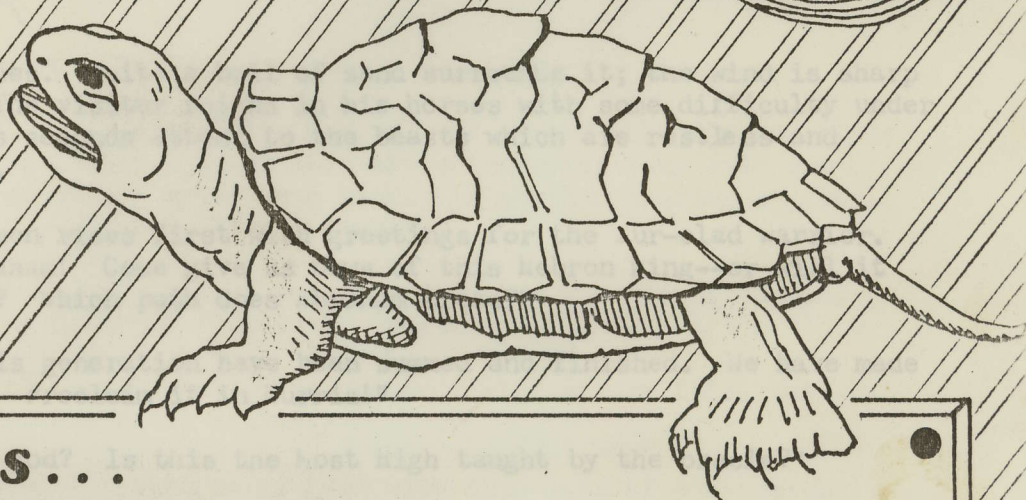


# THE TORTOISE SPEAKS

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# Marriage of Heaven and Earth

## RENDEZVOUS

characters:

Nob—a Hebrew, a nephew and lieutenant of Abraham

Gorrulits—emissary from the powerful Hurrian (mixed Andonites)

confederation to the north, in the area of modern-day eastern Turkey

Under the immense foliage of a lone terebinth in the wilderness, two horses stand at rest, behind them an unattached carriage. Three robed men lay quietly against the trunk.

A chariot approaches. Quite a boil of sand surrounds it; the wind is sharp and a little chilly. The visitor reigns in his horses with some difficulty under the tree. The driver's seconds attend to the beasts which are restless and stinging from the sand.

One of the robed men rises first with greetings for the fur-clad warrior. "Nob the nephew of Abraham! Come give us news of this Hebron king--or will it be of the Salem oracle? Which path does Abraham tread?"

"The events of this generation have been summed and finished. We have made our covenant with God. Proclaim it in Hurria!"

"What god is this god? Is this the Most High taught by the oracle?"

"The same message of which you have heard; it is taught by Melchizedek the highest of priests, who resides in Salem in the mountains. God is the Most High ruler of all the world. And now the Most High has instructed us to believe in Him and worship Him alone. The only sacrifice we must make is the surrender of all other gods."

"Abraham himself seems to be interested in this idea of one ruler of all the world." Gorrulits smirks.

"Abraham has made his vow. He has pledged himself to his priestly mission, to a kingdom of spiritual worship instead of a mission of conquering. This is the news you must bear back to your home--Abraham has made a covenant with Melchizedek, who acts for this unseen God." Gorrulits contemplates this. Only the sounds of the beasts and the branches are heard. Nob goes on: "Abraham has pledged an eternal tithe of all his goods to the priest of the Most Highs. In return, the Most Highs will agree amongst themselves three times, blessing Abraham. He believes, and they save him."

"Abraham then, is a devotee of the gods."

"Of God."

"The Most Highs?"

## COMMON SENSE

"There are three Most High Ones who oversee the affairs of men and of heaven, But there is one who is Most High of all. This Most High has made a covenant with mankind to believe in the saving power of God, and then to be given the secrets of righteousness."

Gorrulits absorbs it, finally asks: "What of Abraham's confederation?"

"We prosper. Six kings stand together. No neighbors have breached our cities, nor really tried to, beyond mere agitation. We will grow as more people understand the covenant which has been enacted on the first day of the half-moon, four days ago."

"Will he war the Amorites?"

Nob's confident delivery halts for a moment. He shakes his head and says: "Only our king can decide that. The Amorites are bothersome; they raid our outlying villages, but we easily drive them back. If Abraham decides so, ten we must war them all-out. And we will not lose."

"In any case, no claims of Abraham can extend to the borders of Hurria. Are we agreed to keep our distance from each other?"

