COSMIC REFLECTIONS

SUMMER/FALL 1990 VOLUME 3, NO. 2

THIRD PLANET NEWS

Florida News: At a conference in May, the Florida study groups decided to not affiliate with either the Fifth Epochal Fellowship or Urantia Foundation at this time because of divided sentiments regarding the two organizations. The Florida groups decided instead to form an independent organization called Florida Students of The Urantia Book.

Pen Pal Project: Would you like to promote international good will within the Urantia movement? One way to do this is to correspond with some of our fellow students in other countries. Sharon Bonebrake is trying to find people in the U.S. who are willing to participate in a pen pal operation. If you can spare a little time each month to write a letter or two, why not contact Sharon at: 770-9th Av., #43
Redwood City, CA, 94063

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THE GREAT WALL

Somewhere out there is a Great Wall. No no, not in China, in space. Astronomers have found a Great Wall composed of galaxies. According to Science News magazine of Nov. 25, 1989, the wall is about 250 million light years away, 200 million light years wide and 15 million light years thick. It is composed of thousands of galaxies. Is this one of the outer space levels?

The Urantia Book gives information on the distances to the first and second outer space levels. In the previous edition of Cosmic Reflections, I included a diagram of the size and spacing of the outer space levels. The Great Wall appears to be a structure in the second outer space level. There is a small problem, however.

The astronomers mapped the distant galaxies using the measured red-shift of light from these galaxies. The Urantia Book informs us that the distances derived using red-shift measurenments are in error since the red shift is not all due to the speed of the galaxies flying away from us. The problem is that we don't know how much error there is in the astronomers calculations, because we don't know how much of the red-shift is due to motion away from us, and how much is due to other effects on the light passing through space. The actual distance to the Great Wall might be as small as one fifth of what the astronomers calculate. If the actual distance is only one fifth of the calculated distance, or 50 million light years, then the wall of stars the

astronomers have discovered is in the first outer space level. At a distance of 50 million years, and with a thickness of 15 million light years, the Great Wall could be the outer edge of the first outer space level.

The Great Wall seems to stretch across the 40% portion of the sky which has been mapped. After the entire sky has been mapped, it will be interesting to see if it wraps all the way around.

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THE PROPHETS ARE COMING!

According to The Urantia Book, Elijah lived about 1000 B.C. in Palestine, and departed Urantia in "flaming chariots" according to his understudy Elisha. A millenium later, some said that John the Baptist was Elijah come to life. Considering the preceding, you'll understand how surprised I was to receive a letter from Elijah recently.

I have to admit that this person did not claim to be THE Elijah, he calls himself Elijah the Third. It may not come as a surprise to you to hear that he has tapes to sell and he does accept donations. His message may also have a familiar ring to it. Armageddon-or some world catastrophe-is fast approaching, but never fear, the angels will beam all the good people down to a new planet named Graceland. Perhaps Elvis will be there to greet us. All this may sound familiar because Elijah the Third isn't an isolated phenomenon either inside or outside the movement.

A Melchizedek speaks through someone in New Zealand. I'm told that there is a PO Box where you can send your questions for this Melchizedek to answer. A Melchizedek is also supposed to speak through someone in the US Northwest. And of course, who can ever forget the doomsday messages someone out in California received a few years ago? Is the Urantia movement about to be over-run with this phenomenon? Is it harmful? What can we do about it?

I believe that we have to expect an increasing amount of this sort of activity, especially as The Urantia Book grows in popularity. Because it is an unusual book, it attracts some unusual people. It seems to me that there are three types of people who are involved in this phenomenon. The first is the person who wants to use information from the book to make money. Second is the person who is experiencing an unusual psychological phenomenon. This person may genuinely believe in the spiritual origin of that which comes through him or her. Third, there may be a genuine prophet in this group.

