COSMIC REFLECTIONS

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WINTER/SPRING 1992 VOLUME 5, NO. 1

THIRD PLANET NEWS & VIEWS

Sometimes it is very frustrating to edit a biannual journal; things are moving so fast in the world that the commentary of last month may be irrelevant, outdated or even ridiculous. But it is a rare privilege to be living in such pivotal times. Twenty years ago, it might have seemed to students of The Urantia Book that centuries would have to pass before the social soil of our planet would be fertile enough for us to plant the teachings of the book here. Now, barriers are falling like dominoes. Unfortunately, it does appear that there will be some problems with old cultural rivalries in many newly independent countries, but there are undoubtedly many spiritually hungry people who will respond well to the Fifth Epochal Revelation. Melchizidek came in anticipation of the mission of Michael; no doubt The Urantia Book has come in anticipation of the great spiritual reniassance.

Considering that Urantia is the bestowal planet of our creator son, it would be unseemly for it to remain in spiritual poverty and chaos for long ages. I have no doubt that our unseen friends have labored long and hard as midwives assisting the birth of this new age. It seems that barring any unforseen difficulties with the delivery, the baby will soon emerge healthy and kicking. Well done!

Please note the new address for Cosmic Reflections:
PO Box 3622, Hickory, NC 28603-3622.

MAY YOU ALL FIND PEACE AND LOVE IN THE NEW YEAR. D.B.

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TIME BOMBS 2

This article was compiled by Dr. Ken Glasziou from comments and discussions of study groups in Australia. This article is not a reprint of the article of the same name that recently appeared in the journal Pursuit of Wisdom; it is rather, a different version of that article prepared especially for Cosmic Reflections.

The first article on "Time Bombs" appeared in Cosmic Reflections Vol. 2, No. 2. The article was re-printed in The Science Content of The URANTIA Book and is available from the Brotherhood of Man Library. This first article considered the reasons why

apparently inaccurate material, mainly relating to the science content of the book, appeared alongside apparently prophetic material that appears truthful, considering the odds against the authors selecting correct answers through random guesswork.

The "Time Bombs" article concluded with a statement of admiration for the skill and wisdom of the revelators in preventing the book from becoming a fetish. However there is an entirely different class of material in this strange and wonderful book which may cause its adherents to question its credibility.

Imagine you are a gifted orator, totally dedicated to the dissemination of the message of The URANTIA Book, standing before an audience of thousands who are enraptured by your utterly convincing account of why they should embrace the Fifth Epochal Revelation. Question time arrives. A voice from the audience asks you how Ratta, the mother of the invisible infants who became parents of the secondary midwayers, located these invisible children when she mislaid them? You may have been prepared for such questions, but your audience is stacked with hostiles, determined not to let you off the hook. So the demand comes to explain who and what are secondary midwayers. Does the book really say that every fourth child born to Adamson and Ratta was invisible! Does it really say that the invisible midwayers needed only electricity for nourishment? And at mealtimes, did the mothers of midwayer babies plug them into the mains or were they battery-fed?

Again we must ask why is it there, for even if totally true, the book appears to have gained nothing by including some of this material. For other material of the same nature, those with the necessary knowledge and foresight might acknowledge the wisdom of the comments or proposals presented by the book but have serious misgivings about their timeliness. The revelators could quite easily have avoided telling us about the origin and the extraordinary properties of the secondary midwayers and the book would have lost nothing at all by the omission. So why is it there?

If you talked your way out of the first situation, try another. Imagine that your skills as an exponent of the wonders of The URANTIA Book have earned you an interview on a top-rated, prime-time television show. This is your chance to bring the book to the attention of an audience of millions. Your host directs your attention to page 590 of the book from which he reads:

"These enormous birds are able to carry one or two average-sized men for a nonstop flight of over five hundred miles. On some planets these birds are of great service since they possess a high order of intelligence, often being able to speak many words of the languages of the realm. These birds are most intelligent, very obedient, and unbelievably affectionate."

