

# The Pilgrim

RECEIVED AUG 19 1991

*A Tennessee Voice for the Fifth Epochal Readership*

Volume 2, Number 2

July, 1991

## Continuing Discussion

In the context of our ongoing discussion about the nature of the fifth epoch and what preparation might be appropriate, we have received contributions from three readers. First is an article from Greg Thomas in Hebron Connecticut.

### Holding The Door

by Greg Thomas

In a previous issue of the Pilgrim, you urged readers to respond to the question, "Since we stand at the beginning of the Fifth Epoch on Urantia, how do we need to be preparing ourselves for the work ahead?"

The simplest and most direct answer that comes to mind is that, as readers, we have already begun that work. When one first receives the Urantia book, its size and complexity, even its terms which are at first as a foreign language, seem to be an insurmountable obstacle. But, from those

information about the universe and our place in it, we have placed ourselves at, or more accurately, have been lead by our Adjuster to, the threshold of enlightenment.

When I was a boy and my parents were trying to teach me manners that would serve me well in society, they would remind me to "Hold the door open for the person behind you." This, they said, was common courtesy and the way of a gentleman.

We too stand at the opening of a great door. For

# Continuing Discussion

In the context of our ongoing discussion about the nature of the fifth epoch and what preparation might be appropriate, we have received contributions from three readers. First is an article from Greg Thomas in Hebron Connecticut.

## Holding The Door

by Greg Thomas

In a previous issue of the Pilgrim, you urged readers to respond to the question, "Since we stand at the beginning of the Fifth Epoch on Urantia, how do we need to be preparing ourselves for the work ahead?"

The simplest and most direct answer that comes to mind is that, as readers, we have already begun that work. When one first receives the Urantia book, its size and complexity, even its terms which are at first as a foreign language, seem to be an insurmountable obstacle. But for those seeking God and truth, wading in with both feet soon leaves one completely awash in a sea of reality. In so doing, and also exchanging and sharing

information about the universe and our place in it, we have placed ourselves at, or more accurately, have been lead by our Adjuster to, the threshold of enlightenment.

When I was a boy and my parents were trying to teach me manners that would serve me well in society, they would remind me to "Hold the door open for the person behind you." This, they said, was common courtesy and the way of a gentleman.

We too stand at the opening of a great door. For centuries, men of religion and philosophy have studied that door. It was a true mystery to them. They saw the light which emanated from it's keyhole and around the door-frame, but at

---

All quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the URANTIA Book © 1955 and are used by permission.  
Interpretations and opinions are those of the authors.

---

best, their assumption about what lay beyond was myopic conjecture. Without a key they were like "peeping toms", peering through the keyhole and praying to unlock its secrets.

Christ said that He brought the "Keys to the Kingdom", but unfortunately after he left the physical world to take up again His responsibilities as Universe Sovereign, fallible human hands bent and warped those keys through misunderstanding and by promoting personal agendas. Sure, we could make it to the other side upon death, given that we were believes in God and seekers of truth, but we could little understand what lay beyond this door while we lived a life of faith, struggle, fear and hope.

Now the "Locksmith" has sent another key, the Urantia book, and its unchangeable metal is not forged by human hands, but crafted by those whose love and care for us is undeniable.

With total circulation of the Urantia book at less than 200,000 copies, there are precious few of these new "keys", but it is the job of those who have one on their

ring to share it with not only the next person, but with all who seek enlightenment.

There is however, another door, or perhaps the same one-one that is found within, and can only be opened from within. Jesus said that he stood at the door and knocked and if anyone should hear him, and open the door, he would enter into them. The sharing of our key will better equip them to open up to a larger and greater eternity than they could have possibly imagined.

So it seems to me that our job as children of God, here at the advent of the Fifth Epoch, is the same as it has been for the past 2,000 years, namely, to be zealous advocates of the truth as we individually have come to know it. The only difference is that The Truth is now much more coherent than it was before we were given the Urantia Book.

Therefore, I believe we should; humbly serve our fellow Urantians, courageously share the Urantia Book--our new key--with all who seek to know God, and fearlessly strive to do the Father's work--seeking His promised reward and not ones craved by a temporal Ego.

---

The second contribution is from the publishers of the Now Highlights for Truthists, a newsletter from Rockford IL which is familiar to many of us. These are excerpts from a letter by David Strang.

# The Jesusonian Perspective

by David Strang

Your April 1991 issue has been read several times; and I wish to share the following from our printed Revelation, The Urantia Book, on the NOW unfolding five phases or epochs of and towards Light and Life on Urantia. We should continue to carefully peruse pages 1862-66, 1948-52, 2059-64A, 2082-86, and other related

human hands bent and warped those keys through misunderstanding and by promoting personal agendas. Sure, we could make it to the other side upon death, given that we were believes in God and seekers of truth, but we could little understand what lay beyond this door while we lived a life of faith, struggle, fear and hope.