Yes, the prophets of doom could do some harm. People outside of the Urantia movement could get the idea that this is what the book and the movement are all about. It would be very unfortunate if misrepresentations of the book or the movement were aired by the media. Also, new students of the book could become confused about what the book really teaches. But we are not totally powerless in these matters. Truth is the enemy of misinformation. If we know and understand The

Urantia Book, it is not likely that we will fall victim to false prophets. We can be resource persons and help dispel misconceptions by supplying reliable ideas about the movement and the book. Furthermore, we can be teachers who help people understand the book for themselves, not self-proclaimed prophets who tell people what it means or mix its teachings with Christian apocalypticism.

There may be bits of truth in the teachings of these dubious prophets, but why pan for a few grains of gold in the streams of mysticism when we have The Urantia Book mother lode in our hands? But then, neither should we be too cynical. After all, the book does say that a "greater John the Baptist" will come. I certainly wouldn't want to be seen with a rock in my hand while people are stoning a genuine prophet. But how will we tell the genuine prophet?

When a real prophet comes, he or she will not appeal to our fear, but rather to our faith. This prophet will not exhort us to prepare for Armageddon, but rather to establish a faith relationship with our spiritual Father, and to be in brotherhood with all of our spiritual brothers and sisters, just as Jesus did. And the Spirit of Truth will testify to our spirits, "This is a true and faithful son of God."

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MESSAGE FROM COBE

COBE works...too well! The Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) satellite was supposed to look at the background microwave and infrared radiation of the universe. This background radiation is supposed to tell astronomers something about the origin of the universe.

The background radiation was predicted over 40 years ago and discovered in 1965. The microwave radiation it looks for is similar to but shorter in wavelength than the energy used in a microwave oven. The infrared radiation lies just below the red end of the visible light spectrum. The heat you feel from a fire or light bulb is infrared energy.

The radiation measured by COBE supposedly originated about 300,000 years after the Big Bang. In fact, this radiation is one of the strongest pieces of evidence for the theoretical Big Bang origin of the universe. The COBE measurements confirm that a graph of the energy level versus wavelength is exactly as the astronomers and scientists had predicted. So what's the problem?

The scientists had expected that the energy curve would show variations that would indicate the beginning of the first galaxies. The first data from COBE after its launch in Nov, 1989 indicated that the radiation curve measured is smooth to better than one percent. This was not what was expected. As an article in Science News put it, "The COBE observations pose serious difficulties for theorists, who must reconcile a smooth, uniform Big Bang with a lumpy universe made up of galaxies distributed across space in gigantic bubbles."

Further data from COBE will allow a finer resolution of the background

radiation of the universe. Should no variation be found at this finer resolution, the space scientists will have to either come up with an explanation for the origin of galaxies or take a look at the validity of the Big Bang theory.

Does The URANTIA Book mention the background radiation or its origin? At Scientific Symposium I, Dan Massey suggested that this radiation might be the result of forces and energies local to our planet as well as the freespace presence of the Unqualified Absolute. If this is indeed the explanation, the astronomers may have a very hard time finding this out. Unless of course they are students of The Urantia Book.

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The Lights in The Sky

If you live on a farm where the nearest house is several miles away, it's a comfort to see the distant lights of that other farm house and know that there are other people there. Have you been out on a clear night to look at the stars and as you gazed did you wonder if there might be anyone at those lights in the sky looking back at our sun? Did you ever wonder how many of those stars you can see have inhabited planets? With some help from astronomy, The Urantia Book, and a little simple math we may be able to find answers to these question and some others.

Q. How many of the stars we can see have inhabited planets?

A. On page 458A, we are told that there are over 2000 suns in our system of Satania. As an approximation, let's choose 2500 suns. On page 359D, we are given the following information, directly or indirectly: First, there are 619 inhabited planets in Satania. Second, these are distributed as follows:

WORLDS PER SOLAR SYSTEM	NO. OF SOLAR SYSTEMS
1	511
2	76
3	4
4	1

Therefore:
Total inhab. solar systems = 592 ss

And:

$$\frac{\text{no. inhab planets}}{\text{no. solar systems}} = \frac{2500}{592} = 4.22 \text{ p/ss}$$

So, according to the book, about one out of four stars that we can see have one or more inhabited worlds. This suggests another question.

