

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)

No-Hassle Zone

Rex Merrett

*Presented at the ANZURA Conference in Sydney,
October, 2001*

Imagine a circle. Inside the circle is the "no-hassle zone." If you think and do the same as every one else here, you will be confused, but no one will hassle you.

If you move out of this zone and start to think and act differently, the people inside the zone, mainly your friends and relations will say, "Why are you acting and thinking differently? Come back here with us. I told you reading that book would make you a little strange."

Let's take this zone back 2000 years to Palestine. Where was Jesus? He started off in this no-hassle zone as a small child, but the older and more conscious he became the further he moved away from the zone to a point where his family and friends thought he had taken leave of his senses. To the Pharisees and Sadducees he became a threat. They controlled the no-hassle zone and did not like the changes that Jesus proclaimed.

Where was Jesus just before he was crucified? Standing on the threshold of the era of light and life perhaps?

The agenda of the no-hassle zone was the 3 MMMs—money and manipulation of the mass's. The agenda of the era of light and life is: the love of God and mankind, by living the will of God.

Now let's come forward to the present. I suggest the agenda of the no-hassle zone hasn't changed very much. Lets call the no-hassle zone our planet and imagine rings around it. These rings symbolise evolution because we are told no matter how long it takes, people on our planet will eventually enter the era of light and life.

Where it takes a long time for mass consciousness to

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evolve, as individuals we are less restricted. Leaving the no-hassle zone is like leaving the planet. A lot of dynamic energy is needed to break free from the gravitational pull of our planet, but once you break free it gets easier and easier. The further you go the more you get to experience that cosmic poise. You become a lot less confused particularly when looking at your life and the events happening around you, because instead of using the small frame of reference—the one with 3 MMMs—you start to use the big one, the one with the love of God and your fellow man.

Sitting here now it is impossible to estimate how far we could go in this lifetime and how wonderful the experience would be. It seems we have everything to gain and nothing to lose. With a scenario like that who could refuse.

News

IUA Conference 2002 Paris

3—7 August 2002

See enclosed for detailed information and registration details for the next international conference for IUA in Paris. This will be a great opportunity to meet a diversity of *Urantia Book* readers from all over the globe from many different cultures and to experience spiritual unity amongst cultural diversity—experience a little glimpse of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God. Why not incorporate this event with a European holiday?

ANZURA Votes to “Adopt-A-Translation”

At the ANZURA AGM in October members voted to “adopt-a-translation” and decided to raise money in support of the Chinese translation. A small fundraising committee has been formed to coordinate and administrate the details of this undertaking.

Once *The Urantia Book* is available in Chinese it will provide nearly one third of the world’s population with an opportunity to read this amazing book. Let’s insure we don’t fail our Asian brothers and sisters this time around like we did with the last epochal revelation:

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. (The Urantia Book p.1430:1)

Get ready to receive requests to contribute to this very important project. If you don’t wish to wait until a request comes your way you may send your contribution right away to:

Urantia Foundation Australian Branch Office
7 Walsh Street
North Narrabeen, NSW 2101
Australia

(Make your cheques or money orders out to “Urantia Foundation” and be sure to stipulate that it is for the Chinese translation. Visa, Master Card, and Bank Cards may also be received.)

So They Say

Jeffrey Wattles, USA

Let me say briefly why I believe the Foundation is worth supporting. There are a thousand details these Trustee volunteers need to cope with. They sponsor translations. They print the book. Most of all, they protect the copyright. The last has been a furiously debated issue. My own belief is that the copyright is important and legitimate—comparable to the wall protecting Dalamatia, the moat protecting Eden, the military arrangements for the defence of Salem, and the diverse ways in which the early followers of Jesus were protected, including by the good shepherd’s life.

I have never had any taste for debating the issue, but I am convinced, with many others, that the Foundation is right on this matter. Given the present legal situation, and given that the Foundation is always in need of more money to pursue its various noble tasks, and in view of the wall of animosity that Trustees have met for more than fifteen years that I happen to know about, I believe it is timely on any occasion to extend support to them in various ways. To do so is not only the stated duty of IUA members but an opportunity for wise readers no matter what their organizational situation.