Now the "Locksmith" has sent another key, the Urantia book, and its unmalleable metal is not forged by human hands, but crafted by those whose love and care for us is undeniable.

With total circulation of the Urantia book at less than 200,000 copies, there are precious few of these new "keys", but it is the job of those who have one on their

better equip them to open up to a larger and greater eternity than they could have possibly imagined.

So it seems to me that our job as children of God, here at the advent of the Fifth Epoch, is the same as it has been for the past 2,000 years, namely, to be zealous advocates of the truth as we individually have come to know it. The only difference is that The Truth is now much more coherent than it was before we were given the Urantia Book.

Therefore, I believe we should; humbly serve our fellow Urantians, courageously share the Urantia Book--our new key--with all who seek to know God, and fearlessly strive to do the Father's work--seeking His promised reward and not ones craved by a temporal Ego.

---

The second contribution is from the publishers of the Now Highlights for Truthists, a newsletter from Rockford IL which is familiar to many of us. These are excerpts from a letter by David Strang.

# The Jesusonian Perspective

by David Strang

Your April 1991 issue has been read several times; and I wish to share the following from our printed Revelation, The Urantia Book, on the NOW unfolding five phases or epochs of and towards Light and Life on Urantia. We should continue to carefully peruse pages 1862-66, 1948-52, 2059-64A, 2082-86, and other related passages throughout our Book until we are certain of its true meanings (complex) and WHO we really follow if we are to act in spiritual unity and help transform INDIVIDUALS and NOT "the world". Are we now certain that we know our Transformer WHO IS!

Many millions, if not billions, of Persons are now working at (socially, morally, politically, etc.) transforming the work to their desires? We are all called to follow the perfect will of our Master Jesus Christ Michael only and to progress in The Jesus Brotherhood (so simple, but so hard to many mortals)! Do even the long-term UBK readers know and live this truth? I pray we do or will SOON!

Just a few highlights of the above, that you may publish if you wish: On p1863B, "By this process of gradually changing man's will and thus affecting human decisions, (my bold) MICHAEL and HIS ASSOCIATES are likewise gradually (several thousands of years or more) but certainly changing the entire course of human evolution, social and otherwise." On HE the Transformer, our Master Teacher, p1948-1949 is very enlightening; p1949A states, "In a very short time I am going to send you my spirit (He - the Holy Father-Son Spirit of Truth), just like me except for this material body. (JUST LIKE JESUS MICHAEL WHO IS NOW HERE!) This new teacher <"The Comforter" also in some bibles> is the Spirit of Truth, who <WHO> will live with each one of you, in your hearts, and so will all the children of light be made one and be drawn toward one another. An in this very manner will my Father and I be able to live in the souls of each one of you and also in the hearts of all other men who love us and make that love real in their experiences by loving one another, even as I am now loving you." Continuing to briefly highlight, p2061AB - only a consciousness of Michael!! p2062D - Spirit of Truth reveals Creator Son to men. p2063c - Most powerful spiritual force present... personal gift from the Master to EVERY mortal. p2064A - Spirit of Truth will be FOREVER UNFOLDING THE FULLNESS OF GOD IN JESUS AND THE FULLNESS OF JESUS IN GOD!!!

I am very saddened to hear UBK believers state that the old 4th epoch is gone; and now we are God-conscious without the need for Jesus in this the 5th!! TOTAL ERROR ! Great changes are needed! Some say, "My TA is higher"; I say, read p1200C, p1846, p1204C and follow Him! p2082D - "Religion does need new leaders, spiritual men and women who will DARE TO DEPEND SOLELY ON JESUS AND HIS INCOMPARABLE TEACHINGS." (Please note carefully that this Revelatory statement, in Part IV of our Book, came a few years after the Revelations of Parts I, II, III; a probable reason being, that the Revelators knew that, without this further enlightenment, we humans probably could not comprehend spiritually what Parts I, II, III are actually stating!) p2084A - "...WHAT IS NOW MOST NEEDED IS JESUS." (Read on) p2085BC - "THE LIVING JESUS IS THE ONLY HOPE... Spiritual unity is the fruit of THE FAITH UNION WITH THE LIVING JESUS." (Read p2086 carefully now)

To summarize, I really believe that future epochal Revelations to our planet, the 6th, 7th, 8th, etc., will further illuminate our eternal God/Man Father and very elder Brother who is Jesus Michael. May we always try sincerely to follow our Master and Sovereign Creator Jesus Christ Michael! Thank you Jesus for your Revelation!1

---

The third contribution from readers which came since Spring is the following letter from Grace Boyles in Meadville, MO.

