientific name of plate tectonics.

The URANTIA Papers that mention continental drift were presented in 1934, and published in The URANTIA Book in 1955. In the 1950's, continental drift theory was widely ridiculed. The writers of The URANTIA Papers could not have been unaware of the very tenuous nature of the theory of continental drift, and unless they had access to pre-existing knowledge, would appear to be doing a foolish thing in going against virtually all established scientific opinion.

The URANTIA Book is at variance with many published estimates of geological time, for instance for the Carboniferous and Devonian periods where the discrepancy may be about 100,000,000 years. In some areas there is good agreement, for example The URANTIA Book p. 683 talks of the disappearance of the land bridges between the Americas and Europe and Africa in the era between 160 and 170 million years ago, and an article in Scientific American, June 1979 places this break at 165 million years. However, land bridges connected these continents again at later times via Greenland, Iceland and the Bering Straits, and also connected South America to Australia via Antarctica, and directly to Africa (U.B. p.694,695,698, and Scientific American, January 1983, p. 60)

A most remarkable aspect of The URANTIA Book accounts is the statement that the breakup of the supercontinent commenced 750 million years ago. Wegener placed it at 200 million years ago. The 1984 edition of Encyclopedia Britannica's Science and Technology presented what purported to be an up to date series of maps depicting the progress of continental drift from about 50 to about 200 million years ago which is at variance with a similar portrayal in Scientific American (1984, 250:41) by about 100,000,000 years in aspects of the progression. However, both versions still placed the commencement of continental drift in the vicinity of 200 to 250 million years ago. A little earlier, in Richard Leakey's book The Making of Mankind published in 1981 p.32 we read "Two hundred million years ago, all of the continents were in contact, forming a single super continent known as "Pangea". However, somewhere about 1980 some geologists were having different thoughts. In John Gribben's book Genesis,



published in 1982 we read that there was a pre-existing continent Pangea I, roughly 600 million years ago that broke up into four new continents by about 450 million years ago, at the end of the Ordovician. Then about 200 million years ago, the continents converged to form Pangea II, which quickly broke, first into Laurasia and Gondwanaland, then further breakup occurred giving an appearance much like the present world at the end of the Cretaceous. In an article in Scientific American (1984), 250(2),p.41 it is stated that major pre-existing continents broke up in late Rhiperian times between 700 and 900 million years ago, and in a 1987 article (Sc. Am. April 256,84) the breakup of Pangea I is placed somewhere near the beginning of the pre-Cambrian, in the order of 600 million years ago.

So, 30 years after publication of The URANTIA Book, not only has a discredited theory become accepted by virtually all geologists, but even the date of commencement of breakup of the super continent that for many, many years was assumed to have started only 200 million years ago, has, by virtue of new information coming to hand only in the 1980's now been pushed back beyond the pre-Cambrian era, and close to the 750 million years ago as stated in the URANTIA Papers in 1934.

It is quite impossible to calculate the odds against being right about such a matter 50 or even 30 years ago. Perhaps one chance in a million would be an underestimate. But considering both the predictions regarding neutrinos, the W particle, the undiscovered strong force, and neutron stars together with this remarkable statement on both the time and commencement of continental drift and the factuality of its existence, it is exceedingly difficult to make any other conclusion but that the authors had access to pre-existing knowledge, at least in respect to these subjects. Taking into account everything that had been written about them by 1934, or even 1955, there is virtually no chance of guessing correctly the predictions found in the URANTIA Papers. This conclusion holds no matter how much error may be thought to exist in respect to other statements of a scientific nature to be found in the book.

This article was reprinted by permission from the July/Aug issue of Six-O-Six newsletter.

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# SEASONS GREETINGS

MAY THE JOY OF THE SEASON FIND LODGEMENT IN YOUR HEART



A THIRD OPINION  
by Richard Bain

There was that time in childhood when everything seemed in its place. This was especially true of the varieties of human beings. There were names to describe all of those people who were not part of your group. You remember the epithets: there were wops, hunkeys, spics, kikes, niggers and of course queers and fairies. How easily they slid off the tongue! How conveniently and neatly we could put everyone in their little boxes and know just what they were like. Just read the label on the box and the description: lazy, stupid, pig-headed, greedy, etc. No thought required. None desired.