THE ARENA

PO Box 609, Narrabeen, NSW 2101, Australia

Email : anzura@urantia.org.au
Web : <http://www.urantia.org.au>
Phone : + 61 2 9970 6200
Fax : + 61 2 9970 6201

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Conference 2001 Summary

ANZURA held its annual conference from October 5-8 on the shores of the beautiful Narrabeen Lakes just minutes from North Narrabeen beach along Sydney's Northern Beaches. We had a good turn out and everyone departed enriched by the experience of a weekend choc-a-bloc full of valuable and stimulating exchange.

Rex Merrett began by setting the tone of the theme for the weekend by giving an opening address on "Organising the Soul for Dynamic Service." He gave the group an exercise to do as an ice-breaker whereby we divided into pairs and spent 15 minutes alternating between talking and listening as we expressed to one another some of our inner-most thoughts on our spiritual lives. He then gave a presentation highlighting how we as individuals, and working together, can assist in the grand scheme of things by living God's will more dynamically here on Urantia. He pointed out how the realisation of new truth is generally brought about by courageous individuals who are prepared to step outside of the "no hassle zone" of their lives—how we think and act differently when we dare to live our lives with a spiritual purpose as opposed to a purely material one.

This was followed by a presentation from Kathleen Swadling on "How Does the Individual Organise the Soul for Dynamic Service?" which focused on the personal and philosophical aspects of the individual's spiritual quest as it leads to making the conscious choice of preparing one's mind, body, and soul for a life dedicated to the service of God and mankind.

William Wentworth presented on "Service in Everyday Life" pointing out the challenges and difficulties we face in our everyday lives as we attempt to find a way of living our lives with the realisation that we are "essential participants in a mighty work" of Grand Universe building, while at the same time attempting to down-step our inspiring vision to the realistic, practical level of everyday life.

Saturday afternoon was spent in a group discussion on the morning presentations with a brainstorm session that drew out everyone's thoughts on the many varied aspects of what we need to do to prepare for dynamic service in our lives, and what hurdles and problems we encounter along the way. There was much discussion on the efficacy of prayer, worship, meditation, and inner communion with the Father. We then divided into break out groups to discuss these matters in a study group environment.

After dinner a series of skits and short plays gave us all some good laughs. The Melbourne contingent

surprised us all with an incredible enactment of the episode at the wedding at Cana where Jesus turned the water into wine. Daniel and Andrew Swadling made a great team as they cleverly portrayed the folly of being over enthusiastic in trying to "turn" people onto *The Urantia Book*. William Wentworth and Trevor Swadling had us in stitches as they played two Solitary Messengers on vacation in the outer-space levels of the Master Universe. Vern Verass and Nigel Nunn gave us all a good laugh as they played two seventh stage finalizers reminiscing on their days on Urantia, and Michael King and Robert Coenraads cracked us up as they played Mick Dundee and an enthusiastic religionist.

Sunday morning began with an inspirational worship service conducted by Rita Schaad utilising the symbol of pieces in a puzzle to illustrate the part we all play in building the whole as our individual lives contribute to the evolution of the Supreme Being. This was followed by a variety of short presentations by participants who had ideas to share about outreach projects. Following is short summary of these presentations:

Workshops

Robert Coenraads presented on the value of studying the world's main religions so that we, as *Urantia Book* readers may be better equipped to impart the teachings of *The Urantia Book* to people of various religions and cultures in such a way where we do not take anything away from their existing belief systems but rather relate to them on familiar ground and build upon what they already believe. He proposed developing a series of courses to run at the University of the Third Age where the teachings of *The Urantia Book* could be taught without the necessity of mentioning the book itself.

Thought Gems

Vern Verass presented on a project he would like to undertake to produce the "Thought Gem" calendars. It is a perpetual calendar with a quote from *The Urantia Book* for each day of the year. A Californian group of readers has already produced such a product which has proved to be very popular and of immense value. Vern would like us to produce one here so that readers may have them available to give away as gifts and to use as seeds for wetting people's appetites to the *Urantia Book* teachings. An initial fund would need to be made available to finance the first print run.

