

THE ARENA

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THE MIND ARENA OF CHOICE

"Mind is your ship, the Adjuster is your pilot, the human will is captain." (p.1217)

Be a Counter Terrorist!

(From a reader of The Urantia Book)

The terrorists want you to live in fear, to cower in the corners. But death has been your companion since the day you were born, do not fear death, fear only a life unlived.

The terrorists want to take the meaning from life and replace it with hate. Deny them the pleasure, have compassion for your neighbour. Make the time to help a worthy charity, keep hold of and expand the meaning in your life.

The terrorists practice random acts of hate toward strangers. Practice random acts of kindness. Can a minute of your time make someone's day better?

Just do it, don't worry about monetary reward, kindness is rewarded with the greatest wealth of a sort money cannot buy.

The terrorists want to cause a knee jerk reaction. Don't allow reaction to rob us of the freedom so many have died for. Security cannot be purchased by giving up freedom. It's better to die on your feet than live on your knees.

The terrorists want to divide us. Speak out against all acts of hate, those who would attack others only serve the terrorists ends. Evil individuals, organisations and possibly a state are responsible for these acts, ethnic groups are not.

The best revenge is to make this a positive turning point in the history of the world. Let it bring us together in compassion and kindness rather than divide us. Let us make an example to the world of the good human beings are capable of.

Only through good can evil be truly defeated.

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If one man craves freedom -liberty- he must remember that all other men long for the same freedom. Groups of such liberty-loving mortals cannot live together in peace without becoming subservient to such laws, rules, and regulations as will grant each person the same degree of freedom while at the same time safeguarding an equal degree of freedom for all of his fellow mortals. If one man is to be absolutely free, then another must become an absolute slave. And the relative nature of freedom is true socially, economically, and politically. Freedom is the gift of civilization made possible by the enforcement of LAW. (The Urantia Book, p. 1490:4)

A Tribute to 11 September 2001

A Day the Trigger was Pulled
Rick Warren, USA

A day the trigger was pulled on the gun that woke the world to the reality of the 21st century after Michael's visit. We as ones who have a universe perspective can take comfort, but only tiny comfort in knowing that even if all things Urantian crash, God is still on Paradise and no souls will be lost. My work will be to first help Urantia go through a period of mourning, then to try to moderate the voices of vengeance and retribution.

But much pain began this morn, and it will continue for years as a result. No longer will we have the luxury of relative peace. No longer will we go easily through airports and no longer can we be sure our phones, our computers and such, will be free of monitoring.

We as enlightened leader-readers will have to counsel wisdom for our brothers and sisters to restrain the war madness that can take over in times like this. Please be strong, wise, and loving, more so now than ever before, my family. We may find that this unifies us for a new and much needed service, but we must brace ourselves. God's will be with us.

Words of Comfort

Steve Shinall, USA

As you view the world, remember that the black patches of evil which you see are shown against a white background of ultimate good. You do not view merely white patches of good which show up miserably against a black background of evil. (The Urantia Book p.2076:3)

Today, it is against this white background of ultimate good with which I choose to see the world...to see you...to see myself and all my faults...and I am humbled by the vision.

Today, it is against this white background of ultimate good in which I find sustenance in the knowledge that even I, a lowly mortal of a backward finite world, am also an ascending child of God with a limitless universe career awaiting me...and I am filled with a hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Today, it is against this white background of ultimate good that I release all fear...and in exchange I 'inherit the earth' with...*an unshakable faith in a lawful and friendly universe.* (p.1574:4)

When there is so much good truth to publish and proclaim, why should men dwell so much upon the evil in the world

just because it appears to be a fact? The beauties of the spiritual values of truth are more pleasurable and uplifting than is the phenomenon of evil. (p.2076:4)

This gospel of the kingdom, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, has withstood a war in heaven...universe rebellion. And I have faith it will still stand when all else has fallen, be it buildings or nations.

This gospel of the kingdom has survived the betrayal of our Planetary Prince and the default of our Adamic Son and Daughter. And I believe it will remain a faithful beacon of hope and light to our children and our children's children ... on down through the dark corridors of time until that distant age of light and life...

