

Fort Sanders

FAITH SONS KNOXVILLE

URANTIA BOOK STUDENTS



'Tis the season to be
Jolly - Tra la la la la la la la la

But you can't be jolly unless you're happy and have inward peace - or else you numb your misery with alcohol or other drugs.

Which produces a silly kind of frivolity and flipness which the people around you don't enjoy.

So how can you be happy and at peace? Let's see what the U-Book can tell us.

On page 1220: "Happiness and joy take origin in the inner life. You cannot experience real joy all by yourself."

"Civilization is in danger when youth neglect to interest themselves in ethics, sociology, eugenics, philosophy, the fine arts, religion, and cosmology."

On page 1766: "Increasing happiness is always the experience of all who are certain about God"

Notice it says increasing happiness. Nobody is perfectly happy at the beginning of their Godward journey - but we can take heart - things are going to get better!

On page 1480: "The human mind does not well stand the conflict of double allegiance. It is a severe strain on the soul to undergo the experience of an effort to serve both good and evil. The supremely





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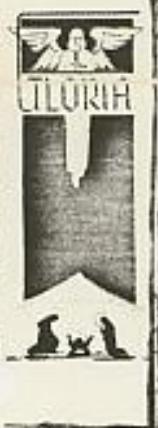
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On page 1480: "The human mind does not well stand the conflict of double allegiance. It is a severe strain on the soul to undergo the experience of an effort to serve both good and evil. The supremely happy and efficiently unified mind is the one wholly dedicated to doing the will of the Father in heaven."

And finally, about peace, on page 1955: "The peace of Jesus is, then, the peace and assurance of a son who fully believes that his career for time and eternity is safely and wholly in the care and keeping of an all-wise, all-loving, and all-powerful spirit Father."

And so - on those terms -

Happy Christmas to all!



A VOICE OF

fort Sandder's faith sons



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Christmas and EASTER



The beginning and the ending of the most important period of time in the history of Urantia.

No, not quite the ending. There were the appearances of the risen Christ, and the bestowal of the "Spirit of Truth on all flesh."

This was the time our Magnificent Michael, Creator Son of God, became our dear friend, Jesus of Nazareth, Son of Man, and lived an exemplary life to inspire us all.

We can't ever know how much harder it was to seek truth before that happened, because after the bestowal of the Spirit of Truth all normal minds had Thought Adjusters.

Below is a folk song we sing at our church during this period. It has a nice tune. I guess we could tape it for you if you want to sing it, too.

DOWN CAME AN ANGEL

1) Christ was born in Bethlehem, Christ was born in Bethlehem,
Christ was born in Bethlehem, and in a manger lay.
And in a manger lay, and in a manger lay.
Christ was born in Bethlehem, and in a manger lay.

2) Judas, he betrayed him.... They hung him from a tree.

3) Joseph begged his body.... And laid it in the tomb....

4) The tomb it would not hold Him.... He burst the bands of death

5) Down came an angel.... And rolled the stone away....

6) Mary, she came weeping.... Her blessed Lord to see....

7) What's the matter, Mary.... They stole my Lord away....



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7) What's the matter, Mary.... They stole my Lord away....

8) Go and tell your brethren.... He's risen from the dead.



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The Shroud of Turin

Was it really the burial sheet of Jesus?

There is mention of his burial cloths on pages 2013, 2021, 2024, 2026, 2027, 2030, and 2037.

How was the image on the cloth produced? The "circumstantial evidence insists that there is only one way the image got on the cloth and that was by what Ray Rogers calls flash photolysis and Team Chiefs Jackson and Jumper compare to a micro-burst of radiant energy emanating from the dead body. . . . Some kind of thermonuclear radiation, lasting only a millionth of a second, would be just enough to scorch the cloth without incinerating half of Jerusalem. A burst of radiant energy. From a corpse."

National Review
March 17, 1978

Do You Believe in Predestination ?

The Book says it's true. On page 1204 we read: "When the Thought Adjusters indwell human minds, they bring with them the model careers, the ideal lives, as determined and foreordained by themselves and the Personalized Adjusters of Divinington, which have been certified by the Personalized Adjuster of Urantia. Thus they begin work with a definite and predetermined plan for the intellectual and Spiritual development of their human subjects, but it is not incumbent upon any human being to accept this plan. You are all subjects of predestination but it is not foreordained that you must accept this divine predestination; you are at full liberty to reject any part or all of the Thought Adjusters program."

Now, this is not usually the way we define predestination. I think, to us, it means "what is to be will be." or certain things are predestined to happen, and we can do nothing about it.

But that's not the way the U-Book defines it. Predestination here is merely the ideal plan for us. It may or may not come true, just as we ourselves decide.

It is our "straight and narrow" way.

Which reminds me of something that happened the first year I had the U-Book.

There was a radio preacher whom I will call Dr. B, who preached over several hundred stations each Sunday. I liked his sermons, and I thought he would love the U-Book. (You know how we were at first!)