Urantology Website

Neil Francey presented an outline of a project he has been working on for the past several years. He is developing a website called "Urantology." It contains good quality articles and secondary works relating to the teachings of *The Urantia Book* that he has been collecting after researching hundreds of pieces of material developed

by *Urantia Book* scholars since the early days of the movement. This website will serve as a resource and archive for many valuable pieces of information that have been produced over the years, and will insure they do not fade into oblivion over time.

Expos

Rex Merrett presented on the idea of attending various body, mind, and spirit expos to display *The Urantia Book*. He pointed out that local communities were always providing small expos and we could keep a track of the timetables and book a small space for a display booth. The costs are minimal and it could be done very simply. (Since the conference Rex has already made a start on this project and organised a display booth at an expo on the Central Coast. Several readers helped him man the booth and a significant amount of interest in the book was generated. This indicated that it is a worthwhile project.)

Adopt a Bookshop

Kathleen Swadling put forward the idea of "Adopting a Bookshop." If readers who lived in close proximity to one another decided to "adopt" one of their local bookshops, they could agree to purchase a *Urantia Book* once a month, or once every two months, and alternate the purchasing among themselves. The book could then be used as a gift or loan book. Say if six people from a study group did this, each member would only need to buy one book a year, and while doing this a turn-over would be generated in the bookshop whereby the owner may decide to purchase more books to place on the shelves for browsing truth seekers to stumble upon. We know that bookshops will only stock a book if it sells, and we know that people don't have the opportunity to find the book out of serendipity if there are no books on the shelves, so by readers doing the ordering and buying they will be helping to prime the bookshop. For readers who are isolated, a suggestion would be to order a book now and again, and when it arrives ask the bookshop owner if they could leave it on the shelf for one month and if it isn't sold after a month they would buy it. One person is known to have done this on a regular basis and they never had to buy the book!

A hearty group discussion took place where many other ideas were proposed and discussed. Daniel Swadling, a second-generation reader, who has grown up with the teachings, closed this segment of the day by philosophically summarising the conference presentations. He highlighted how we need to intergrate the revelatory teachings into our lives so that they become an intrinsic part of our nature--so that our natural formula for living is to incorporate the will of God into every aspect of our lives. When this happens our actions will automatically bear the fruits of the spirit without too much

conscious choice.

The main aim when choosing this theme of "Organising the Soul for Dynamic Service" was to stimulate thought and discussion on the many avenues of service available for those who have made the decision to dedicate themselves to a life of service for the spiritual upliftment of mankind through the dissemination of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. While everyone has to follow their own unique calling and make up their own mind about which avenue to follow to suit their individual situation, it was felt that the discussions at this conference certainly succeeded in presenting much food for thought and inspiration on this important aspect of the individual's journey.

Monday morning was spent in summarising the weekend's events. Each participant spent a few minutes sharing his or her personal impressions of the weekend. Finally it came time to wind things up to say goodbye to new and old friends. The Queensland group has volunteered to host next year's conference which will most likely be held on the Sunshine Coast. Stay tuned for further details. (*Conference presentations will appear in this and the next issues of The Arena.*)

Urantia Conference 2001—Opening Address

Rex Merrett

Sydney, October, 2001

This conference will carry forward from last year's conference in Canberra, where we postulated that we were poised on the threshold of the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

The Urantia Book has now been in publication for 46 years and last year 39,071 books in seven different languages were distributed world wide, making an approximate total of 500,000 books circulating around our planet, and with distribution dramatically increasing each year. We feel the time has come to dynamically cross that threshold.

So our theme this weekend is "Organising the Soul for Dynamic Service." It's about how we as individuals, and working together, can assist in the grand scheme of things, by living God's will more dynamically here on Urantia.

Given our theme, this was always going to be a special conference, but with the events that have taken place since September the 11th, and the accelerated pace of change we may all have to face great challenges as future events unfold. I suggest that never has there been a more appropriate time to individually find a greater spiritual substance. Not only to help us keep our own equilibrium, but to help and support those around us.

The decision to organise the soul for dynamic service is very personal, for each of us is the master of our destiny. So we are not here to get you to sign a pledge. You will make that decision when you decide the time is right

What we are here for is for each of us to reach deep within and share with each other the many, many ways that we could go about organising our souls dynamically both on a personal level and in service to others. And also the many advantages that decision might make, both on a spiritual and material level.