This idea came to me at last Easter time when a number of church groups were "re-enacting" events surrounding the death of Jesus. I thought how valuable it might be to re-enact some of the events of His actual ministry! Wouldn't it be exciting to participate with about twelve, or fewer, students of the Urantia Book in an intensive review of Papers 140 through 150 and then to go out two by two into various homes to tell the "good news"?

I visualize something like this: After introducing themselves and explaining briefly their re-enactment, the two messengers would

children of light be made one and be drawn toward one another. All in this very manner will my Father and I be able to live in the souls of each one of you and also in the hearts of all other men who love us and make that love real in their experiences by loving one another, even as I am now loving you." Continuing to briefly highlight, p2061AB - only a consciousness of Michael!! p2062D - Spirit of Truth reveals Creator Son to men. p2063c - Most powerful spiritual force present... personal gift from the Master to EVERY mortal. p2064A - Spirit of Truth will be FOREVER UNFOLDING THE FULLNESS OF GOD IN JESUS AND THE FULLNESS OF JESUS IN GOD!!!

I am very saddened to hear UBK believers state that the old 4th epoch is gone; and now we are God-conscious without the need for Jesus in this the 5th!! TOTAL ERROR ! Great changes are needed! Some say, "My TA is higher"; I say, read p1200C, p1846, p1204C and follow Him! p2082D - "Religion does need new leaders, spiritual men and women who will DARE TO DEPEND SOLELY ON JESUS AND HIS INCOMPARABLE TEACHINGS." (Please note carefully that this Revelatory statement, in Part IV of our Book, came a few years after the Revelations of Parts I, II, III; a probable reason being, that the Revelators knew that, without this further enlightenment, we humans probably could not comprehend spiritually what Parts I, II, III are actually stating!) p2084A - "...WHAT IS NOW MOST NEEDED IS JESUS." (Read on) p2085BC - "THE LIVING JESUS IS THE ONLY HOPE... Spiritual unity is the fruit of THE FAITH UNION WITH THE LIVING JESUS." (Read p2086 carefully now)

To summarize, I really believe that future epochal Revelations to our planet, the 6th, 7th, 8th, etc., will further illuminate our eternal God/Man Father and very elder Brother who is Jesus Michael. May we always try sincerely to follow our Master and Sovereign Creator Jesus Christ Michael! Thank you Jesus for your Revelation!!

---

The third contribution from readers which came since Spring is the following letter from Grace Boyles in Meadville, MO.

This idea came to me at last Easter time when a number of church groups were "re-enacting" events surrounding the death of Jesus. I thought how valuable it might be to re-enact some of the events of His actual ministry! Wouldn't it be exciting to participate with about twelve, or fewer, students of the Urantia Book in an intensive review of Papers 140 through 150 and then to go out two by two into various homes to tell the "good news"?

I visualize something like this: After introducing themselves and explaining briefly their re-enactment, the two messengers would wish "peace upon this house" and then offer to stay a few minutes to discuss some of the things the Master has been teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven. I wonder how many homes would welcome the two inside. One in ten? One in a hundred? I'm sure that modern messengers could not expect extended hospitality, but I would hope they could expect a few invitations for a return visit.

I would also hope the two would NEVER forget that it is the gospel they are promoting, NOT the UBK. The original ambassadors of the Kingdom had no book to carry--only the truths they had been learning from the Master. Thanks to our many Christmas pageants and Passion Plays, the whole world knows about our Babe in the

manager and our Crucified One, but there is a tragic void concerning His glorious life in between. Could not a two-by-two campaign improve this situation?

If you think the idea is worth sharing, please print it in your publication. I'm sorry that distance away from a viable study group has prevented my testing it first. God bless you and your publication for promoting communication within the Fellowship.