Q. How far is it to the nearest inhabited planet?

A. The answer to this question can only be a probability, not an absolute. There are eight stars within ten light years of our solar system. It is very nearly certain that one of them has an inhabited planet. The closest star-really a triple star-is Alpha Centuri which is 4.3 light years from us. There is a 24% chance that this triple star system has an inhabited planet. It is interesting to note that triple

stars aren't that frequent, and that the oldest inhabited planet in Satania, Angona, is apparently part of a triple star system.

Q. How large is Satania?

A. It has been calculated[1] that a sphere with a radius of 10.5 light years has an average of 12 visible stars. The volume of a sphere is:

$Vs = 4/3 \times PI \times r^3$ If r=10.5 light years, Vs=4849 cu.l.y.

The number of cubic light years per star is:
Star density = 4849/12 = 404 cu. light years per star.

The number of cubic light years in Satania is:

Vsatania = 2500 X 404 = 1,010,000 cubic light years.

Solving the volume formula for the radius of Satania gives:

Radius of Satania = 62.2 light years.

If it is spherical, Satania is a sphere about 124 light years or 73 thousand trillion miles in diameter. If Urantia is at the outer edge of Satania, a transport angel moving at three times the speed of light should take about 21 years to reach Jerusem.

Q. How large will Satania be when completed?

A. This can't be answered exactly unless the number of stars it will have when it is complete is known. It seems likely however that it will not acquire or form a significant number of new stars from now on, so I doubt that it will be much larger than it is at present.

Q. How long will it take before Satania has its quota of 1000 inhabited planets?

A. Urantia was registered as an inhabited planet about one million years ago. We were registered as number 606 in the system of Satania. There are now 619 planets registered. Therefore, 13 planets became inhabited in one million years. This gives an average of: 1,000,000/13 = 16,900 years per planet.

There are remaining: 1000-619 = 381 planets to be inhabited.

It will take: 381x16,900 = 6,439,000 years to completely inhabit Satania.

Q. How long has Anova, the oldest planet in Satania, been inhabited?

A. Using the same 16,900 years per planet, Anova should have been inhabited for: 619x16,900 = 10,050,000 years.

Q. What is the average number of planets per star?

A. This takes a bit of backward logic. On page 173C we read, "Not one cool planet in 40 is habitable..." If we said that 1 in 45 <u>is</u> habitable, we would not be in conflict with the quote, so let's assume that 1 in 45 <u>is</u> habitable. Since there are 1000 worlds inhabited when the system is complete, there would be <u>at least</u> 45×1000= 45000 worlds uninhabited. There is a question of whether or not all habitable worlds are to be inhabited. I would suspect that 10 or 20% may not be for various reasons. If we choose 20%, there would be 1200 habitable planets and 54000 uninhabitable planets, or about 55200 planets altogether.

On page 457A, we are informed that Satania is composed of "over 7000 physical systems." Note that some of these will have a dark body as a large central mass rather than a hot sun. If we choose 7500 as the number of systems, then the number of planets per system is:

No. planets/solar system = 55200/7500 = 7.4 planets/solar sys.

Of course, this is based on approximate figures and a few assumptions, but it does give us a rough idea of the number.

Perhaps some of those who read this journal will find other interesting figures that can be derived from <u>The Urantia Book</u>. I'd be pleased to print any others that are sent to me.

1. Calabrese, Philip, PhD., "On Seraphic Velocities and Resurrection on the Third Day.", a paper delivered at Scientific Symposium I, May 13-15, 1988.

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THE SEVEN COMBINATIONS OF TRIUNE DEITY

At the risk of being accused of heresy, I would like to suggest that there is something that could improve <u>The Urantia Book</u>. It needs some pictures. Perhaps the authors neglected to include pictures so that we would have the opportunity to exercise our creativity and supply the missing pictures.

As my first contribution, I would like to present Figure 1, a symbolic representation of the seven possible combinations of the three persons of the Trinity. Many of you have no doubt seen this as a Trinity symbol in the Christian church.