"Distance in days of travel, and mutual respect will ensure this. No enmity exists between us, nor rival claims."

"Then it is so. I will return to my land with this news of non-aggression. May the storm-god withhold his wrath from you, and the pixies not bother your stride."

"And it is my wish that they bless you as well, giving you a vision that the many overseers of earth are really but three--and that these three are one, when we would worship--the Most High God who has joined us to him. Never shall the bond be broken."

Gorrulits is thoughtful; he merely says: "I will remember your words, and the message of this covenant." Then the two embrace and repair to their chariots, departing in opposite directions from the looming terebinth.

The odor of the tree is borne by the wind in the direction of the Hurrian chariot, stimulating Gorrulits' memory of that earnest young Hebrew, stirring thoughts within him that are destined to grow in his mind.

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Coming screenings of "Our Heritage of the Spirit"

Sep 16: Metaphysical Center, 420 Sutter upstairs, along with Pat Feary's movie; \$3

Sep 23: International Center Ballroom, sponsored by Omniversal Family, loc: 50 Oak near Market. Also music by Stephen Halperin, dance and meditation by Wali Ali.(bring cushions) \$2

## COMMON SENSE

### APPROACHING ALTRUISM

--Chuck Thurston--

The ability to be successfully and dependably altruistic seems to depend on the prior establishment of a basic or working unity of selfhood. This indicates that one's "self" (character, perhaps) has grown to such a level of relative integrity that it can be safely forgotten-- at least in the sense that it can be depended on, relative to the trust being demanded of it, to function satisfactorily without requiring a great deal of worry or attention.

When this liberation of energy and attention takes place, it is soon followed by a presentation of choices and decisions whose outcome will determine the use which is to be made of this newly acquired expansion of the evolving sovereignty of one's will.

It is at this point that the choice of the divine will will begin to direct one's thoughts away from one's self in a spirit of loving, but intelligent and controlled, altruism.

Love is the great unifier; disunity prevails in its absence.

Maturity implies the full mobilization of the powers of one's selfhood, while immaturity involves inevitable misuse of time and talent.

"We come closer to God as we become more useful to our fellows". --Jesus--

# THOUGHTSAM AND JETSAM

--thoughts recently found floating near the tortoise--

Graph of the Quaternary Concept:

Father	Mother	Son	Daughter
spirit	imagination	action	feeling-response
worship	prayer	life	body
thought	word	action	effect
		*	*

Asimov's three big jobs of the future: 1) computer programming;  
2) music and entertainment; 3) yoga and the mystical

\* \*

## Holism

Fragmentation of knowledge reached its nadir. The generalist does not grow from a special case, but emphasizes the broadest unification of contrasts, never confusing the still-differentiable aspects of those systems and levels being thus united. Different blendings have different endings. The never-ending blending is not black and white becoming gray; there are manifold techniques of reconciliation and compromise when various syntheses occur.

Every freedom is the chain upon a greater freedom. Specialization lifted man from savagery and was the key to the founding of cities; but specialization has now become a chain upon a greater organizational technique (which has been secretly emerging all along).--holism "Only the holy can see God". Well, stretching that a little, only the wholly integrating society can see the 21st century.

Our present society is dangerously fragmented (though it is now reversing the trend, which peaked in, maybe, 1960). The military, those whose fingers are seconds away from the annihilation of world civilization, still enjoys the isolation of the specialized society. Are they beyond our recall? Can we stop them if they decide to push the button? Have we any control over the chess game that may decide which nations go and which stay? Will Russia and America start jumping each other's pawns? Or can we bring a synthesis out of these opposing ideologies that will turn both sides in the same direction?

\* \*

Music is time. Tone is determined by frequency, numbers of vibrations per unit of time. Rhythm is emphasis in time, measured interruptions with a repeating pattern. Harmony is the unification of contrasts within time.

\* \*

"There will be a winning team and no losers."

"You who choose to lead must follow."

"I'd like to teach a course of study of reality that I made up."

\* \*

You cannot serve two masters but, perforce, you must live in two worlds, learning to integrate your spiritual ideals and sentiments into your work in the material world.

There is a gulf between the material and the spiritual, but spirit-dominated and materially-capable mind can bridge this gulf. Through the worshipful responses of mind, one is then able to construct a mode of behavior which is put into effect by the actions of mind, uplifting the material world into the likeness of spirit.

After worship, we plan, and then we build the earth.