When I looked up dynamic in the dictionary the explanations were: of motive force / force in actual operation / active / potent and energetic. To me that sounds like setting oneself up for a continuous turbo boost of God consciousness, by actively making the will of God our highest priority.

What we are doing here is starting to lay a stronger foundation, not only for ourselves but for all of Urantia, which includes our children and our childrens' children. There is a very straight forward quote on page 1630:4 of *The Urantia Book*: "*Do you not realize that the hope of a better nation—or a better world—is bound up in the progress and enlightenment of the individual?*" I think everybody here would understand that, and this conference will focus on some of the many down to earth ways to go about it.

Apart from each of us hopefully coming away from this conference with increased motivation and fresh new ideas to actively work towards, the main object is to enjoy your time here. As Jesus might say if he were here "be of good cheer" and we have this lovely venue with lots of socialising, workshops, and fun-things planned to do as we come together and work towards our theme.

I happened to mention at one of our pre-conference meetings that I felt very positive about our theme, but I hoped it wouldn't scare people away. I could imagine someone saying, "Look, I love *The Urantia Book* but I'm having such a busy time trying to survive down here, that I don't think I could possibly find time to organise my soul for dynamic service, it sounds like a lot of work to me." But when you start looking at how you might go about organising your soul dynamically, you realise the changes that you need to make can only enhance your life here and now and this knowledge, I feel could be the pivot point of this conference, not only for our personal realisation, but also in helping others accept the value in devoting a greater amount of attention to the spiritual or religious content of their lives.

At last years conference, William very eloquently put

forward a disclaimer before his presentation. He said, "We don't really know what we are taking about. We are in the position of small children trying to form ideas about the big wide world." And then he went on to talk about introducing frames of reference in which to view the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

This conference is a little different. We are not so much concentrating on the big picture but more on a personal level here and now. How do we go about organising our souls for dynamic service? What may be the impact on our lives? How might our lives change? Each person here will have his or her own ideas and feelings about those questions because each of us has a unique personally and history of life experiences. Therefore we are able to share our uniqueness with absolute authority; each of us is the expert on our feelings and ideas, there is no right or wrong if you are actively working to prepare your soul for dynamic service. So let's all feel proud about sharing our individual contributions towards a greater spiritual harmony this weekend.

At this point, I would like to spend a short time outlining some of the content for our theme, as revealed by *The Urantia Book*. Let's look at a little at what *The Urantia Book* tells us about the soul.

The presence of the divine Adjuster in the human mind makes it forever impossible for either science or philosophy to attain a satisfactory comprehension of the evolving soul of the human personality. The morontia soul is the child of the universe and may be really known only through cosmic insight and spiritual discovery. (p.1215:1)

The human personality is identified with mind and spirit held together in functional relationship by life in a material body. This functioning relationship of such mind and spirit does not result in some combination of the qualities or attributes of mind and spirit but rather in an entirely new, original, and unique universe value of potentially eternal endurance, the soul. (p.1218:1)

Now the information in *The Urantia Book* is so beautifully and concisely condensed, that you could just about have a study group on every sentence. So if you were trying to explain what we have just read to a younger person who wasn't as clever as we are what would you say? Maybe something like this:

Here you are on this beautiful planet. You have been provided with a unique personality, a physical body, an endowment of mind, and most of all free will, so you can direct that combination in any direction you wish. Now this is only a temporary state and your body will only exist while you are here, gathering experience. While

you are here, you will have many good times and not so good times.

But there is something within you that keeps you moving forward. You try to place that feeling on things around you but when you do it never lasts. That feeling is calling you from beyond this lifetime to the being who is responsible for all you have now, and all the wonders that await you in the future. That being is God.

So to fulfil your destiny and make this wonderful journey to God, you need to build a special spaceship to take over when you have finished with your physical body. The spaceship is invisible while you are here, but you have everything you need right here, to build it with. You might ask, "How do I start to build this ship?" Well along with that mind endowment I mentioned there is also a personal essence of God called your Thought Adjuster, and he has the blueprint. All you have to do is allow him to help you by using your free will to connect with him and he will help you build the most amazing spaceship. The more you connect and plan with him, and actively incorporate the knowledge into your life now, the more dynamic your ship will become.