Your interviewer makes the observation that two average sized men

would weigh in the vicinity of 300 lbs, and asks that considering the anatomical specialization of the bird family to provide the aerodynamic efficiency necessary for muscle-powered flight, including their remarkable bone structure to achieve both strength and lightness, do you really expect us to believe that these birds could get off the ground with a payload of that size, and then carry it non-stop for five hundred miles? You mention the discovery of fossil bones in Brazil of the very large but extinct giant teratorn having a wing span of thirty five feet and feel fairly satisfied, though you may have to admit that it could be necessary for the bird to leap from a very high cliff in order to get airborne. You are then reminded that biologists find that excessive over-design is uncommon in nature, and would not an affectionate, talking, bird-aerobus combination be more suited to a comic strip than a serious book on religion?

No matter what the degree of plausibility, evasiveness, and cleverness you use to retain your credibility, the next comment from your host is going to be, "We note that a giant-size Adam and Eve were supposed to use these birds to fly around their Garden of Eden. Surely you don't expect us to be that gullible?"

Again there was no obvious reason for the revelators to include this material even though it may be the gospel truth. So why is it there?

Let us assume that you learn to evade such situations with a diversionary joke or two. You get an invitation to address an audience in Australia where there is much missionary zeal being generated around The URANTIA Book. You take it as a good sign that there are some aboriginal Australians in your audience and you deliver your most eloquent address on the love of God, on the brotherhood of all men, on the true nature of love, about wanting the highest cosmic good for the one who is loved, and about Jesus' injunction to love one another as he loved us. You have the audience exosmosing in an emotional frenzy of brotherly love. Tears are streaming down the faces of many. Amidst all of this, a tall, elderly, dignified gentleman, black of skin and white of beard, stands up and reads from a scrap of paper:

"On page 764 of this book from which you preach, it describes my people as miserable remnants of primitive, backward, suspicious, and anti-social left-overs from a fictitious golden age. My people have fallen victim to the white man's gifts of the welfare handout and of alcohol. They desperately need the Jesus of The URANTIA Book. But how am I going to teach them from a book that so condemns them?"

Have you ever wanted to fall through the floor? The URANTIA Book would appear to have lost nothing had the mention of specific groups been avoided when describing the 'primitive' races that are still in existence. So why is it there?

Let us now glance at some more of such material that could be

used to discredit the book and to embarrass those who go public. From page 770 we read:

"The subnormal man should be kept under society's control; no more should be produced than are required to administer the lower levels of industry, those tasks requiring intelligence above the animal level but making such low-grade demands as to prove veritable slavery and bondage for the higher types of mankind."

And from pages 812 and 818, and referring to a society on a neighboring planet that may serve as an example of progressive development:

"The feeble-minded are trained only in agriculture and animal husbandry, and are committed for life to special custodial colonies where they are segregated by sex to prevent parenthood, which is denied all subnormals. These restrictive measures have been in operation for seventy-five years; the commitment decrees are handed down by the parental courts."

"These people are passing out of the negative into the positive era of law. Recently they have gone so far as to attempt the prevention of crime by sentencing those who are believed to be potential murderers and major criminals to life service in the detention colonies."

Imagine yourself trying to defend this material from our book before a human rights commission from the United Nations! The full quota of all kinds of "Time Bombs" material is perhaps one tenth of one percent of the total content of The URANTIA Book. It could easily have been omitted. The remainder of the book testifies to the superhuman intelligence and wisdom of its authors, so it cannot be an oversight, it must be there for a reason. One such reason is that the authors intended that the book and its teachings should be neither an object of worship and veneration, nor should it be disseminated by means of high-powered advertising, by public missions, by charismatic preachers, nor by money grabbing charlatans. Rumor has it that instructions were given to study the book for 100 years. Perhaps the rumor is right! Or is there some other explanation?