### The Judgment of Evil

"Resist not evil treatment of one's personality, evil injury to one's feelings of personal dignity".... 'by showing mercy, he meant to portray spiritual deliverance from all grudges, grievances, anger, and the lust for selfish power and revenge'. 1590B Jesus was referring to the elimination of petty retaliation as a technique of defending one's price. But here I will treat a broader meaning of evil, and how to overcome it.

Lend not power to the disunifying influence of fragmentary consciousness by fearing it or by broadcasting the aspects of evil. Yet you cannot pretend evil does not exist. Evil must be overcome with good. Good individuals make a good society. And this society can then deal more capably with the evil, which will be greatly diminished once a substantial part of the population has pledged itself to the faith-bond with God.

Individuals cannot expunge evil from others by mere will. Individuals cannot judge others. But government is for the express purpose of the (temporal) judgment of evil, doing what no individual can presume to do--legislate against crimes, prosecute lawbreakers, limit the actions of individuals, and even wage war.

But there are exceptional individuals, racial leaders and prophets and (as Jesus) Sons of God incarnate, who can make pronouncements that are tantamount to temporal judgment. (Only the Ancients of Days can make eternal judgments upon personality survival, being themselves the personalizations of the will of the Trinity in these matters.)

Jesus did not pick out the evil from the teachings of Rome's mystics, but embraced their highest impulses and beliefs. Neither did he pick out the evil of the Phariseic teachings, only emphasizing his own way. But at the end of his four year ministry he did expose the sin of the Pharisees, for their error was no longer mitigated by ignorance, having rejected his mission these four years. He exposed the darkness of their thoughts, calling them "whited sepulchres", and declared a divorce between established Judaism and his gospel of the kingdom.

Likewise must the torchbearers of spirit today, when enlightened by experiential wisdom, educated in worldly affairs, and after conferring with associates--make judgments upon devolving thoughts (thoughts passing from evil into sin), and declare a divorce ~~xx~~ from those forces which are not evolving toward. But in this we must be most careful, for if we stumble, posterity will suffer.

But the judgment of evil is only a secondary concern of ours; the living gospel is primary.

\* \*

### The Garble Factor

We and our environment too often conspire to garble God's message to our age. How can such simple spiritual truths as the living faith-bond with God, and honest and earnest work in the world, sometimes become so confused and seemingly difficult? Already we have the environment that is apparently against our plans. But our plans are sure to be stymied if we allow the garble factor to obscure the message of God in our minds as well, and so denigrate spiritual values until they are gross and unwhole. But values are really always whole and never reduced by the influence of evil. Only our own understanding of values can be impaired. Two elements prevent this from happening: 1) discriminating, rational intellect, and 2) the continuing connection with the living vine.

A mind that can love God and simultaneously correlate and influence its environment, is a mind that is capable of self-mastery.

\* \*

Formulate your question with such research and wholeness of inquiry that the answer is imminent. Open the floodgates that were locked, and the spirit will descend. When the spirit descends into material mind, that mind is capable of infusing its environment so that the earth will ascend in response to spirit-action.

(Thank you God...)

OUT OF MY MIND — editorial forum

Ask God at night in faith, and you will wake up happy, and throughout that day you will answer your own question. Answering questions is a continuous affair, requiring the passage of time, and work.

"True religion is an insight into reality".

Because of the presence of the spirit of God in our minds, it is no more impossible for us to know God's mind than that we can know the minds of anyone else we meet.

Who is Mo Ti? Who is this man who attempted to uplift the yellow race by cutting off the wrosHIP of ancestors while preserving their vision and values? If Mo Ti were alive today, would he drink Mo's tea? Would he worship Thomas Jefferson, or cherish the truth spoken by that man? Will we ever know? Where's the red zinger?

The Neighborhood Arts Project, it appears, is waiting for the tortoise to reach land so that it can provide that sluggish beast with a good vehicle.

There is a thought evolving among us. Last Sunday it was expressed as the desire for us to form an "artistic, educational, non-profit business organization" which can be authorized to pay salaries. Perhaps this organ could also produce visible life-support in the form of a garden, a small factory, a publishing house.

In any case, the purpose of all institutions is to bring God close r to man and man closer to God. For that, we thank Jesus.

History of period 2000 BC to 800 BC

The only people in the region around Salem who preserved the gospel relatively intact for more than five centuries were the Kenites. The Bedouin Semites in the Arabian peninsula evolved a monotheism that was yet highly evolutionary--Yahweh of Horeb's angry bosom. The main carriers of the Gospel after Melchizedek were believers in Ur and the other formerly Sumerian cities. When Amenemope appeared, Egypt carried the torch, followed by the advanced pharaoh Ikhnaton, but the gospel was suppressed after this and the flame<sup>was</sup> carried by the Semites that fled under Moses.