"Happy are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Happy are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Happy are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God. Happy are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (p.1570:9, 10, 11, 12)

The religious challenge of this age is to those farseeing and forward-looking men and women of spiritual insight who will dare to construct a new and appealing philosophy of living out of the enlarged and exquisitely integrated modern concepts of cosmic truth, universe beauty, and divine goodness. (p.43:3)

THE ARENA

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And at the end of the day, when the heroes with a thousand faces remove the last of the wreckage and carnage of war and hate, this gospel of the kingdom will rise once again from the ruins. And the Fatherhood of God will lift Man's hearts, and the Brotherhood of Man will take flight once more... beyond the hate, beyond the evil, beyond the darkness... beyond the veil of time... through the heavens... a phoenix rising... against a white background of starlight... against a white background of love.

...Gabriel called his personal staff together on Edentia and, in counsel with the Most Highs, elected to assume command of the loyal hosts of Satania...and establishing himself on the sphere dedicated to the Father—the same Universal Father whose personality Lucifer and Satan had questioned—in the presence of the forgathered hosts of loyal personalities, he displayed the banner of Michael, the material emblem of the Trinity government of all creation, the three azure blue concentric circles on a white background. (p.605:8)

The Deeper Wound

Deepak Chopra

As fate would have it, I was leaving New York on a jet flight that took off 45 minutes before the unthinkable happened. By the time we landed in Detroit, chaos had broken out. When I grasped the fact that American security had broken down so tragically, I couldn't respond at first. My wife and son were also in the air on separate flights, one to Los Angeles, one to San Diego. My body went absolutely rigid with fear. All I could think about was their safety, and it took several hours before I found out that their flights had been diverted and both were safe.

Strangely, when the good news came, my body still felt that it had been hit by a truck. Of its own accord it seemed to feel a far greater trauma that reached out to the thousands who would not survive and the tens of thousands who would survive only to live through months and years of hell.

And I asked myself, why didn't I feel this way last week? Why didn't my body go stiff during the bombing of Iraq or Bosnia? Around the world my horror and worry are experienced every day. Mothers weep over horrendous loss, civilians are bombed mercilessly, refugees are ripped from any sense of home or homeland. Why did I not feel their anguish enough to call a halt to it?

As we hear the calls for tightened American security and a fierce military response to terrorism, it is obvious that none of us has any answers. However, we feel compelled to ask some questions. Everything has a cause, so we have to ask, what was the root cause of this evil? We must find out not superficially but at the deepest level. There is no

doubt that such evil is alive all around the world and is even celebrated.

Does this evil grow from the suffering and anguish felt by people we don't know and therefore ignore? Have they lived in this condition for a long time? One assumes that whoever did this attack feels implacable hatred for America. Why were we selected to be the focus of suffering around the world?

All this hatred and anguish seems to have religion at its basis. Isn't something terribly wrong when jihads and wars develop in the name of God? Isn't God invoked with hatred in Ireland, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Israel, Palestine, and even among the intolerant sects of America?

Can any military response make the slightest difference in the underlying cause? Is there not a deep wound at the heart of humanity? If there is a deep wound, doesn't it affect everyone?

When generations of suffering respond with bombs, suicidal attacks, and biological warfare, who first developed these weapons? Who sells them? Who gave birth to the satanic technologies now being turned against us? If all of us are wounded, will revenge work? Will punishment in any form toward anyone solve the wound or aggravate it? Will an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and limb for a limb, leave us all blind, toothless and crippled?

Tribal warfare has been going on for two thousand years and has now been magnified globally. Can tribal warfare be brought to an end? Is patriotism and nationalism even relevant anymore, or is this another form of tribalism? What are you and I as persons going to do about what is happening? Can we afford to let the deeper wound fester any longer? Everyone is calling this an attack on America, but is it not a rift in our collective soul? Isn't this an attack on civilisation from without that is also from within?

When we have secured our safety once more and cared for the wounded, after the period of shock and mourning is over, it will be time for soul searching. I only hope that these questions are confronted with the deepest spiritual intent. None of us will feel safe again behind the shield of military might and stockpiled arsenals. There can be no safety until the root cause is faced. In this moment of shock I don't think anyone of us has the answers. It is imperative that we pray and offer solace and help to each other. But if you and I are having a single thought of violence or hatred against anyone in the world at this moment, we are contributing to the wounding of the world.