When you have finished with this temporary body you will become the space ship and with the new endowment of cosmic mind, both you and the space ship will further refine that vehicle until it becomes so attractive that your Thought Adjuster also comes aboard, and then your journey is truly assured.

The book also tells us that the soul is our vehicle and embryo of the universes, and once initiated cannot be stopped, but we of course still have the choice until adjuster fusion to continue our ascension or be as we never where.

So if you were pretty sure that your soul had been initiated why go to all the trouble of putting the extra effort in to prepare it for dynamic service? Couldn't that wait until we got to the mansion worlds and weren't so busy? There is no doubt about it preparing the soul for dynamic service does mean pushing your boundaries, going the extra mile, and continually connecting within.

It is probably the most personal and important decision that can be made while we have a human body. Why? Let's read the paragraph that contains our theme.

Religion is not a technique for attaining a static and blissful peace of mind; it is an impulse for organizing the soul for dynamic service. It is the enlistment of the totality of selfhood in the loyal service of loving God and serving man. Religion pays any price essential to the attainment

of the supreme goal, the eternal prize. There is a consecrated completeness in religious loyalty which is superbly sublime. And these loyalties are socially effective and spiritually progressive. (p.1096:6)

And also:

But true religion is a living love, a life of service. The religionist's detachment from much that is purely temporal and trivial never leads to social isolation, and it should not destroy the sense of humor. Genuine religion takes nothing away from human existence, but it does add new meanings to all of life; it generates new types of enthusiasm, zeal, and courage. ... One of the most amazing earmarks of religious living is that dynamic and sublime peace, that peace which passes all human understanding, that cosmic poise which betokens the absence of all doubt and turmoil. Such levels of spiritual stability are immune to disappointment. (p.1100:7 – p.1101:1)

And that, I feel is the double whammy in making the choice to organise our souls for dynamic service, not only for our ascension sake but for the substance and enjoyment that we may experience in our lives here and now. So today we are looking at dynamic service on a personal level, and tomorrow, how we may be of service to others. Without even going into the book I think we would all agree that one stems from the other. The more efficient we become in dynamically preparing our own souls, the more effective we will be in service to others.

Jesus did not teach that the essence of his religion consisted in social service, but rather that social service was one of the certain affects of the possession of the spirit of true religion. (p1769:10)

So by the sound of that, service to others may be a natural progression when we choose to organise our souls for dynamic service.

When I thought about organising my soul for dynamic service, three things came to mind, first my free will decision to do it. Secondly, to adjust my values so that it was the most important value in my life, and thirdly, to step up the active demonstration of my faith—to quickly look at faith. *The Urantia Book* defines faith as active participation towards your belief. We need do very little to believe, but to actively demonstrate faith, we need to direct our choices and actions from moment to moment to the highest level of the will of God, as we understand it at that moment.

How do we understand the will of God? There is no greater knowledge to be had on Urantia than the life and teachings of Jesus. *The Urantia Book* also tells us that, if

your own mind does not serve you well, you can exchange it for the mind of Jesus of Nazareth, who always serves you well. W.W.J.D?—What would Jesus do? If we apply that to every life situation, we might not be right on the money but we will probably be a lot closer to God's will than applying our own logic.

Values! There is nothing of value in the material world. There is a couple of necessities—food and shelter, or we might not survive. But apart from the necessities there is nothing of value until we decide that something is valuable to us. That is quite an amazing thought; that I can walk around bestowing my values on whatever takes my fancy. And how different are the things we bestow our values on—better cars, bigger houses, more jewellery, what team wins the grand final, or a lot more money—just to name a few.

As I explained to my young friend earlier, this feeling of value is beyond this lifetime. In most cases, when we acquire the things we feel we passionately need, they lose most of their value. “If I won lotto I would be happy.” No, if I won lotto I would have more money. I won't be happy until I take the steps to understand what happy is. I'm not talking about human happiness, happy today—unhappy tomorrow. I'm talking about that feeling of joy that is beyond disappointment.

To put it another way, if I won God's lotto and was sent straight to Paradise, would I be happy? Well *The Urantia Book* tells us that if we were transported to Paradise while in a human body we would not even know we were there. The perfection of Paradise is not so much in the destination, as it is in the beings that have earned the right to be there. There are no short cuts in realising our potential, and our potential for true happiness can only be realised by the decision to actively move towards God consciousness.

