



Journal of The Brotherhood of Man Library, an Information, Telecommunication and Lending Service Resource for Students of The URANTIA Book.

## Welcome

Several years ago, the Brotherhood of Man Library (B.O.M.L.), published a newsletter called *INNERFACE*. However, due to shortages of staff, it lapsed.

On hearing of the demise of Six-O-Six, concerned readers of this excellent newsletter decided to pool time, energy, and resources to resurrect *Interface* as an international journal. At least initially, the newsletter will be produced by B.O.M.L. Australia.

It will be a bi-monthly journal, having an international editorial panel, to advise on policy matters and the selection of articles.

Contributions, expressing a diversity of opinions, falling within the editorial criteria (Page 4), will be welcomed.

Suggestions to improve the quality of, and interest in, the journal will also be welcomed.

### LET'S HAVE YOUR IDEAS!

Suggested annual donation - \$10

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### JOY

*Nature tells us by a definite sign when our destination is reached. That sign is joy. I say joy, not pleasure. Pleasure does not point out to us the direction towards which life is travelling. But joy always announces that life has succeeded, that it has gained ground, that it has been victorious. Consider the exceptional joys, that of the artist whose dreams have been realized, that of the scholar who has discovered or invented. He who knows he has produced a worthy piece of work which will endure, feels himself above fame because the joy it gives him is a divine joy.*

Bergson, 1920

## A Time for Change?

The stimulus that prompted this article came from some remarks in a letter from Matthew Block who had just attended the World Parliament of Religions at Chicago. Matthew said: "I'm all for secondary works based on the teachings (of The URANTIA Book), and works promoting the book itself. We must diversify, build bridges to many different communities and mind-sets, and content ourselves with finding a niche amongst many other movements and groups interested

in world progress and spiritual enlightenment. I no longer see the book as necessarily having to supersede all other religions and philosophies. Nor do I see it as the panacea that will change the world after all other philosophies and religions have been tried and found wanting. In my heart I'm convinced that the book is far better and greater than anything else on the planet, but finally I'm off my high horse.

"After participating at The URANTIA Book booth (in

the midst of 100-odd other booths representing other religions, movements, and service organizations), I realized that what we in the Urantia movement were really lacking was a sense of footing on the current scene. We were always trying to be above everything, inhabiting a nebulous no-zone, waiting for some imaginary bell to signal that the world was finally ready for us. It was just a great feeling at the Parliament to find ourselves being accepted and welcomed as one of many."

### Is it true?

Is it true that we URANTIA Book students tend to set ourselves and our revelation in a zone apart from and above the rest of humanity while we await the signal that they are ready to hear us?

We are not supposed to indulge ourselves in much introspection but maybe a little will do no harm. I think most of us have, at one time or another, suffered from the "chosen people" syndrome and made ourselves obnoxious in the same way as the church-going community is seen by many outsiders to be obnoxious. I know this happens, so let us try to find the reasons. Could it be that we offend by elevating the revelatory status of The URANTIA Book to a level never intended by the revelators? Have we unintentionally become close to being as fundamentalist about our revelation as Christian or Islamic fundamentalists are about their holy books?



Perhaps one of the reasons for the extremely slow progress of our movement is that we have never taken the trouble to understand or explain in just what way The URANTIA Book is a "revelation" - and in failing to do so, we have deprived multitudes of both Christians and non-Christians from the saving truths contained therein. While we may believe that our book contains the highest truth available on our planet, have we fallen into the trap of assuming, perhaps unconsciously, that our book is also its sole source of truth?

*How many of us are aware that, excepting for*

*its description of the hierarchy of supernatural beings, a great deal of the textual material of The URANTIA Book already exists somewhere in the written records of mankind?*

One of the reasons for our problem is the connotation of divine origin that is automatically attributed to the word "revelation." My Oxford dictionary definition is: "Knowledge disclosed to man by divine or supernatural agency; revealing of some fact" - thereby acknowledging that the word can be used in at least two distinct ways. The URANTIA Book states: "Truth is always a revelation: autorevelation when it emerges as a result of the work of the indwelling Adjuster; epochal revelation when it is presented by the function of some other celestial agency, group, or personality." (1109)

The book has a revealing statement about its use of the word, truth. "Nothing which human nature has touched can be regarded as infallible. Through the mind of man divine truth may indeed shine forth, but always of relative purity and partial divinity. The creature may crave infallibility, but only the Creators possess it." (1768)

To continue our examination of the use of the word "revelation" in The URANTIA Book, we need to take note of two further snippets of information:

First, it is a fact that no author listed in the Table of Contents for The URANTIA Book was of "Creator" status (who are the only beings possessing infallibility).