Without God, without religion, scientific secularism can never co-ordinate its forces, harmonize its divergent and rivalrous interests, races, and nationalisms. This secularistic human society, notwithstanding its

unparalleled materialistic achievement, is slowly disintegrating. The chief cohesive force resisting this disintegration of antagonism is nationalism. And nationalism is the chief barrier to world peace. (p.2082:2)

Peace will not come to Urantia until every so-called sovereign nation surrenders its power to make war into the hands of a representative government of all mankind. Political sovereignty is innate with the peoples of the world. When all the peoples of Urantia create a world government, they have the right and the power to make such a government SOVEREIGN; and when such a representative or democratic world power controls the world's land, air, and naval forces, peace on earth and good will among men can prevail—but not until then. (p. 1489:3)

Another world war will teach the so-called sovereign nations to form some sort of federation, thus creating the machinery for preventing small wars, wars between the lesser nations. But global wars will go on until the government of mankind is created. (p.1490:7)

Justice and Mercy

(from urantiat list)

Ron Lawson, USA

I suspect that nearly all human beings have, at one time or another, concluded that the God concept is flawed. Each time I become aware of some seeming injustice acting itself out in the daily travails of one or more of our brothers and sisters, I know I have that twinge of “WHY?”

Then it passes and I get back in touch with the reality of our position in the grand scheme of things. Considering what I have come to understand about the potential of failure in the conduct of beings who are much higher in origin than we are, I have to believe that what we call free-will is not an exclusive property of ours.

Lucifer was a highly developed personality, yet he succumbed to the free-will temptation of narcissism. Caligastia, also much higher in origin than we mortals used his free-will to follow the false rantings of ol' Lucifer.

If I am not mistaken, even those blatant acts of defiance towards the Will of God have been treated with the resilience of infinite mercy.

Our playing field may not be level by intent. If the original plan had called for duplicate, (and I mean *True duplicate*) beings to inhabit this little blue jewel of a planet there would be none of the obvious diversification our history reveals. We would not have known the challenge of dealing with different sexes, different skin colours, different talents etc. etc. There would have been just one version of our mental and physical capacities, and it would have been repeated without variation until the billet for that kind of being had been filled.

So what I try to remind myself of when I get overwhelmed by the tragedy of day to day living in this tumultuous world, is that we are intended to be different. Not one of us is truly identical to any other one.

Perhaps, then, it was understood from the beginning that not all of the progeny of mankind would be able to ascend the Mt. Everest of eternity. Perhaps the ultimate formula for life to happen in this diversified format included the mathematics for some percentage of failure. Otherwise, why would infinite justice be necessary, or for that matter, eternal mercy?

I've come to accept this as the reality most comfortable from my perspective of life. There must have been some such a provision in the mind of God when all this creation began. There is perfection in some of what we do and if we can focus on that part of ourselves, if we can see that as a reality in the world around us, it becomes a lot easier to let loose of the pain we feel about those who labour with less opportunity.

So what I try to remind myself of when I get overwhelmed by the tragedy of day to day living in this tumultuous world, is that we are intended to be different. Not one of us is truly identical to any other one.

The "Know Nothing" Philosophy

From flutterby_99@hotmail.com

All too often humans take for granted that they "know" things. Adults are especially prone to making this mistake of taking for granted that they "know" things. They sometimes seem to adopt the attitude of "all ready done that, all ready seen that." And when people end up like this, we call it "being jaded."

If one studies Plato, one knows that when it comes to knowledge, that things are put into "categories." All one has to do is walk into a public library and notice that books are placed under their "categories." We have categories such as "Religion," "Philosophy," "Science" with its numerous branches, i.e. "Physics," "Biology," etc. And then there are the arts, "Music," "Literature," etc. It seems that the more educated one becomes, the more one is apt to become "jaded."

Let's say there was a man who considered himself to be wise. He decided to start his own library in his living room. And he made up his mind that he was going to read every single one of the books in his library, even if it took him the rest of his life.