Amenemope (author of part of the Book of Proverbs, oldest book in the Bible) and Moses (not the author of the "Books of Moses") were the principle forefathers of the Judeo-Christian religio-moral system (later evolved by Philo, Paul, Constantine, Luther) which formsthe backbone of Western civilization.

After Moses Israel became politically fragmented (the times of the "judges") and religiously decaying. The torch again held out strongest in Mesopotamia where believers-artists inscribed magnificent psalms on rocks later (a milleniumalmost) to be found by captive Jews. Elihu of Ur provided the culmination of the evolving Book of Job.

With the unswerving Samuel the message went back to Palestine. Samuel was an evil-king-chopper-upper, followed by fearless Elijah the Baal-prophet-destroyer, the archetypal righteous prophet, and a fuser. He also apposed the new breed of x land-sellers and their associated idolatrous religion. His pupil Elisha carried on. The Bible attributes more "miracles" to Elisha than anyone else in the OT, but that might be so much Borateem. We do know his friend Jehu slaughtered the royal houses of Israel & Judah. With Amos beggn a line of more advanced teachers

## OUT OF MY MIND — editorial forum

WHO OR WHAT IS THE ONE GOD?

--Philip Eversoul--

Jesusionian Urantians need, I think, a better God-concept than warmed-over monotheism. Even though the monotheism that I hear in Urantian circles is indeed righteous and positive, even though it represents an advance over the negative monotheism of the old religions of fear, and even though this new positive monotheism of God-is-our-loving-Father is perhaps what much of the public needs to hear, I think Jesusionian Urantians owe it to themselves to realize a truly superior and sophisticated God-concept which is inherent in the teachings of the Fifth Revelation. The Urantia Book does not teach monotheism as much as it teaches Trinitarianism, a more advanced concept. The book itself can only reflect the living realities of that spiritual revelation brings, but it reflects them well enough to make a God-concept beyond even the best of Christian, Judaic, or Islamic monotheism. The idea of the Father as the One God is only monotheism.

The One Deity is really the Trinity, existential Deity Unity, static and indivisible. The Trinity itself, as we know, is not a person, but it does not contravene personality. Rather, it makes possible the manifestation of personality in the three phases that we know as masculine, feminine, and neutral. These are, of course, the Father, the Mother-Son, and the Conjoint Actor, respectively. Because the Trinity itself is not a person, the One Deity is not a person. It may be all right to tell the public that the One God (of Deity) is our Father on the grounds that this is, for the public, a higher God-concept than it presently has, or is as high a God-concept as most people can comprehend. However, even in the case of the public, I am not sure that this approach will work. Certainly it is going to work less and less frequently as the feminine half of the population continues to insist on and get equality of status as persons with the masculine half. The truth in what the women's liberation movement has to offer will not accept, and rightly so, the idea that the One God is our Father. Such a monotheism is going to be more and more obsolete. We Urantia students know that there are three co-equal Gods, three co-equal personalizations of Deity.

We are going to need to teach sophisticated Trinitarianism if we expect to function as the spiritual leaders of mankind. The Urantia Book clearly teaches that there simply is no Father without the Mother-Son. They are co-equally necessary to define each other. We are also clearly taught that the Third Personality consists of equal halves of the first two personalities. He is their balanced union and he beholds them as equals because of his perspective on the situation. The three of them do not exist without each other, and they are all co-equal. This is the God-concept that we need if we want to reinforce the evolution of a new relationship of social equality between men and women. The emerging New Marriage is a union of equals; it is neither a father-dominated nor mother-dominated arrangement. For perhaps the first time since the days of the Adamites, mankind is seeking for fairness in the distribution of marriage power. It behooves us to encourage this with the teaching of the threefold personal equality of God. The concept of the Father, by himself, as the One God will not be accepted by progressing mankind. Patriarchal and matriarchal religion and unbalanced family structures that they generate are becoming a thing of the past.



## THE PRIME FATHER

--Stephen Finlan--

"The Universal Father is the God of all creation, the First Source and Center of all things and beings".

The concept of the Paradise Trinity is philosophically essential, but in our internal spiritual experience (while still on earth) it has little meaning. The major spiritual ministries to our minds are the indwelling spirit of the Universal Father, the Spirit of Truth of Jesus Christ Michael, and the Holy Spirit and the mind adjutants of the Nebadon Mother. The only meanings of the Paradise Trinity for us here on Urantia are in understanding of universal pattern, points of origin, and anticipation of destiny. Someday we will be able to really discern and experience the differences between the Three Persons, but hardly in the mortal life. Someday we will relate to creatures of diverse origin in the persons of the Paradise Trinity. But in our daily lives, the only person of the Trinity which has a major part in our spiritual experience is the Paradise Father.