Second, the statement at the conclusion of the "Foreword" (17) tells us that more than one thousand of the highest human concepts have been collated in producing the first part of the book and, for Part 4, the midwayer responsible for preparing the narrative of the life and teachings of Jesus utilized thought gems and superior concepts assembled from "more than two thousand human beings who have lived on earth from the days of Jesus down to the time of the inditing of these revelations, *more correctly restatements.*" Other sources were used only when the midwayer could testify that he had failed to find the required conceptual expression in purely human sources. (1343) I leave it to the reader to figure out the significance of "...revelations, more correctly restatements."

When introducing The URANTIA Book to Christians we need to be aware that many believe that *all revelation ceased with the Book of Revelations.* The reason for this is to be found in that book's concluding verses which threaten anyone adding or taking away from the book with plagues, and other terrible consequences. It is not widely known that this kind of threat was once very common, a forerunner of what we now know as copyright. Perhaps because of its positioning at the very end of the Bible, a large segment of Christendom consider that this threat in

the Book of Revelations is applicable to the whole of the Bible. Knowing that, we should not be surprised if such people automatically recoil from any suggestion of a new revelation.

The URANTIA Book makes it clear that an Epochal Revelation is not necessarily a divine, infallible revelation. It appears that only the Creators themselves can know for certain just what parts of any revelation are infallible. However, we must recognize that the revelatory status of The URANTIA Book is both limited and urgently needful of explanation if we hope for widespread acceptance of the book itself among Christians.

The book says:

*"There was just one motive in Jesus' postbaptismal life on Urantia, and that was a better and truer revelation of his Paradise Father. (1543)*

Further along in the book, a second great motive was included - to lead men to become son-conscious, to faith-realize that they are the children of the Most High. (1578) These original motives have come close to being lost. Christianity has corrupted Jesus' primary aim by confusing his revelation of the Paradise Father with Old Testament images of Yahweh. Jesus' secondary aim has also been subverted by downgrading the concept of sonship to that of faithful servant.

If these two primary motives can be restored in the pure form as Jesus revealed them, I believe that the major errors of Christianity will melt

away. One contemporary theologian has sown a potentially fertile seed that may bear much fruit by asserting that for Jesus, reality was a gracious and compassionate God.<sup>1</sup> However, the profundity of that statement is not likely to reach the grass roots level for a very long time unless it is wrapped in a more digestible package. It also needs the addition of the "Father" concept of God so consistently emphasized in The URANTIA Book.

If promoted sufficiently, these two simple concepts are capable of breaking down the fundamentalist attitude to scripture, the so-called divine dictation theory according to which God alone is responsible for the content of the Bible. This theory has long since been rejected in the seminaries that train the clergy, also by Popes Benedict XV and Pius XII, and by the Second Vatican Council. However it remains as firmly implanted as ever at the grass roots level. A direct attack on the Bible will not work. But when people

have a true concept of God as a gracious, compassionate, and loving heavenly Father established in their minds, they will realize that the divine dictation theory along with other serious error is untenable.

The URANTIA Book contains the necessary information, but experience has surely shown that the book alone cannot achieve the task. Secondary works are needed. The book itself tells us this when it states that "the dead theory of even the highest religious doctrines is powerless to transform us." (380). The URANTIA Book is the highest religious doctrine available on this planet and it admits its own powerlessness! So let's introspect and if we have been riding high, dismount, and rejoin the world.

We also need to carefully explain the meaning of revelation as it relates to The URANTIA Book so that people will be enabled to discard their fear. Only then will they study the book with unprejudiced minds that will permit them to discover for themselves whatever new truth they can find therein.