And when he had his friends over he would show them his library and state that because he had read all of these books that therefore he was very wise. He had tried to take refuge in what he thought was wisdom, but it was only knowledge. Knowledge + Experience = Wisdom, but wisdom is not the mere summation of the two components, i.e. knowledge and experience. Knowledge has more to do with quantity, whereas experience has more to do with quality.

The reason why we cannot combine them together to make wisdom is because that they are two different realities, kind of like trying to mix vinegar and oil together; they just don't mix. Only the spirit can mix these two together and create a brand new reality in the mind of man, the miracle of philosophical unity, called wisdom.

This does not mean that a low value is to be put on the gaining of knowledge. People may say that knowledge is power, but I say that wisdom is true power. In the "know nothing" philosophy, one can always question one's perception down to a deeper level.

For example: If we ask what this is, the answer might be a table. What is the table made of? Wood might be the answer. What is wood? Answer: It used to be a living thing. The wood had formed the body of this plant called a tree? How did it do this? Answer: It took a ray of light, and through the process of photosynthesis, it took a carbon atom and combined it with the light to process an oxygen atom and a sugar molecule. Well how did it do that? Are

In the "know nothing" philosophy, one can always question one's perception down to a deeper level.

men capable of taking light and a carbon atom to produce an oxygen atom and a sugar molecule? Answer: No. What is the wood made out of? Answer: atoms that form molecules. What are atoms made of? Answer: Subatomic particles. What are subatomic particles? Answer: A form of energy. What is energy? Answer: We don't know.

The same could be said about space and gravity. What are they? We don't know. It is interesting that these three realities constitute a trinity to the physical universe: Energy, Space, and Gravity. So my reasoning is as follows: If we do not "know" what these three realities are, then how can anyone "know" that there is no God? Some one may ask "how can we 'know' that there is a God?"

Well, if we cannot know that there is no God, but we can know that there is a God, then I would think that knowing there is a God is more reassuring than not knowing nothing. And since God is a person he has his own way of letting you know that he is there.

Adopt-A-Translation

There was a recent discussion on the Forum Internet discussion list for readers of The Urantia Book on the translation project. Readers have developed an "Adopt-A-Translation" program to help the project along. We thought that parts of this discussion were worth sharing.

Rick Warren from the USA wrote:

Greetings Siblings,

For over a year, this project has been taking shape. To me, our most important work is to spread the +ACI-virus of love+ACI- and our second most important job is creating translations of *The Urantia Book*, therefore:

We need to finish establishing the revelation in the spiritual soil of Urantia. The goal of publishing 64 quality translations by the year 2050 has been set by Urantia Foundation. The sooner we can sprout the translations and plant them in their native ground, the better it will be for all Urantians. If you feel the urge to insure that this goal will be met, please join us in the Adopt-A-Translation project.

Adopt-A-Translation is an international initiative which aims to find and coordinate readers who will pledge to fund translations. The Chinese translation has been selected as the first target of this effort. China is now going through an upheaval that will, hopefully, end with the right to religious freedom for all her people. If we have the Chinese translation ready when this opening occurs, it will be a priceless blessing to over one sixth of Urantia's population. Even now the need is evident. In a communication with Cathy Jones, a full time server in the endeavour to disseminate the book, she said:

"+ACI-....You certainly can't go wrong with the Chinese—you're looking at a potential readership of millions of souls. According to Mark Bloomfield, Foundation Representative, the universities are accepting

the book in droves. Seems like the students are learning English in great numbers. To have a Chinese translation, just think of how many, many more could read it in their native language. Good luck+ACI—About \$300,000 dollars is needed to translate each of the 64 languages. At least, this is a projection of the cost of producing the quality translations of the past. This money is needed to pay professional translators and publication costs. There are no funds to cover these expenses, they must be found within the ranks of the believing readers of our extraordinary book.”

How we go about raising these funds is in our creative hands. Any plan you believe the Master would stand behind is acceptable. Here are a few ideas to start the creative process that will help bring about the attainment of the goal of global dissemination.

1. To raise such large amounts of money, several Reader Groups might join together and establish a contribution goal. But never underestimate the value of the individual contributor.

ALL donations move us closer to the translation goal.

2. If ten people each deposit twenty-five cents per day in a jar, in a little over one year, a thousand dollars will accrue.