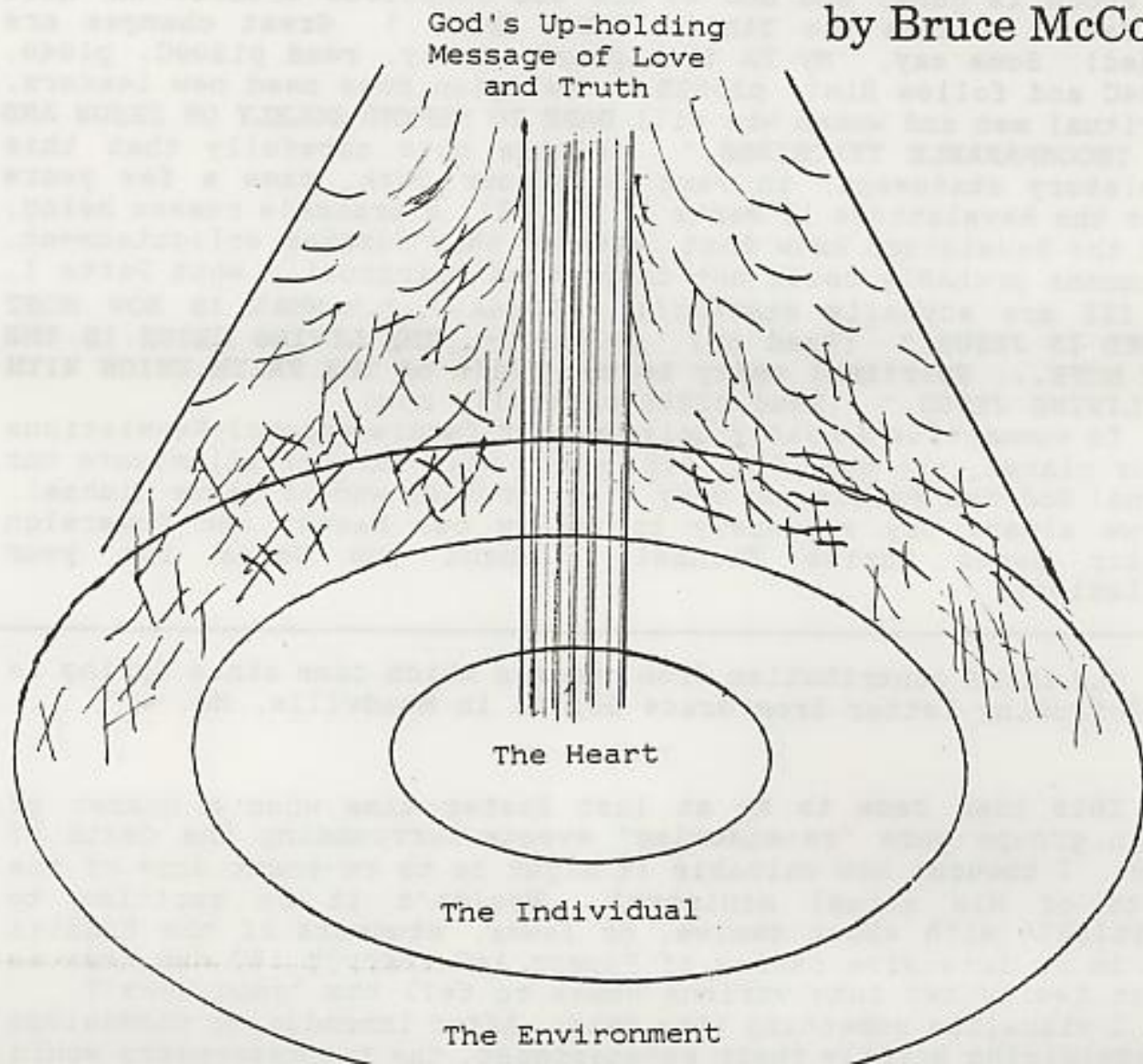
Wishing you Love, Peace and Joy,

Grace Boyles

---

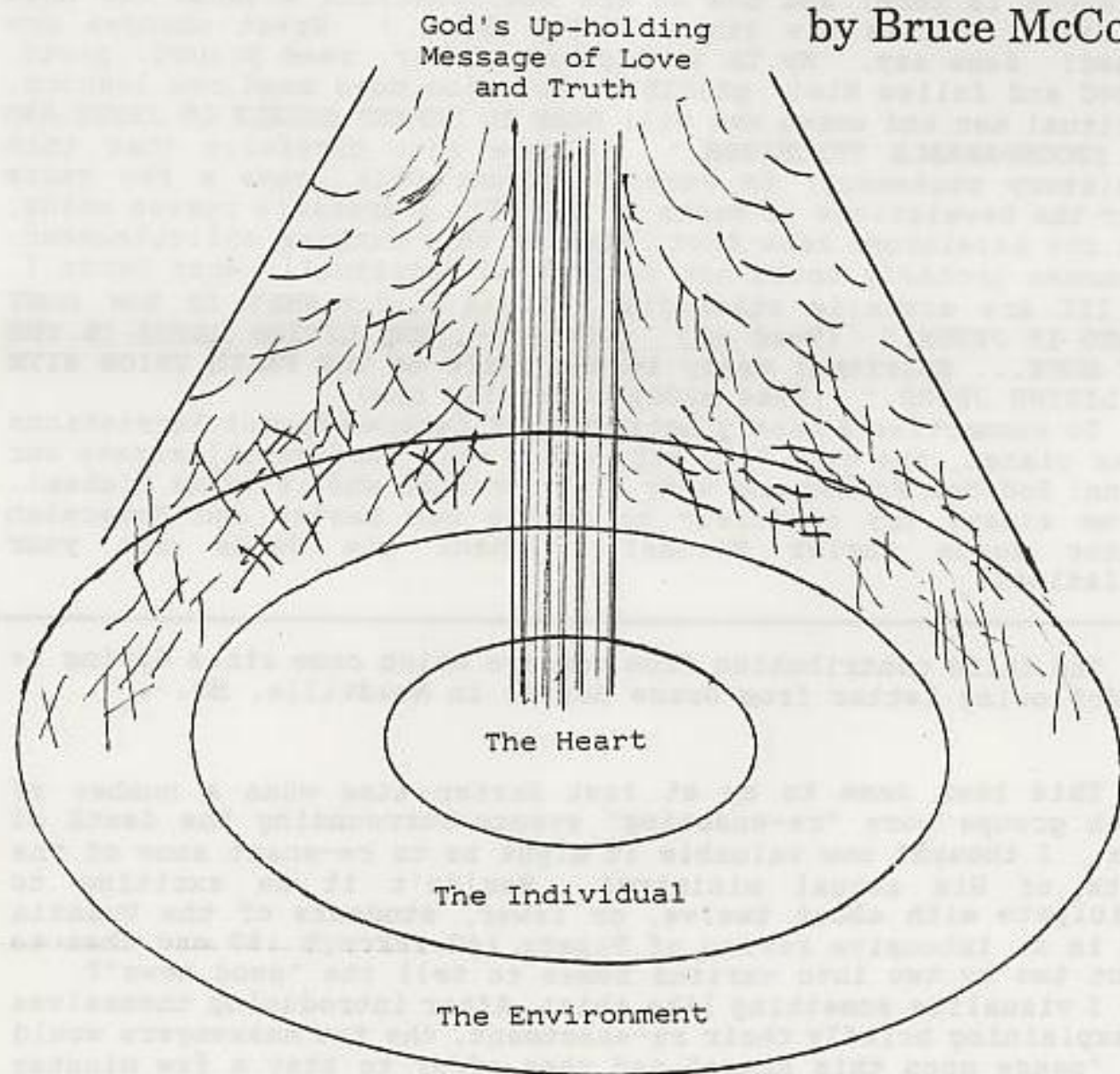
# The Shape of Agondontership

by Bruce McCoy



# The Shape of Agondontership

by Bruce McCoy



In my work I'm involved with a therapeutic foster care program and this means being a part of a therapeutic team. The team is comprised of

myself, a set of specially trained foster parents, and a child welfare worker along with the worker's supervisors who remain in the background but whose presences are often felt.



Not long ago I was having lunch with one of the workers and her supervisor and we were talking about foster care in general, sharing war stories so-to-speak. Somewhere in the stream of this discussion about the horrors and heartbreaks of abused children, I commented that I will be glad when it's all over, vaguely referring to my images of the fifth epoch and its new organization. Both of them immediately looked at me with a startled amazement and we talked for a minute about this notion that someday all of this terrible disruption in the innocent lives of children would come to an end. They had never thought about such a thing and somehow as we talked they could not fathom the idea. It just didn't seem to be a practical possibility.

Later I was thinking this over and I realized that it is a good example of what it means to live on an agondonter world. We are the ones who believe without seeing. We completely accept and tolerate an endless absence of clearcut celestial overcare. Formal celestial caretaking has been absent from our world for so long we think that such a condition is normal. We have no idea what we're missing. We are able to witness seemingly bottomless atrocity and yet hang on to our faith... continue continuing in God's work, even when the evil seems hopeless and endless.

On page 579A the Urantia Book tells us that as agondonters we are very special. We live on a world in which an extra burden has been placed upon the individual hearts of the faithful. We have come to know God in a context of amazing ignorance, confusion, and superstition. We have learned to hang on to him when there is little light to show the way. In fact, the

and modern access to Him is extremely circumscribed. We lose our faith when it comes to ideas of God acting in areas of science or politics or economics. We confine our beliefs about the possibility of God's action to very narrow parameters, namely those to which he has limited himself through the silence imposed in response to Lucifer's rebellion over the last two hundred thousand years.

Reading Robert Bly (Iron John) I have been thinking a lot about our woundedness. For Bly, woundedness is very important for men. He says we (men) should use it as a key. We must find a positive in it so we can perfect our development. I see it, though, as a major reality for all people during these days of darkness in the post rebellion years. We all grow up being wounded by a crazy world. The only thing that mitigates the craziness is that we don't think it is crazy. The rebellion is so deep and so pervasive, it predates our historical memory so that we think the darkness is light. To us it is normal. We have no idea what we're missing in terms of the context of celestial community that surrounds us and cares for us.