But that is only one of the necessary steps. Having rejoined the world, we must face reality. Our present times have been dubbed the post-literate age. The vast

majority of people are virtually incapable of studying a 2000-page book such as The URANTIA Book. But they are God's children, our brothers and sisters. It is our unavoidable responsibility to bring them the teachings of Jesus in digestible chunks and in forms that will be seen, heard, and heeded. The URANTIA Book cannot perform this task. It was never

*"Give the milk of truth to those who are babes in spiritual perception. In your living and loving ministry serve spiritual food in attractive form and suited to the capacity of receptivity of each of your inquirers." (1474)*

meant to do so. And that is why you and I have it.

In conclusion, and in confirmation of some of what has been said, here is advice that Jesus gave:

*"You cannot teach the deep things of the spirit to those who have been born only of the flesh; first see that men are born of the spirit before you seek to instruct them in the advanced ways of the spirit. Do not undertake to show men the beauties of the temple until you have first taken them into the temple. Introduce men to God and as the sons of God." (1592)*

Let first things come first.

Ken Glasziou, Australia

Reference

1. Borg, Marcus J. (1987) "Jesus: A New Vision" (Harper San Francisco)

acknowledge the existence of God, and one of these reasons with the modern generation is "father" is a dirty word! Parents today must look carefully at themselves. Are they modelling sublime selfishness. If so, there is a high probability that they will produce selfish children, who will be the future adults of a selfish world! And are they modelling lack of respect for others? If so they will receive no respect from their children.

References:

Clarke-Stewart A., S. Friedman, and J. Koch. "Child Development: A topical Approach.",  
Lewis, R & S. "The Parenting Puzzle."

*In the present industrial and urban era the marriage institution is evolving along new economic lines. Family life has become more and more costly, while children, who used to be an asset, have become economic liabilities. But the security of civilization itself still rests on the growing willingness of one generation to invest in the welfare of the next and future generations. And any attempt to shift parental responsibility to state or church will prove suicidal to the welfare and advancement of civilization. (941)*

## Further comments on channeling

Meredith Sprunger, Fort Wayne, IN, U.S.A.

During the last several months I have received a number of papers promoting or explaining channeling and the "teaching mission." Some of them are "off the wall" and ludicrous, containing veiled threats to join in with them or face rejection of salvation, while others are well written and on the surface appear to say all the right things. All of them attempt to ride the coat tails of *The URANTIA Book*.

It might be helpful to some who are still perplexed about this problem to add a few summary statements to my paper "Channeling and the Urantia Movement" (Six-O-Six, May 1992) for consideration.

1. **Psychic, esoteric, or paranormal psychological phenomena is rather common throughout human history.** In the field of religion, such things as "speaking in tongues" (glossolalia), seeing visions, getting "special" or "higher" instructions through spiritualistic or psychic channels tends to occur in periods where people are stimulated spiritually without having concrete social-organizational channels to express these motivations in service or outreach activities. Historically, these psychic activities have not had a very good track record.

2. **Currently there is an attempt to explain and justify this phenomena** by claiming that the Lucifer Rebellion has been adjudicated and the system circuits are being opened. To give the "teaching mission" further prestige, they claim these instructions are a continuation of *The Fifth Epochal Revelation*.

Both of these claims are, in my judgement, without foundation. My guess is that the adjudication of the Lucifer rebellion will be communicated to our planet in a more significant way than channeling messages!

Claiming that these channeling messages - or even our own autorevelation - is a continuation of the Fifth Epochal Revelation is to toy with "delusions of grandeur." This is different than God's historic way of bringing epochal revelation to our world. Epochal revelation has always come in specific, concrete, objective form - in persons or a book - not in subjective messages of various quality from numerous "teachers." The content of these messages, in my judgment, is not in the same league with *The URANTIA Book* but what I might expect from an intelligent student of the book. Some of these messages are not even up to this quality.

3. **The best apologetics for "teaching mission"** do say things that, in the main, are harmonious with the wisdom of *The URANTIA Book* but neglect a key spiritual insight. Preoccupation with "intermediaries" or dependence on their direction tends to sidetrack the basic purpose of spiritual growth: God-consciousness, learning to grapple with tough problems through our own decisions and experience, and outgoing service. **We have the greatest teachers available to human beings - Thought Adjusters, the Spirit of Truth, and the Holy Spirit.** We have ample opportunity to learn through personal decisions and experience, and we have service potentials to fully occupy our lives.