3. The amount contributed is tax deductible depending, of course, on your nation of residency, the amount of your annual income and the quantity of your other charitable donations. In the U.S., one hundred percent of donations to 501C3 organisations can be deducted if one itemises. The Translation funds are under the Foundation’s non-profit organisation umbrella with the 501C3 status. Instead of your money going to taxes it could be working to bring about *Urantia Book* translations.

4. My personal pledge is to contribute at least \$1,000 dollars and to seek others who will donate to this most important project. I am not wealthy, therefore I am donating in \$100 dollar increments as my bank account permits, until the pledge is met.

The job of finding the translators, accomplishing the work and distributing the book has already begun. When we achieve the goal, it will be because you and your group decided to help. The people who are willing to provide this service to their fellow Urantians are needed NOW. After your resurrection you may actually meet those who were the recipients of your generosity back on Urantia and there, receive their gratitude.

This project is not sponsored or run by the IUA, the Fellowship, or any other organisation. However the participation of these groups is not precluded, and in fact it is welcomed. Adopt-A-Translation is a unifying project that anyone can join. It is a chance to offer a drink of spirit water to every truth-thirsty soul who longs for it anywhere on Urantia.

Begin to organise your contributive effort today whether it is just you or with a group you belong to. Please send the contributions to the Urantia Foundation, 533

Diversey Parkway, Chicago IL. 60614. [for Australian and New Zealanders send to Urantia Foundation's branch office, 7 Walsh Street, North Narrabeen NSW 2101, Australia] Be sure to mark them for the Chinese Translation Fund. You may contribute or pledge on-line too. Go to <http://www.urantia.org/> and click on the word +ACI-Contributions+ACI—Fill in the blanks provided and your donation will be acknowledged by the Foundation.

These contributions will not be used for any other purpose. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Seppo Kanerva from Finland (who is the Translation Manager for Urantia Foundation and is a professional translator and linguist) replied:

Hi Forumites,

I have been reading with keen interest the exchange on translations in general, and the Chinese in particular. First and foremost, I sincerely and most earnestly appeal to each and everyone to consider adopting the Chinese translation or any of the ongoing translations as a pet project, be it personally or organisationally, with an IUA association adopting one of these projects.

I actually feel that Rick Warren has eloquently expressed everything I need to say on this subject. The number of languages that the Foundation has set as a target for 2035, is not 64 languages but rather something like 30. Yet 64 would not be one too many.

The peoples of the world speak more than 6,800 languages. The number cannot be exact because in many cases it is impossible or arbitrary to determine whether two or more related parlances constitute distinct languages or just dialects of one and the same language. Anyway, should 64 *Urantia Book* translations be made available, as was suggested, they would cover less than one per cent of the world languages.

This however is just one side of the coin. The number of speakers of most of the 6,800 languages is very circumscribed. It may be interesting for the Forumites to learn about which are the languages spoken by several millions of people. English is not the language that could boast with the highest number of speakers. There are about 346 million native English-speakers, and about 150 million who have taken the trouble of learning this, to them alien, language. The total number of English-speakers in the world represents about 5.6 % of the world population. Another fact, however, is that English has become the language of international importance. Native English speakers should however remember that for most of us non-native speakers, English is a very difficult language to learn and master.

These are the most commonly spoken languages in the world (The asterisk marks languages into which a translation exists, is under way, or is about to begin. The numbers are in the millions):

Mandarin Chinese* 853, Hindi 348, Spanish* 346,

English* 330, Bengali 197, Arabic* 195, Portuguese* 173, Russian* 168, Japanese* 125, Urdu 104, German* 98, Punjabi 95, Korean* 76, Telugu 75, French* 74, Tamil 73, Marathi 71, Cantonese 70, Vietnamese 67, Wu 65, Javanese, 64, Italian* 62, Turkish 61, Tagalog 56, Malay-Indonesian* 54, Thai 52, Min 50, Swahili 49, Ukrainian 48, Kanada 45, Polish* 44, Gujarati 41, Hausa 39, Malayalam 36, Farsi* 35, Hakka 34, Oriya 32, Burmese 31, Rumanian* 26, Sudanese 26, Assamese 22, Dutch/Flemish* 21, Pashtu 21, Amharic 20, Serbo-Croat* 20, Yorba 20, Sindhi 18, Igbo 17, Swedish* 9, Bulgarian* 8, Greek* 7, Finnish* 6, Danish* 4, Norwegian* 4, Lithuanian* 2, Estonian* 1.5

These figures reveal that there are some 50 languages whose native speakers number more than 20 million or thereabouts.