Jesus chose the Hebrews because of their exalted God-concept, but they had virtually no Trinity idea; India had a better one, yet Jesus did not choose to be born an Indian.

In worship, we are told to think of the Father. I worship God the Father, but only contemplate and appreciate the Son and Spirit. Furthermore, unless otherwise noted, when the authors of the Urantia Book say "God", they mean the Universal Father, not the Paradise Trinity. The Universal Father is primal to the Paradise Trinity and to all other things and beings; he "precedes" the Son and the Spirit.

I am content to preach the gospel of sonship to God (the Father), for this touches the worship chord of man. To teach a gospel of progeny-hood to the Trinity is only useful in philosophy, not in worship, nor does it simplify our language-vehicle of communicating the gospel. If the writers of the book had revealed God as the Universal Parent, which they certainly could have, they still would have encountered the semantic problem over whether to use the pronoun "him", "him-her", or (gasp) "it". They chose "him". We have no non-sexual personal pronoun.

It is undoubted that this has familial implications. But even in co-equals there are primals: the Father is primal to the Son and Spirit. Christ Michael is the sovereign of Nebadon, the Mother Spirit his consort-equal, but nowhere is she called Universe Sovereign, except in association with Michael. And here on earth, even the achievement of real equality of the sexes will not eliminate the need for a representative sovereign of each family. While it may not be correct to say the male is primal to the female, it is true the male is described as a Father-like creature and the female as Son-like (711 B). Equality of sexual status (as yet unfulfilled) will not change the initiating (Father-like) aspect of the male. Also, the bestowal Sons always incarnate as males.

"When all is said and done, the Father idea is still the highest human concept of God".

BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BROSNAN TORTOISE, AUGUST 22, 1976

The birthday weekend has passed, now recorded history.

The angels of real estate have triumphed! Annual insurance on the basement has been reduced to forty- dollars. The rent is still 50 a month, bringing annual cost of basement to \$64. There are ten payers of rent at present: PE, CT, CL, SF, LG, SZ, BL, PR, MR, SB; bringing each person's payment per projected year to \$64. Toilet paper, electricity, food for snacks, maybe even furniture, add to this cost. Part of cost is always accrued by the bringer, but the tortoise should contribute.

The same with our newspaper; the editor should pay for some of it (being at present the main contributor), especially if I mail it to people outside San Francisco, but the tortoise should contribute at least half to the cost of printing and mailing ~~fax~~ to rentpayers. //  
//  
out  
a pg

This newspaper is meant to be (come) an external magazine representing liaison between revelatory and evolutionary sources. Liaison between persons is properly conducted in person. But perhaps at present we should discuss who we will send it to. Only this page is strictly internal. There are a few quotes from the book. What about this?

7- The rentpayers agreed on the 22nd that a rent payment of /\$3 every other meeting/ (~~every~~ two weeks) was a good price. This leaves about \$100 for non-rent (incl ins) disbursements. We also have other sources of income.

There was discussion about holding purely religious meetings in the basement, time for private worship, group prayer, whatever might evolve, (or happen outside the realms of time). Tuesday night, Wednesday night, and Sunday morning were mentioned as possible times of convocation.

Next week the three-ring circus:

The Mighty Micah,

The Flying Isaiahs, and

Daniel in the Lion's Den!

And of course, Brosnan the Tort, dances the waltz!

Next week, we welcome the return of the Fultonites Bob L and Pat R.

here's a quote that was decided to be taken out of the original text of the tortoise speaks:

Ideas may take origin in the stimuli of the outer world, but ideals are born only in the creative realms of the inner world. Today the nations of the world are directed by men who have a superabundance of ideas, but they are poverty-stricken in ideals. That is the explanation of poverty, divorce, war, and racial hatreds.... Evil is a parity of creativity which tends toward disintegration and eventual destruction. All conflict is evil in that it inhibits the creative function of the inner life--it is a species of civil war in the personality.

Inner creativity contributes to ennoblement of character through personality integration and selfhood unification. The past is unchangeable; only the future can be changed by the ministry of the present creativity of the inner self.....The doing of the will of God is nothing more or less than an exhibition of creature willingness to share the inner life with God...Sharing is Godlike. UR 1220-1