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"Only a brave person is willing honestly to admit and fearlessly to face what a sincere and logical mind discovers." (Pg. 1773)

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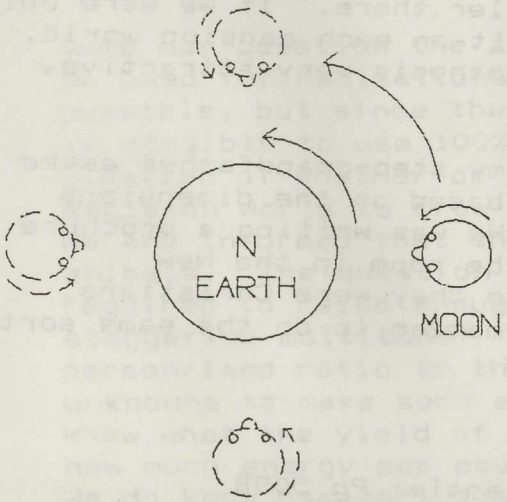
The Mercury Syndrome

Several letters have been received by the large staff of Cosmic Reflections (me) regarding an article that first appeared in this journal and was reprinted in the booklet The Science Content of The Urantia Book. The title of the article is "Time Bombs." The

dissenters feel that I do not understand the meaning of the statement in the book which appears to say that the planet Mercury always keeps the same face to the sun. When I went back to study the paragraph, I noticed something startling that I had overlooked before.

The paragraph in question (pg 67D) starts out by telling us that tidal friction causes a planet or satellite to spin slower and slower on its axis as time goes by. The paragraph goes on to say, "...causing a planet to revolve ever slower until axial revolution ceases, leaving one hemisphere of the planet always turned to the sun or larger body..." The paragraph then goes on to cite Mercury and our moon as examples of this effect. Notice carefully what the quoted section says: The moon keeps the same face to the earth because the moon has ceased spinning on its axis. Now look at the figure below. Notice that the moon keeps the same face toward the earth as it orbits our planet, but also notice that <u>the moon has to rotate on its axis to do this</u>. If you doubt this, take two balls, mark one, and try to keep the mark on the orbiting ball towards the stationary one without rotating it about its axis.



ROTATION OF EARTH AND MOON

The authors of <u>The Urantia Book</u> have told us plainly and clearly that we can expect to find flaws in the science of the book as our science progresses. In fact, this is a flaw that would be obvious regardless of a person's scientific background. How can we explain such an glaring error? A problem with the transcription of the papers? A deliberate plant by the authors? A mistake in typesetting the papers?
How can it be that so many of us have read this and not detected such an obvious problem? Do we interpret away the difficulties like those who interpret away problems in the Bible? How many other obvious problems are lurking in the science of the book?

Now what? Shall we lose faith in the book? But wait, isn't faith the relationship between God and us? After all, How could we have a faith relationship with an inanimate object? Aren't we really talking about beliefs when we talk about <u>The Urantia Book</u>?

As for myself, I have always seen the book as a means, not an end. I cannot conceive that the book itself is a religion, though a religion may evolve out of the social and fraternal relationship of <u>Urantia Book</u> believers. The book was not the source of my belief in the Father, but my belief and faith relationship became more real and mature as the book helped me to

better understand and appreciate and intelligently worship the profound and lovable nature of the Father as well as his two coordinates. I understand that the book, while a great leap forward in our knowledge of cosmology and spiritual realities, is nevertheless relative truth. Like our minds, it can serve us well in this life despite its imperfections. And at the end, I will leave them both behind, grateful that they have have served me well in a world of such imperfection, but knowing how primitive all this will seem when I see it with the help of morontia mota, using a better and more spiritual mind.

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STANDING ROOM ONLY?

There are some nasty rumors circulating that there may not be enough room for us if all the people born on the planets in our system survive. I hate to think that I'll spend my time on the mansion worlds with someone's elbow in my eye, so I thought that this rumour ought to be checked out.