Some of the listed languages are spoken only in certain regions of the world, a few have international importance or are spoken in many regions. The languages of global importance are perhaps English, Spanish, and French. Languages that are regionally important and spoken by many nations include Mandarin Chinese, Russian, Arabic, German, Portuguese, Hindi, Swahili, and to a certain extent Indonesian.

Mandarin Chinese is not spoken all over China, but all languages that make use of the Mandarin Chinese characters and ideograms are mutually comprehensible, yet only *in writing*.

The time when there would be one global language, and most peoples of the world would be bilingual, using the global language in their international communications, and their native language in domestic conditions, is far, far in the future. The situation will undoubtedly be much better in 500 years from now, but my guess is that this dispensation will end with the world continuing to be linguistically divided. That is why I see it imperative that the revelation be translated into as many languages as we possibly can. This is what I see as the reality, even if I feel that it is undeniable that English will ultimately be the global language of the world.

To read a text which is in part as difficult and ambiguous – as *The Urantia Book* is – requires that the reader is a native speaker or that he has acquired a sufficient knowledge of the English tongue. And his English needs to be almost on a par with that of a native speaker, preferably more.

I have attended the Chicago study group dozens of times. At each session at least some time, often much time, was spent in debating what a certain word or expression actually means. If this is the situation in a native speakers' study group, where everyone has the *privilege* of reading the revelation in his own language, it gives you some understanding of how insurmountable the difficulties are that a non-native speaker of English has to face when he tries to tackle with the same words and expressions.

Kathleen Swadling from Australia replied:

Hi Friends,

Thank you Rick for that inspiring post. Also thanks to Seppo for all that interesting information on languages. It makes me, as an English-speaking person feel very humble and blessed to be able to read the book in my own language. Rick, I like your idea about looking at how small amounts of money put aside each day or each week can build up to significant amounts. We have a fairly large jar that stands on our piano next to our housekeeping money box. Whenever we get excess change, we drop it in the money jar. When it's full we take it to the bank and deposit it into our account. Last time we deposited it it was worth over \$200! Took about a year to fill up. We've now decided that our spare change that goes into the money jar will now go towards the Chinese translation.

Great things can happen when collectively we make commitments and pledges and pool our resources. We come from such wealthy nations really, even though we always seem to feel as though we're strapped for cash. Of course it's all relative to our choices on how we decide to prioritise our spending. I'm sure if we really put our heads and hearts together on this one we could raise enough for the Chinese translation in no time at all. Thanks Rick for getting an organised approach to it.

Let's not forget these statements from *The Urantia Book*: *While the eastern branch of the early Christian church, having its headquarters at Philadelphia, held more faithfully to the teachings of Jesus than did the Jerusalem brethren, it was regrettable that there was no one like Peter to go into China, or like Paul to enter India, where the spiritual soil was then so favorable for planting the seed of the new gospel of the kingdom. These very teachings of Jesus, as they were held by the Philadelphians, would have made just such an immediate and effective appeal to the minds of the spiritually hungry Asiatic peoples as did the preaching of Peter and Paul in the West.* (p.1430:1)

Today, in India, the great need is for the portrayal of the Jesusonian gospel—Fatherhood of God and the sonship and consequent brotherhood of all men, which is personally realized in loving ministry and social service. In India the philosophical framework is existent, the cult structure is present; all that is needed is the vitalizing spark of the dynamic love portrayed in the original gospel of the Son of Man, divested of the Occidental dogmas and doctrines which have tended to make Michael's life bestowal a white man's religion. (p. 1032.2)

All Urantia is waiting for the proclamation of the ennobling message of Michael, unencumbered by the accumulated doctrines and dogmas of nineteen centuries of contact with the religions of evolutionary origin. The hour is striking for presenting to Buddhism, to Christianity, to Hinduism, even to the peoples of all faiths, not the gospel about Jesus, but the living, spiritual reality of the gospel of Jesus. (p.1041:5)

News From Around the World

Jury Verdict in Copyright Case

On June 20, 2001, an Oklahoma jury returned a verdict against Urantia Foundation in the case of Michael Foundation v. Urantia Foundation concerning Harry McMullan III's publication of *Jesus: A New Revelation* (JANR). Urantia Foundation intends to appeal the verdict to the United States Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. A final decision is expected in the next 12 to 18 months.