In the drawing which is presented at the beginning of this article we see man in his environment with God's loving truth ministering to us and showering down all around us. But here we also see a model of how all of the ramifications of His love which make it into our environment are human inventions - interpretations of God's message which have been formed into human thought, rules, and institutions.

The only real, timeless, relatively pure, and trustable truth signal is the inner one which beams directly into our hearts. It is nonverbal.

Both of them immediately looked at me with a startled amazement and we talked for a minute about this notion that someday all of this terrible disruption in the innocent lives of children would come to an end. They had never thought about such a thing and somehow as we talked they could not fathom the idea. It just didn't seem to be a practical possibility.

Later I was thinking this over and I realized that it is a good example of what it means to live on an agondonter world. We are the ones who believe without seeing. We completely accept and tolerate an endless absence of clearcut celestial overcare. Formal celestial caretaking has been absent from our world for so long we think that such a condition is normal. We have no idea what we're missing. We are able to witness seemingly bottomless atrocity and yet hang on to our faith... continue continuing in God's work, even when the evil seems hopeless and endless.

On page 579A the Urantia Book tells us that as agondonters we are very special. We live on a world in which an extra burden has been placed upon the individual hearts of the faithful. We have come to know God in a context of amazing ignorance, confusion, and superstition. We have learned to hang on to him when there is little light to show the way. In fact, the very structures of our religion which provide us sustenance and continuity do not even allow for God to act.

God cannot even send a new prophet or a new passage of scripture these days without the church arguing over it and probably rejecting it. God's action is frozen in the past

thousand years. Reading Robert Bly (Iron John) I have been thinking a lot about our woundedness. For Bly, woundedness is very important for men. He says we (men) should use it as a key. We must find a positive in it so we can perfect our development. I see it, though, as a major reality for all people during these days of darkness in the post rebellion years. We all grow up being wounded by a crazy world. The only thing that mitigates the craziness is that we don't think it is crazy. The rebellion is so deep and so pervasive, it predates our historical memory so that we think the darkness is light. To us it is normal. We have no idea what we're missing in terms of the context of celestial community that surrounds us and cares for us.

In the drawing which is presented at the beginning of this article we see man in his environment with God's loving truth ministering to us and showering down all around us. But here we also see a model of how all of the ramifications of His love which make it into our environment are human inventions - interpretations of God's message which have been formed into human thought, rules, and institutions.

The only real, timeless, relatively pure, and trustable truth signal is the inner one which beams directly into our hearts. It is nonverbal, still, peaceful, mysterious. This central beam, this heart message is all we have to go on. Everything else, the church and other religious guideposts are human interpretations. True, they are God inspired, but they are pervaded by human fallibility. Consequently, we have grown

completely accustomed to being torn by conflict and confusion. The basis of our hope and our concept of the future are spiritually anemic. But this will change in the fifth epoch.

When the light of the Urantia Book shines strong and deep throughout our world, the present backwardness will be transformed into a unique wisdom. Our woundedness will become our strength. We will understand the facts about Lucifer's iniquity and all of the implications of that for our own historical experience.

We will register Lucifer's folly in our awareness and it will no longer tragically hold us in its grip.

Our present darkness will be dispelled and we will not remember it. We will rise to new heights of loyalty and steadfast enlistment in the citizenry of the celestial kingdom. We will feel the pride of being the bestowal world and strive with great excellence to be worthy of the high privilege which has been ours to journey through the horrible darkness and out again into eternal light.

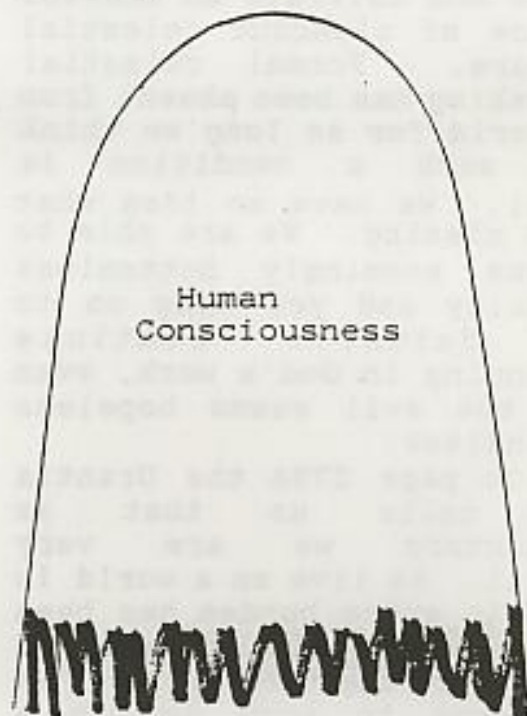
---

# Norman Vincent Peale Was Right

by Bruce McCoy

High consciousness  
Free positive noticing  
Awareness of awareness

Low consciousness  
Indentured negative chatter  
Awareness



Several ideas which are held as valid and useful within the fields of modern psychotherapy can be brought together to formulate a simple theory about the functioning of consciousness. A major one of these ideas is that of the spectrum of consciousness.

wisdom. Our woundedness will become our strength. We will understand the facts about Lucifer's iniquity and all of the implications of that for our own historical experience.

