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KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

"I Have Been Young And Now Am Old"



*"Yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken
nor his seed begging bread".*

These are the startling words of the Psalmist
(37:25)



In these days when many people are prone to blame poverty on society, that verse from the Psalmist as to his experience must give us pause -

Of course, he didn't say all the righteous were wealthy. All he said was they weren't forsaken beggars. (I'm sure that doesn't include the helpless children).

Some people seem to think that the Bible teaches that God loves the poor better than any other group.

I don't know where they get that idea. In the first place, the Bible (and the U-Book) says God is no respecter of persons. In the second place, the only two things that Jesus (in the Bible) said about the poor were: *"The poor you shall have with you always"* (He said that last when Judas wanted the precious ointment sold and the money given to the poor. Jesus said NO.) *"And the poor shall have the gospel preached to them!"*

What does the U-Book tell us about that?

Well, on page 803 we read: *"No society has progressed very far when it permits idleness or tolerates poverty. But poverty and dependence can never be eliminated if the defective and the degenerate stocks are freely supported and permitted to reproduce without*

Second: It seems to imply that most people who aren't self supporting are either retarded or defective in some other way, or degenerate. (How do you define "degenerate?")

On page 1579 the Book tells us that Jesus quoted with approval an old Hebrew saying, *He who will not work shall not eat.* Notice the proverb says will not, not can not.

Now, let's turn our attention from the poor to the godly. (I'm not saying they can't overlap.)

One of the best parts, I think, is on page 1823 when the apostles asked Jesus about this. He told them that people who are ordained ambassadors of the kingdom fall in a different category from other godly people. He said, *"If you give your lives truly to the gospel you shall live by the gospel. If you are oly believing disciples, you must earn your own bread and contribute to the sustenance of all who teach and preach and heal. Let me assure you, once and for all, that, if you dedicate your lives to the kingdom, all your real needs shall be supplied."*

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Well, on page 803 we read: *"No society has progressed very far when it permits idleness or tolerates poverty. But poverty and dependence can never be eliminated if the defective and the degenerate stocks are freely supported and permitted to reproduce without restraint". (emphasis is mine).*

That tells us two things:

First: In a way society is to blame. We have freely supported the retarded and the criminals, and not only allowed them to reproduce without restraint, but have actually encouraged it by giving them an extra check every time they have a baby.

Second: It seems to imply that most people who aren't self supporting are either retarded or defective in some other way, or degenerate. (How do you define "degenerate?")

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Seek the greater, and the lesser will be found therein; ask for the heavenly, and the earthly shall be included. The shadow is certain to follow the substance."

And finally, in comments on the parable of the Pharisee and Publican on page 1838 we read: *"The Pharisee sought justice; the Publican sought mercy. The law of the universe is: Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find."*

THE LAW OF THE UNIVERSE !

"YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH And the truth shall make you free" (1594)

By Frank Wright

Do you say 'gesundheit' or 'God Bless You' when someone sneezes? Do you cover your mouth automatically when you yawn? Do you believe in luck? Do you pierce your ears? Are you circumscized? Do you celebrate Hallouween? Did you have your wisdom teeth removed without a thought as to why they so needed removing? Do you think the missing link is a scientific dead end?

If you answered any of these questions with a 'yes' you may be one of the majority of people on Urantia who are conditioned so by their environment, family and peers that they perpetuate misconceptions about reality without actively pursuing such a course.

Without trying, that is the phrase. And it is a very powerful one. If in fact you do something without trying, without thinking why, without wondering where you got the idea, then you are doing it mindlessly. You may perpetuate the action by serving as an example for others to both learn and rationalize their own mindless acts.

Lets look at these examples. Where did the sayings 'gesundheit', 'bless you' and the like originate? In the old days it was commonly believed that a person could be indwelt by spirits. It was also thought that spiritual or religious sayings could help ward off such spirits, especially evil ones. Bodily functions were often a mystery to these ignorant people and they sought ways to explain them among their primitive philosophy and religion. A sneeze was thought to be the souls attempt to rid the body of an offending spirit and to aid one's fellows in this circumstance the belief that blessing the sneezer or wishing him good health would indeed help hasten the 'cure'.