Complex issues of copyright law were presented to the jury along with lengthy and complicated instructions. During the six-day trial, the jury was not permitted to take notes. At the end of the trial, the judge instructed the jury that a work may qualify for copyright protection under more than one legal theory.

Jury members were instructed that they should find Urantia Foundation's renewal copyright valid only if they found that *The Urantia Book* fit the criteria set forth in the instructions for a "voluntary commissioned work" (a category of "works for hire") or a "composite work." Urantia Foundation contended that *The Urantia Book* met the criteria for both types of works.

After eight hours of deliberation, the jury returned their verdict that *The Urantia Book* does not qualify as either a voluntary commissioned work or a composite work. Notwithstanding this verdict, the Foundation feels it has strong grounds for appeal.

An amendment was made to the initial judgement that reflected that it applies only to the Renewal Copyright in the United States. Urantia Foundation sought this clarification because it has valid copyrights in various translations of the text and valid international copyrights in the English book.

Harry McMullan asked the Court to compel Urantia Foundation to pay their attorneys' fees. However,

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fortunately for Urantia Foundation, the Court denied this motion.

This is the second time Urantia Foundation has lost a case such as this in a District United States Court—recall Urantia Foundation v. Kristen Maaherra in the 1990s. Once the case was heard before an Appellate Court, which was presided over by three judges who had extensive knowledge in copyright law, the decision was overturned and the copyright was declared valid. Urantia Foundation is confident that this will happen again.

IUA Conference 2002 Paris,

3 – 7 August, 2002

The next international conference of IUA will be held in Paris, France 3 – 7 August, 2002. The setting will be in the comfortable Holiday Center, "Le Normont" which is situated amid a green landscape located in close proximity to Dourdan, a charming small medieval village 30 miles (55 km) south of Paris. This will be the second IUA conference to be held outside of the United States.

The theme will be: **Living the Ascension Plan in Terrestrial Human Experience.** Each of the three full days will, in turn, be dedicated to the study of one plan—the Plan of the **Father**, the Plan of the **Son**, and the Plan of the **Spirit**.

Information relating to the IUA Conference 2002 can be found on line at www.iua2002.com or by contacting the Association Francophone des Lecteurs du *Livre d'Urantia* (AFLLU):

48, rue Douy Delcupe - 93110 Montreuil sous Bois – FRANCE. Tel: +33 (1) 5693 3510 - Fax: +33 (1) 5693 3511, E mail: info@iua2002.com or aflu@urantia.fr

Signs of Cynicism

Sydney Morning Herald 26 May, 2001

Heaven knows: is our future writ large in the alignment of the planets or is it just a load of old tosh?

If you find yourself staring to believe the positions of the planets really do have a direct influence on who you are and how your life is working out, try a visit to "Activities About Astrology." It is a page of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific site attributed to Andrew Fraknoi who is not a believer.

It's a lengthy document consisting of an ironic series of Q&As followed by a list of research experiments into the efficacy of astrological profiles and predictions. Here are some highlights:

Question: If the astrological influence is carried by a known force, why do the planets dominate?

Answer: If the effects of astrology can be attributed to gravity, tidal forces, or magnetism (each is invoked by a different astrological school), even a beginning physics student can make the calculations necessary to see what really effects a new born baby. For example, the obstetrician who delivers the child turns out to have about six times the gravitational pull of Mars and about 2,000 billion times its tidal force.

* Geoffrey Dean, an Australian researcher who has conducted extensive tests of astrology, reversed the astrological readings of 22 subjects, substituting phrases that were the opposite of what the horoscopes actually stated. Yet the subjects in his study said the readings applied to them just as often (95 percent of the time) as people to whom the correct phrases were given. Apparently, those who seek astrologers just want guidance, any guidance.