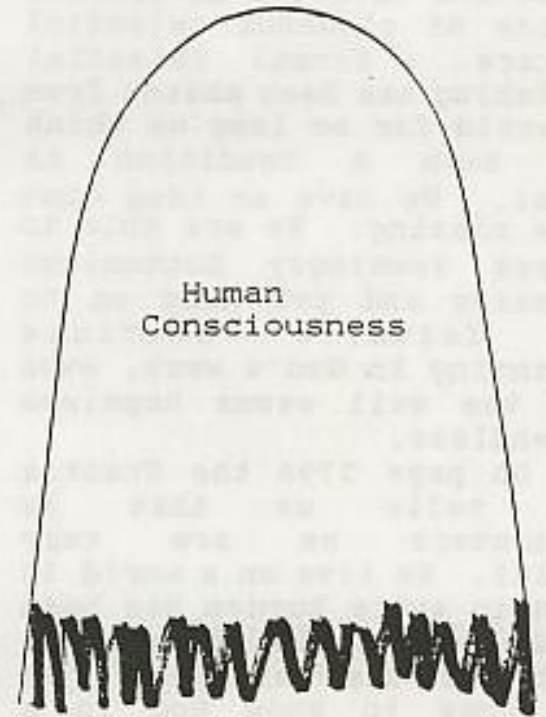
world and strive with great excellence to be worthy of the high privilege which has been ours to journey through the horrible darkness and out again into eternal light.

# Norman Vincent Peale Was Right

by Bruce McCoy

High consciousness  
Free positive noticing  
Awareness of awareness

Low consciousness  
Indentured negative chatter  
Awareness



Several ideas which are held as valid and useful within the fields of modern psychotherapy can be brought together to formulate a simple theory about the functioning of consciousness. A major one of these notions holds that consciousness, in its "default mode" is enslaved to negativity. Here we compulsively think "negative definition" oriented thoughts at a basic idling speed. When we are engaged in this mechanical, bottom line level of lower consciousness, we pursue the general purpose of defining who we are by describing who we are not.

This feels entirely natural as we proceed through the endless chain of nondescript moments which fill our daily lives. Low consciousness is an internal chatter which spends most of its time relating us to others and depicting us as, by comparison, superior or somehow noteworthy before those who are important to us. We say; "I am better than that guy." or; "That guy is inferior to me."

or; "Gee, don't I probably look impressive to those people." or; "Maybe I can get some brownie points from this person or that person if I do this or that."

And of course, as we know, much of our negativity is motivated by a significant pool of fear which comes up from our inherited, instinctual, unconscious background. This causes us to worry about things which might be. Again we are comparing ourselves and our present realities to things which might occur and which might degrade us or cause us loss or bring us some misfortune.

Also, I believe we are strongly motivated by instinctual material which I would describe as basic desires. At their fundamental, instinctual level they are unrefined and unorganized. They stimulate fantasies of grandiosity and unrealistic ease or gratification. Here again our desires motivate us to bolster and assert ourselves negatively through materialistic consumption which casts the self in a context of competition with other people or elements in the environment.

A theory of free consciousness asserts that there are, however, higher levels of our consciousness which allow us to escape from this negative base. When we engage these higher levels we begin to experience quickened awareness or awareness of awareness and we begin to track the truth in objective, stable terms. Here we notice our lower consciousness in its negativity and we freely act to adjust our thinking to compensate for fear, rein in desire, and relate ourselves in cooperative and collaborative terms with each other.

In lower consciousness we have awareness but in higher consciousness we have awareness of awareness. In lower consciousness we have compulsive, indentured talk, while in higher consciousness we listen and pay attention. In lower consciousness we experience comparative, self-aggrandizing truth while in higher consciousness we track objective and stable truth. Higher consciousness is the locus of our freedom in an arena in which positivity becomes possible. Here we formulate and organize love and altruism. Here we listen in stillness to the indwelling Universal Father and balance our being in His care. Here we make decisions which are truly our own.

Theoretically this sounds very simple but controlling and escaping basic negativity is very hard to do occasionally, let alone all of the time. Often there is almost no way to say what we have to say without being negative. Recently, I was discussing these very ideas about consciousness with a good friend and fellow UBK reader. We started out in a very enjoyable conversation framed as a cooperative sharing of ideas but before we knew it we were both struggling with each other to speak convincingly for our personal detailed notions about how things work.