I told Bruce McCoy that I would like to talk to Dr. B about the Book.

He said, "Make an appointment, and I'll take you down there."

Finally, I got an appointment. I even remember the date - Nov. 17, 1975 - Monday.

Well, Dr. B. was very angry, and called it a heresy. For two hours he asked questions, and that was one time I was glad I had a pretty good knowledge of the Bible.

One of the things asked was:

Dr. B: Don't you think most people are going to hell?

Me: Well, no, I don't.

Dr. B.: How do you account for "Straight is



So, I think few of us have found our "straight and narrow" - our ideal way. Because, if we had, wouldn't we be happy? And on page 1098 A the Book tells us: "Of health and sanity Man understands much, but of happiness he has truly realized very little. The highest happiness is indissolubly linked with Spiritual Progress."

But, if we're on the broad road to destruction we can always get off and onto our "straight and narrow" road - if we haven't used up our mercy credits. (315A)

It's a strange thing about those "gates" to life and destruction. The entrance to the Kingdom really is straight and narrow. You must be born of the Spirit. There's no other entrance. But once you get in, the way becomes incredibly rich and varied. There is no boredom or monotony.

On the other hand the gate and road to destruction are broad and wide. From the outside it looks wonderful! You don't want to limit yourself to any narrow, disciplined way. You don't want to miss out on any fun!

But what happens? When you're traveling the road to destruction (the unreality) things begin to lose their zip. It takes more and more to give less and less a thrill. The road dwindles out to nothing. It goes nowhere. You become unreal. Zero. (see 41D)

Many materialistic people work hard to acquire all the things they've dreamed of doing. Then after having accomplished all this, one day they look around and say, "Is this all?"

Not so with those on the road to life. There is no boredom. On page 302D the Book tells us: "Next to the supreme satisfaction of worship is the exhilaration of philosophy. Never do you climb so high or advance so far

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Dr. B: Don't you think most people are going to hell?

Me: Well, no, I don't.

Dr. B.: How do you account for "Straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life, and few there be that find it. But wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many there be who go that way?"

Me: (after thinking a moment) Probably, few of us find the straight and narrow way at first. We may travel the broad road to destruction at first. But we can always get off !

Dr. B.: That's your interpretation !

Me: The other is yours.



So, I think few of us have found our "straight and narrow" - our ideal way. Because, if we had, wouldn't we be happy? And on page 1098 A the Book tells us: "Of health and sanity Man understands much, but of happiness he has truly realized very little. The highest happiness is indissolubly linked with Spiritual Progress.

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So, if you're on the highway to destruction, exit at the next ramp. The road to life is close by.

JBA.





The Attitude of one's Personality



That determines the rate of one's progress up the Seven Psychic Circles — that and one's innate ability.

On page 1227 a Solitary Messenger tells us: "The ability and willingness of the organism to make such significant contacts with environment (response to a drive) represents the attitude of the whole personality."

We can do very little about our innate ability, but since we have free will, we can certainly control our attitude. We can be willing to do the right thing — to do the will of the Father.

Sometimes I've wondered why the beginners on the journey up the Seven Circles had much less angelic help than the ones who have attained the Third Circle — but now I see. They're not only looking at ability, but are waiting to see what kind of attitude the personality has.

Is he cranky, contrary, selfish, unloving? There's no use in pushing and pulling a person like that along. Until he decides that he wants to go to God and perfection, no amount of help is going to do any good — So why waste all that energy?

But if he is co-operative, unselfish, altruistic, loving, he travels as fast as his innate ability will let him.

The angels are watching to see if he has survival qualities before they offer more help.

The Book tells us (1217) that the attitudes that can wreck the mortal career are selfishness, slothfulness, and sinfulness.

If the personality elects to respond to his environment that way, there is nothing that men or angels can do. We have free will.

Sometimes we enable children to keep on being this way by too much coddling and persuading. Too much attention. (They think the world revolves around them.)

I read this story somewhere:

A man and his wife took two school-age foster children. At supper the first night they turned up their noses at everything on the table. But the mother didn't get out anything extra.

They said, "But what's for us?"

She said, "Breakfast."

Next morning they were told when to get dressed and be ready for breakfast and the school bus. But they dawdled and didn't get dressed. The bus was coming, so the Father scooped up their coats and caps in a box and hustled them out. As they passed through the kitchen and saw the toast and eggs, they said, "What are we going to eat?"

The Mother said, "Lunch."

That cured them. They were willing to learn. To shed bad habits.

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How many of us would have had guts enough to show that tough love?



Fort Sanders Faith Sons Go on Record!

Now those U-Book readers who do not have the opportunity to read with a group can enjoy the stimulating discussions of our Knoxville group.

We have begun taping our meetings, and would be happy to send copies to interested readers for \$2.50 a tape (includes postage). Available now are taped discussions of papers 189-192. Write or call: Terry Faulkner, 4178 Ridgeway Lane, Knoxville, Tn. 37919 Telephone (615) 584-3659