A friend in Florida suggested an interesting solution to the crowding problem. We may be much smaller there. If we were only an inch tall, many more people could fit on each mansion world. Not many people find the Tom Thumb hypothesis very attractive, however.

I remember when I was a young fellow, my step-grandfather asked me to calculate the volume of Heaven, based on the dimensions that appear in the book Revelations. He was writing a brochure to reassure everyone that there would be room in the New Jerusalem for them, providing of course they were Christians. The Urantia Book contains enough information to do the same sort of calculations for the mansion worlds.

First, the facts:

The mansion worlds are the size of Urantia: Pg 509B
The radius of Urantia is 3963 miles(1)
Approx. population of Urantia: 5.5 billion people
Annual mean death rate(1): .1% or 5.5 million people
Completed system has 1000 planets: Pg. 167

Now, some assumptions:

Average population and death rate of the inhabited planets is the same as that of Urantia.
Each person stays an average of 10 years on each mansion world.
The seven mansion worlds have equal populations.
Half of the land area is living space.
As many people are leaving mansion world seven as are entering mansion world one per year.
There are as many angels on the mansion worlds as ascenders.
There are 10 billion other beings on each mansion world.

Calculated figures:

Using some of the data above, the total death rate of 1000 inhabited planets per year is 5.5 billion people.
Each mansion world will have 120 billion inhabitants. (Ascenders + angels + all others)
The surface area of Urantia is: 197 million sq. miles or 5.5×10^{15} square feet (calculated using radius)
Each individual will have $5.5\times10^{15}/1.2\times10^{11}$ or 45,833 square feet of living area!

Note that the living area per individual is equivilant to a square plot of land about 214 feet or 65 meters on a side. Now of course, all sorts of assumptions were made here. For instance, we may stay on a mansion world for 50 or 100 years rather than 10 years. This would obviously create severe crowding. Then too, no account was taken of the fact that we will usually share quarters with someone else. A space of 100 by 100 feet could accomodate four individuals if they lived in harmony. Also not considered was the fact that a portion of the ascenders may skip the first one or more mansion worlds.

Some may question the assumption that half of a mansion world can be used for habitations. Here on Urantia, that is obviously not possible, but since the mansion worlds are constructed bodies, it is possible to use 100% of the surface. There is also the question of whether or not there is enough land remaining on each manision world to grow enough food to feed 55 billion ascenders. We are informed that the ascenders eat morontia vegatation, not animals. The question then becomes: How much land area is required to raise enough morontia veggies to feed such a staggering multitude? While we could try to compare the morontia person/land ratio to that on our planet, there are too many unknowns to make such a comparison valid. For instance, we don't know what the yield of morontia crops per acre, and we don't know how much energy per pound or kilogram that morontia food yields. We do know however, that morontia bodies use 100% of this food, so the energy yield per pound could be ten times or more that of Urantia vegtables and fruit and the morontians would require only one tenth the amount of food that we do. If so, feeding the 55 billion may not require a miracle.

Logistics questions aside, it does appear that we won't be standing on each others toes on the mansion worlds, even if we all survive, providing of course that the Christians are willing to share the space with a few other folks.

References
(1) The 1986 World Almanac

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sometimes when reading, we notice some small piece of information that we overlook though we have read the same piece many times. Then one day, something jumps out at us and we say, "What!?" Consider the following: "But sometimes error is so great that its rectification by revelation would be fatal to those slowly emerging truths which are essential to its experiential overthrow." Pg 554A/555A. How does this apply to <u>The Urantia Book</u>? Were any errors left unrectified? Any ideas?

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COMING ATTRACTIONS:

An aeronautical engineer answers the question: Is fandor flight a feasibility or a fantasy?

Is the cosmology of <u>The Urantia Book</u> a meal or a menu?

Personality: How does yours measure up?

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LAST RITES

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