The seven combinations of Father, Son, and Spirit are the basis for a number

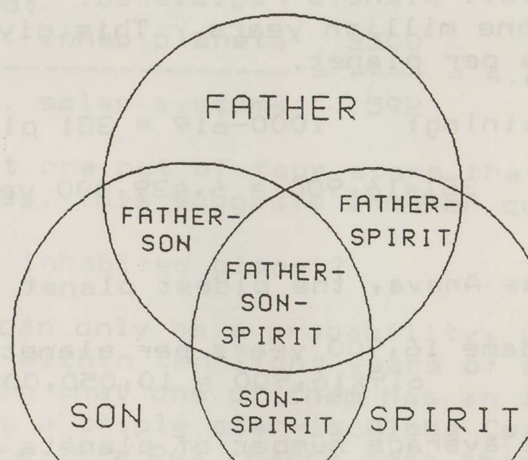

FIG. 1 THE SEVEN ASPECTS OF TRIUNE DEITY

of the combinations of seven found in The Urantia Book. Among these are the seven Master Spirits, and the seven superuniverses. Each Master Spirit and each corresponding superuniverse in some way reflects the nature of one of the seven combinations of the three Gods. Another sevenfold reflection is the case of the sevenfold bestowals of the Creator Sons. We are informed that during Christ Michael's seven bestowals, he revealed the will of all of the seven unique combinations, one at a time.

The common area at the center of Figure 1 can be interpreted in several ways. First, it can be seen as the influence of the three persons, operating as separate persons. Second, it could be seen as the First Triunity-see page 1148A-the functional association of the three persons. Third, it could be seen as symbolic of the Trinity, since the center consists of the three persons so blended that none can be distinguished as separate.

Stay tuned for the next installment of "The Urantia Book: Pictures at Last!"

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THE GREAT KENTUCKY VOLCANIC ERUPTION

Evidence found by a geologist named Warren Huff indicates that "1000 cubic kilometers of material spewed out during at least one and probably two eruptions.." according to an article in the June 18, 1990 issue of Insight magazine. This eruption is believed to be from: "..a massive volcano they believe once was located, in the process of continental drift, where the Great Smoky Mountains in the southeastern United States are today." The eruptions are believed to have occurred more than 400 million years ago and "may deserve the title of most powerful eruptions ever."

We are informed by The Urantia Book that about 330 million years ago there occurred "..the eruption of the great North American volcano of eastern Kentucky, one of the greatest single volcanic activities ever known. The ashes of this volcano covered five hundred square miles to a depth of from fifteen to twenty feet." (Pg 675C.)

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PUNCTUATED EQUILIBRIUM

On a recent public radio program, I heard the story of the deer on the Island of Jersey. It seems that the island was attached to the mainland and had normal sized deer about five feet (1.52 meters) tall. The land bridge between England and the island sank, and within 6000 years, a new species of deer developed that were only 2.5 feet (.76 meters) tall and their weight was only one sixth of that of the original deer.

The changes should have taken millions of years by the natural selection methods of traditional Darwinian evolution. Since this change occurred in thousands of years, anthropologists believe that it is an

example of what they term "punctuated equilibrium." This sort of evolution occurs rapidly with few or no intervening stages. This is yet another challenge to the theory of evolution by natural selection.

As stated in The Urantia Book, "... so-called "missing links" will forever remain missing, for the simple reason that they never existed. From era to era radically new species of animal life arise. They do not evolve as the result of the gradual accumulation of small variations; they appear as full-fledged and new orders of life, and they appear suddenly."(Pg 669C)

This is not to say that natural selection does not occur within a species. It certainly does, but it is not the only reason for the appearance of a major new species, as science is increasingly discovering.

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THE AH SHUCKS! DEPARTMENT

The sharp eyed Jack Wen noticed that I had lowered the speed of light from 186,000 miles per second to 186,000 miles per hour in the last CR. Jack wins an all expense paid trip to Yeehaw Junction, FL for this discovery.

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THE LAST WORD

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