* Psychologist Bernard Silverman of Michigan State University looked at the birth dates of 2,978 couples who were getting married and 478 who were getting divorced in the State of Michigan. Most astrologers claim they can at least predict which astrological signs will be compatible or incompatible when it comes to personal relationships. Silverman compared such predictions with the actual records and found no correlations. For example "incompatibly signed" men and women got married as frequently as "compatibly signed" ones.

* Many astrologers insist a person's sun sign is strongly correlated with his or her choice of profession. Indeed, job counselling is an important function of modern astrology. Physicist John McGervey at Case Western Reserve University looked at the biographies and birth dates of about 6,000 politicians and 17,000 scientists to see if members of these professions would cluster among certain signs, as astrologers predict. He found the signs of both groups to be distributed completely at random.

Activities About Astrology: www.aspsky.org/astro/act3/astr_dfns.html

*The courses of the stars in the heavens
have nothing whatever to do with the
events of human life on earth. Astronomy is
a proper pursuit of science, but astrology
is a mass of superstitious error which has
no place in the gospel of the kingdom. (The
Urantia Book, p.1680:5)*

Islamic Sayings

George Zuberbuehler

Here is a selection of some of the Islamic sayings that may help to cast this religion in a more benevolent and hope-filled light. I felt they contained much in common with the higher truth and love contained in *The Urantia Book*, and could one day serve somehow as a bridge to our revelation.

Take firm hold, all of you,
On the rope of God.
Do not break up into divisions.
Be mindful of the grace of God to you,
How you were formerly enemies,
And He united your hearts
In mutual bonds, so that by His grace,
You became brothers. Qur'an 3:103, ISLAM

The lamps are different,
But the light is the same:
It comes from beyond. Rumi, ISLAM

The creation
Is as God's family;
For its sustenance is from Him:
Therefore the most beloved unto God
Is the person who does good
To God's family. Hadith, ISLAM

Do you love your Creator?
Love your fellow beings first. Hadith, ISLAM

The Eternal Wisdom
Made all things in love.
On love they all depend,
To love all turn.
The Earth, the heavens,
The sun, the moon, the stars,
The center of their orbit find
In love. Attar, ISLAM

Blessed is the man
Who has drunk of the cup of His love
And tasted the joy of communion
With God Most Glorious
And has approached Him
With delight in his love for Him. Abu Sa'id, ISLAM

Do not say that,
If people do good to us,
We will do good to them;
And if people oppress us,
We will oppress them;
But determine that,
If people do you good,

Contacts in Australia and New Zealand

You will do good to them;
And if they oppress you,
You will not oppress them. Hadith, ISLAM

Thus said the Lord,
“Verily those who are patient
In adversity and Forgive wrongs,
Are doers of excellence.” Hadith, ISLAM

There is no man
Who is wounded and pardons
The giver of the wound
But God will exalt his dignity
And diminish his faults. Hadith, ISLAM

Charity is a duty
Unto every Muslim.
He who has not
The means thereto,
Let him do a good act or
Abstain from an evil one.
That is his charity. Hadith, ISLAM

There is always the great danger that religion will become distorted and perverted into the pursuit of false goals, as when in times of war each contending nation prostitutes its religion into military propaganda. Loveless zeal is always harmful to religion, while persecution diverts the activities of religion into the achievement of some sociologic or theologic drive.

Religion can be kept free from unholy secular alliances only by:

1. A critically corrective philosophy.
2. Freedom from all social, economic, and political alliances.
3. Creative, comforting, and love-expanding fellowships.
4. Progressive enhancement of spiritual insight and the appreciation of cosmic values.
5. Prevention of fanaticism by the compensations of the scientific mental attitude.

Religionists, as a group, must never concern themselves with anything but religion, albeit any one such religionist, as an individual citizen, may become the outstanding leader of some social, economic, or political reconstruction movement.

It is the business of religion to create, sustain, and inspire such a cosmic loyalty in the individual citizen as will direct him to the achievement of success in the advancement of all these difficult but desirable social services. (The Urantia Book P. 1088-9)

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