Luck is so ingrained into modern 1987 society it is hard to get rid of. To automatically say 'good luck' to someone as they venture off on some quest seems harmless enough. But is it? Isn't the statement itself a prima facie case for the embracement of the belief by the stater himself? Besides the nicety of the phrase, doesn't it convey the idea that luck is available to have and give as well as rationalizing life by reducing the outcome of events to trivial wishes. Surely such a simple everyday occurrence like this could not be so all revealing, powerful, perpetual and driving. Yet it is. It is just such mindless acts as this that feed the fires of superstition, ignorant blind belief, and the perpetuation of needless language, hyperbole, and tradition that exists on this confused world. Of course luck is an invention of man to rationalize his problems and the inaction of his own laziness, ignorance and refusal to think. It is a metaphysical catch-all for the inexplicable. It has no place in the thinking man's world - the real world. 951,958, 994 1680-81

Many people have wisdom teeth that begin to hurt around physical maturity or after. Most have them removed by surgery. Some wear braces for an extended amount of time. Do most of these people realize they are a walking examples of evolution in the process of gravitating from 36 teeth in our remote ancestors to 28 in modern man? (page 137)

Have you heard of the missing link? Do you just about believe now that this is a crazy idea of science to try to explain a process that really doesn't exist. Do you remember the hoax of the ancient human skull with the jaw of an ape fitted in that so convinced the scientists and public for years of this mysterious common ancestor of the simians and sapiens? Do you laugh at scientific attempts to explain the inexplicable? If you do, think again, or think for the first time. Is this better or worse than saying the Earth is only 6000 years old and we were created just as we are now? Is this better or worse than turning a blind eye on fossil evidence and a deaf ear on logic and revelation? Isn't science trying to marry philosophy to truth by presenting

majority of people in America who are conditioned so by their environment, family and peers that they perpetuate misconceptions about reality without actively pursuing such a course.

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Thinking man will search for evidence to support the 'facts'. The discreet will ask for reasons behind the 'acts' and weigh them on the scales of reasonableness, necessity, progression, philosophy and religion. But, each individual's scales may be calibrated according to personal possession of true insight, cosmic consciousness and divine sincerity. How then may one be sure to support only progressive ideas and ideals and eliminate the fetters of one million years of ignorant rationalization, fear and superstition? That is for each normal minded person to find themselves. The answer is in the search, just as the solution is in the thought. The path to the real world is narrow, but it need not be anymore long.

(I think a group member is a high school science teacher)

IS THE U-BOOK SEXIST?

No. Not in my opinion.

UBA.



I just read an article in *The Urantian* (Summer's?) that aroused my indignation. It made my blood boil. The author wants to call my Heavenly Father my First Source and Center!

My God! (I mean my First Source & Center!) Can't a person have a father? And doesn't a father have to be male? That takes nothing away from the importance of a mother. Each is necessary to the other.

The author, Judith Mace, wants to change the U-Book. She says, "Let the URANTIA Book provide the spiritual and inspirational leadership required to transcend barbarism by replacing all its sexist language with the wonderfully powerful genderless language." (Can the Book change itself? And if every^{one} changes it to suit him-/her-self, it would no longer be the Revelation)

Wonderfully powerful?! Rather tediously insipid.

Genderless! Do persons have gender? Did you ever see one that didn't?

The personality of the First Source and Center is the Father — the instigator of all personalities.

We can't pray to a force or worship a force.

Can you imagine singing, "Praise the First Source and Center from whom (which) all blessings flow!"?

Can you imagine Jesus telling his apostles about his Heavenly First Source and Center?

I guess she wants to call the URANTIA Brotherhood the URANTIA Siblinghood.

She says the U-Book "has rigorously oppressed and devalued females both in content and by omission". I don't think I've ever read a more ridiculous statement. I'm female and I've never felt oppressed and devalued by it. Just the opposite.

I want Judith Mace to know there's nothing personal about this heated response to her argument. She's perfectly welcome to respond indignantly to me. I've had it happen many times. After all, we won't be by ourselves. Jesus had a tremendous capacity for righteous indignation. (1348) I hope mine is righteous (right). And also on 1591 he said, "James, James, when did I teach you that you should all see alike?"



a Word about a Previous Article



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After reading "T'rial Trip in the Flesh" (Feb.), Bob French, a group member, pointed out to me that some people may remain in the 7th or 6th circles, not because of bad attitudes, but because — through no fault of their own — they don't have the mental capacity to understand cosmic citizenship. True. It was probably true of the Alphaeus Twins. But when they "shed the flesh" they can progress rapidly — because their good attitude assured their survival.

Let us hear from you.