Of all of the minority groups, perhaps the homosexual has been most vilified. They were considered either moral degenerates or pitiable psychotics. In the earlier part of this century, many homosexual persons underwent extensive psychotherapy while trying to become "normal". These attempts were nearly all failures. Fortunately, the American Psychological Society has changed its stand on this issue; homosexuality is no longer considered a psychological aberration. But the battle is still being waged on the social front. The homosexual person who comes out of the closet can't serve in the Armed Forces. Dedicated, intelligent people are being dismissed as teachers if their homosexuality is revealed.

There are some who feel that homosexuality is simply a choice that people make. This may be true for some, but certainly not all. Otherwise, how do we explain the tortured life of someone like Tchaikovsky? He abhorred his sexual feelings; he even married to try to make his life fit into the mold of respectability demanded by the society of his day. The idea that the homosexual person had to be forced into roles acceptable to society has persisted in our culture until the last few decades.

Recent research has shown that male and female brains show significant differences in structure. This difference appears to be caused by hormone levels during a critical phase of development in the womb and later after birth. Some researchers feel that abnormal hormone levels during early development are factors in the appearance of the homosexual traits.

It is worth noting that homosexuality is not condemned by all cultures. Western culture, by way of Christianity, has inherited the strong bias of Judaism against homosexuality. It was natural for the Jews to rail against these people; they were surrounded by hostile people and they would naturally condemn anything that retarded the expansion of their population. Concurrently, the Greeks were totally tolerant of homosexuality.

It is interesting that prejudice against the homosexual came primarily from Christianity, yet Jesus did not condemn these people. The authors of The URANTIA Book seem to have carefully avoided the subject. This is one of several subjects-such as abortion-about which the book is mute. Why? I feel that the authors did not mention this group of people in our world population because they did not want to influence our opinions one



way or another. They apparently wanted us to work through our feelings and biases on our own. A statement either for or against the homosexual could be used by some other group as a point on which to condemn the book and the movement. Perhaps Jesus refrained from comment on this subject for reasons similar to those of the authors.

Another question occurred to me as I prepared this article: What is the purpose of homosexuality, or does it have one? This variant seems to occur in about 10% of the population. Is this just an accident? Could it be a repercussion of our being a decimal planet, i.e., was it an inevitable consequence of the experimental life plasm that the Life Carriers implanted here? Was it perhaps a planned consequence? It would be most interesting to be able to interview a Life Carrier on this issue. In any case, it seems likely that the Life Carriers would have been aware that this variant would appear. Apparently they were not concerned with this consequence, and may even have viewed it as beneficial. They certainly have insights and understanding in these areas that greatly transcend ours. But there are some even more interesting possibilities.

It is possible, although we are not so informed in the book, that the homosexual variant appears among mortals on all planets. If so, then such appearance may be in accordance with the plans of God the Supreme. I feel, and The URANTIA Book seems to indicate, that many things that appear to be accidents only appear that way because of our limited understanding. Nevertheless, perhaps we can find purpose if we try. I am not part of the gay community, and so cannot speak for their point of view. However, someone who is a part of that community pointed out to me that homosexuals constitute a disproportionately large part of the arts community. I certainly cannot deny the genius and outstanding contributions of such people as Leonardo DaVinci, Michaelangelo, and Tchaikovsky, but it seems to me that there must be even more profound reasons for the homosexual variant.

I speculate that one of the reasons for the appearance of the homosexual trait in mortals is to provide a unique perspective that is not present in either mortal male or female. The book mentions that men and women often think quite differently about life due to their inherent differences. Their views, when put together, form a new insight transcending the understanding of one acting alone. But perhaps there are valuable views from other perspectives that are different from either the male or female or the combination of the two. Perhaps these views are necessary to the healthy development of a culture. This might be the role of the homosexual mortals in our world. Yes, this is just speculation, but wouldn't it be great to find out that this really is so?

Each of us has our unique contribution to make to the evolution of the Supreme. We can make our contribution not in spite of our differences but rather because of them. Maybe it is time for our culture to throw away our little boxes with their labels and together celebrate our uniqueness.



BODY MIND AND SPIRIT, Part III  
Personality

The authors of The URANTIA Book inform us that they would not presume to define personality. While they are unable to tell us what personality is, they do tell us what it does. There is little agreement among our psychologists and philosophers as to what personality is or how it functions. There have been many theories of personality, from Gordon Allport's trait theory that resembles the concept of personality in The URANTIA Book to B.F. Skinner's behavioral theory that makes man seem little more than an intelligent mechanism.