Although it is unintended, I can think of no more subtle way to disrupt unity in the Urantia movement and divert attention away from a dynamic outreach program to bring the Fifth Epochal Revelation to our world than the preoccupation with channeling and

other psychic activities.

I know that many people have been helped by these channeling "teachers." Some of them are close friends. All of us probably have a conscious or latent desire for a "higher" spiritual mentor. As material beings we appreciate "tangible" personal relationships. So I understand the attraction of "special teachers" and share these observations, not to denigrate those who may disagree with them, but to clarify differences in perception, and with the hope that in spite of differences, we may unite in bringing the Fifth Epochal revelation to our world. □

### I Want to be Aggressive!

Ann Bendall, Australia

Once upon a time, before I read *The URANTIA Book* I thought being aggressive was being decidedly anti-social. The dictionary said aggressive people were "quarrelsome or belligerent". I agreed with them. Gosh the women's movement was screaming that the whole problem with the world was men and their aggression - their aggressive tendencies! We women heaved a sigh of relief that we were not so cursed (despite research which begs to differ - women are just as aggressive as men, if provoked. However, it appears lots of men are just naturally aggressive and can easily imagine provocation has occurred, if the urge to be aggressive comes on strong).

I was pleased to be a lady, and not have any of these aggressive tendencies. And anyway, when highly provoked, I was not aggressive, I was assertive! I denied totally having both an unlady like trait as well as an un-Christian trait.

And so I, dedicatedly, with my dictionary by my side, have delighted in the joy of reading *The URANTIA Book* many, many times. I have been so careful to read each word so very precisely, checking in the dictionary if in doubt. Of course I know most of the words, and so do not need to refer to the dictionary very much. I know words like ego means egotist - everyone knows that. I know words like mind are roughly the same as intellect

for after all the intellect is in the mind; and anyway the revelators wanted the book to be entertaining reading, as well as in accordance with excellent literary standards for written prose. It is taboo to repeat the same word in the one sentence, so mind and intellect are interchangeable! The poor revelators! It was on about the fourth reading of *The Blue Book* that I decided to check my logic by a quick look at the dictionary. Those clever guys! Intellect is not at all the same as mind. It is a part of the of the mind - the rational thought functions of the mind; the capacity for understanding, thinking, and reasoning as distinct from feeling or wishing. Also it appears that mind embraces, in addition, intention (will) and feelings/emotions.

But of course, we all know the meaning of the word aggressive. So I became a little upset when I discovered a typing error in *The URANTIA Book*! Surely someone had made a mistake by referring to Elijah as aggressive (1065). Actually there were a few typing errors. Missionaries were referred to as aggressive, and so was Paul aggressive (1411). Perhaps where Paul is concerned this might not be a typing error, as he was pretty disparaging towards females.

When I reached the life of Jesus, either the typing errors increased or something was truly amiss in the portrayal of Jesus. Practically from the moment he was born he was classified as AGGRESSIVE. It was a bit of a shock to me, until I appreciated that this trait was inherited from his mother. (1350) But I thought women were not supposed to be aggressive, so Mary must have been provoked an awful lot in her life. Jesus was unfortunate enough to acquire this gene.

Having read of the problems of the life carriers and there not being enough blue blood on Urantia, I was very wise on the genetic problems on this planet. After all there is a lot of work to be done in this area, and Mary and Joseph were picked as the best parents for Jesus, but no one claimed they had a perfect genetic pattern. And I must confess, Jesus did make a mess of the temple that time. I really wished they had not said that Jesus was aggressive. They said it too many times in the *Blue Book* for me to ignore (1361; 1366; 1395; 1461; 1562).

And so the above was my story. I felt quite sure Jesus got over it once he got back to Nebadon. A classic "me" example of not dedicatedly reading *The URANTIA Book* exactly and precisely as it is written.

One day I was reading a book called "Brain Sex" (Moir & Jessel), and bells started to ring as I read: "You can remove every obstacle in the path of success, but you cannot ensure that people will actually choose to follow that path; you can encourage aspiration but you cannot inject ambition.

"Success at any venture usually demands a mixture of talent and aggression, a rare enough combination. Most men don't have it - very few are talented enough to be a

### The Difficult Child: Born or Made?