Soon we noticed we were falling into a controversy but it seemed like we just couldn't stop. We were each so stimulated by the material we were discussing that our feelings of excited enlightenment were taking us over. We almost had no choice but to assert (in an albeit competitive manner) our personal, hard-fought for insights. We didn't want to be adversarial but it seemed to be the only way we knew how to talk. We were sort of trapped.

Later, after we had parted, I reflected about how much I love this good friend and how poorly that love was represented in our conversation. I wished I had been able to remain positive and I thought how our exchange was a good example of the institutional

fundamental, instinctual level they are unrefined and unorganized. They stimulate fantasies of grandiosity and unrealistic ease or gratification. Here again our desires motivate us to bolster and assert ourselves negatively through materialistic consumption which casts the self in a context of competition with other people or elements in the environment.

A theory of free consciousness asserts that there are, however, higher levels of our consciousness which allow us to escape from this negative base. When we engage these higher levels we begin to experience quickened awareness or awareness of awareness and we begin to track the truth in objective, stable terms. Here we notice our lower consciousness in its negativity and we freely act to adjust our thinking to compensate for fear, rein in desire, and relate ourselves in cooperative and collaborative terms with each other.

In lower consciousness we have awareness but in higher consciousness we have awareness of awareness. In lower consciousness we have compulsive, indentured talk, while in higher consciousness we listen and pay attention. In lower consciousness we experience comparative, self-aggrandizing truth while in higher consciousness we track objective and stable truth. Higher consciousness is the locus of our freedom in an arena in which positivity becomes possible. Here we formulate and organize love and altruism. Here we listen in stillness to the indwelling Universal Father and balance our being in His care. Here we make decisions which are truly our own.

Theoretically this sounds very simple but controlling and escaping basic negativity is very hard to do occasionally, let alone all of the time. Often there is almost no way to say what we have to say without being negative. Recently, I was discussing these very ideas about consciousness with a good friend and fellow UBK reader. We started out in a very enjoyable conversation framed as a cooperative sharing of ideas but before we knew it we were both struggling with each other to speak convincingly for our personal detailed notions about how things work.

Soon we noticed we were falling into a controversy but it seemed like we just couldn't stop. We were each so stimulated by the material we were discussing that our feelings of excited enlightenment were taking us over. We almost had no choice but to assert (in an albeit competitive manner) our personal, hard-fought for insights. We didn't want to be adversarial but it seemed to be the only way we knew how to talk. We were sort of trapped.

Later, after we had parted, I reflected about how much I love this good friend and how poorly that love was represented in our conversation. I wished I had been able to remain positive and I thought how our exchange was a good example of the institutional and enslaving nature of negativity. To operate in higher consciousness takes energy. We have to be awake - aware of the nuances of the moment. We have to assert our wills to avoid the pitfalls of petty and fruitless competition.

The art of being truly positive is our ongoing and constant challenge. It doesn't mean something inanely simple like never expressing dissent or criticism. It means an attitude of loving service - an inner context of understanding and willful truth seeking. The life which Jesus led when he was among us here 2,000 years ago is an amazingly masterful example of how to be positive. In a way it is simpler but it is also very hard.

Years ago Norman Vincent Peale wrote a book entitled The Power

of Positive Thinking. It became very popular and after a while, inevitably, it became an idea that some people made fun of or unthinkingly devalued. Norman Vincent Peale was right though, in a very profound way. The ability to be positive is a high correlate of self mastery and this is a skill which our Master admonished us to develop (p.1610A-B).

In the Urantia Book, our fifth epochal revelation, we have another masterful example of a profoundly inspiring and enlightening message which is thoroughly positive. At times it is critical and specifically corrective of human error but it is generally set within a context of impeccable positivity. The UBK revelators understood the value of pervasive positivity and in that tenor they have presented us with some of the most powerful, uplifting, and majestic prose which can be found. Always they keep us focused on a positive view of how things are and how they are to be.

## May Our Father's Peace Be With You

---

*The Pilgrim* is published by the group of Urantia Book Readers in Knoxville, TN.  
We welcome your response and comments. Please send them to:

... they have presented us with some of the most powerful, uplifting, and majestic prose which can be found. Always they keep us focused on a positive view of how things are and how they are to be.

## May Our Father's Peace Be With You

---

*The Pilgrim* is published by the group of Urantia Book Readers in Knoxville, TN.  
We welcome your response and comments. Please send them to:

Helen and Alvin Smith  
9300 Gulf Park Drive  
Knoxville, TN ~~37929~~  
37923

Terry Faulkner  
4178 Ridgeway Lane  
Knoxville, TN 37919