It is unfortunate that there is no other word for what the book calls personality. In our language, "personality" has several meanings. In one sense, personality is a group of characteristics that can change or evolve; so we speak of personality development. In a second sense, someone is spoken of as "having a great deal of personality", connoting the measure of intensity or quantity. In a third sense, personality is an unchanging quality that makes us recognizable despite changes in our character. It is this last meaning that The URANTIA Book uses to define the function of personality. It must be noted however, that the authors themselves used the term in one of the other senses in some papers.

Personality, according to The URANTIA Book, is a gift of God The Father that is bestowed upon all personal beings and is linked to the Father by a personality circuit that extends both within the time space realm and outside of it. Personality, as characterized by the book, is akin to pattern. It is not an entity; it seems not to have an existence separate from the creature, yet it gives each will creature a unique identity. One of the definitions in Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary seems to have captured this essence of personality: "...the complex of characteristics that distinguishes an individual..." I like to characterize personality as the chocolate in a chocolate bar; its flavor will never be mistaken for vanilla or strawberry.

But there are other characteristics of personality that are important. It is the source of the human will. Here is one of the mysteries of human existence: The Creator gives the created being a free will which allows the creature to choose or reject the Father's love and guidance. Into our hands has been placed a gift as profound as the Thought Adjuster. Into our hands is given the responsibility for our own eternal survival or extinction. Can our spiritual life ever seem trivial when seen from this perspective?



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Personality has another function just as important as giving us identity; this function is integration or unification. The various aspects of us are integrated and coordinated by personality so that we function as a unit and perceive ourselves as a unity, a single me. Without this function, we would be just a collection of parts, and not a unified being. Suppose our soul and our mind were constantly tripping over each other; wouldn't that be distressing? Thank goodness for this integrating function of personality; we can hardly imagine what it would be like without it.

There is a question that comes to mind that is not addressed, as far as I know, by The URANTIA Book. That question is: What is the relationship between heredity and personality? Which of the characteristics we manifest are due to heredity and which to personality, or are our characteristics a blend of the effects of inherited tendencies and personality? I suspect the latter must be the case. It seems that we can see in children certain aspects or tendencies of the parents yet the child has areas where he or she is quite unique. Since the personality is apparently not affected by the inherited tendencies, the effects of inheritance must be due to the inherited brain chemistry and structure. Perhaps this acts as an overlay or mask that shapes the expression of personality. While personality is unchangeable, it must express through the human brain.

This completes the three part series on the parts of a mortal. Figure 1 is an attempt to graphically portray all of the parts and their relationship to each other. Unfortunately, it is limited (as are all material means) in its ability to describe realities that so far transcend the material world. A human being is a marvel that for the discerning person reveals the transcendent creativity of the creator. As impressive as a mortal is, even this vision pales beside the perfected nature of a Finaliter. And isn't it amazing that the same personality that serves us in this material mortal form has the potential to eventually function at even absolute levels?

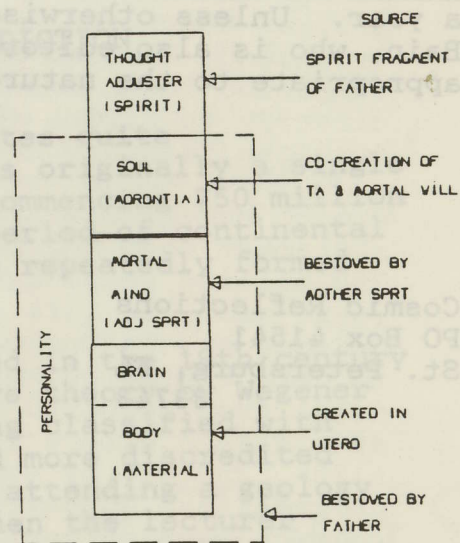


Figure 1. THE PARTS OF A MORTAL



## A STAR IN THE WEST

As I write this, Christmas is approaching with the speed of light. Of course, if you happen to be 5 or 6 years old, it may seem to be coming at a snail's pace. The season nearly overwhelms us with its wealth of symbols, secular and religious. One of these symbols is the star in the east that the three wise men purportedly followed to the stable where the infant Jesus lay.

The URANTIA movement may gradually evolve new symbols of religious expression appropriate to our concepts and beliefs, but since Christian symbols are such a strong part of our western heritage, we will no doubt find ways to re-interpret Christian symbols to make them acceptable to us. I would like to suggest, for instance, that The URANTIA Book could be called the star rising in the west. It will lead wise men and women to a new vision of the life and teachings of Jesus, unfettered by 1900 years of dogma and undiluted by mankind's evolved religions.

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