Now the decision: The decision to dynamically prepare your soul is the key that opens the door to attain a greater personal substance of God consciousness. Thereby experiencing something we may never have the chance to experience again—how to live with increasing cosmic poise as a human being.

And as the Northern Territory ad a few years ago said, “If you never never go, then you will never never know.” First we make the decision and do it before we can experience it.

So putting off dynamically preparing your soul until you get to the mansion worlds might at first seem the easier option. But we have already started our ascension and from a builder's point of view, when you build something that you want to last for a long time you need a very good foundation.

And what we are doing on Urantia in this lifetime is building a foundation for ourselves that may last for an eternity. Now to turn the double whammy content of my presentation into a triple whammy let's read from page 578 the rewards of isolation:

On first thought it might appear that Urantia and its associated isolated worlds are most unfortunate in being deprived of the beneficent presence and influence of such superhuman personalities as a Planetary Prince and a Material Son and Daughter. But isolation of these spheres affords their races a unique opportunity for the exercise of faith and for the development of a peculiar quality of confidence in cosmic reliability which is not dependent on sight or any other material consideration. It may turn out, eventually, that mortal creatures hailing from the worlds quarantined in consequence of rebellion are extremely fortunate. We have discovered that such ascenders are very early entrusted with numerous special assignments to cosmic undertakings where unquestioned faith and sublime confidence are essential to achievement.

*On Jerusalem the ascenders from these isolated worlds occupy a residential sector by themselves and are known as the **agondonters**, meaning evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone...*

All through the Paradise career, reward follows effort as the result of causes. Such rewards set off the individual from the average, provide a differential of creature experience, and contribute to the versatility of ultimate performances in the collective body of the finaliters. (p.578:6 – p.579:2)

Every time I read that I feel a rush of passion and the inspiration to endeavour to reach my greatest potential while I am here on Urantia. And for me there seems no better way to do it than to make the decision and actively go about organising my soul for dynamic service.

Service in Everyday Life

William Wentworth

*Presented at the ANZURA Conference in Sydney,
October, 2001*

Kathleen introduced the concept of service this morning. My job is to elaborate on this theme, and offer some of my own thoughts on the subject. (*Editor's note. Kathleen's presentation will appear in the next issue of The Arena*)

One way of looking at what we are actually doing here on Urantia is that we are participating in the construction of a universe—the Grand Universe. We are part of a huge team of collaborators engaged in the task of bringing this universe into the state of Light and Life so that the Supreme Being can emerge fully as a personality, take full and direct control of this creation, and in conjunction with the Ultimate, begin the evolution of the outer space levels. It is true that as mortals the part we play is not very significant, but it is, in its small way, essential in the greater scheme of things. We are essential participants in a mighty work, and an enormous number of co-workers are depending on us to do our bit. A glance at the lists on pages 335-338 of *The Urantia Book* will remind us of the huge number and variety of these personalities, and the fact that our part is small should not allow us to forget its necessity.

Our faith vision of this work, and the part we play in it is our *Inspiration*. We play a small but essential part in the building of a universe. It is our problem to decide how we are to do this. Somehow we have to down-step our inspiration to the level of everyday life. It is in everyday life that we choose and act, and it is here that we apply our inspiration. Whatever we do which sincerely attempts to apply it is *Service*. To the extent that we cooperate with our celestial collaborators, we are being of service; to the extent that we don't, we are irrelevant.

Down-stepping our inspiring vision to the level of everyday life is no easy task—in fact it is a constant struggle “with the incessant clamoring of an inescapable self for recognition and honor.” (p.51:12) Our vision doesn't make much allowance for recognition and honor. It calls for self-forgetfulness. But we have animal body/emotion systems which know nothing but this selfish clamour. That is our nature, and our nature is inescapable. So service is a constant struggle to compel our animal nature to serve the higher aims of our great inspiring vision. We often fail. But when we succeed the resulting “warm inner glow” makes that struggle worthwhile a hundred times over.

To translate such a grand vision to the mundane level of daily life requires a lot of compromise, and we make compromises according to our personal circumstances. Thus we all serve differently. And this is an area in which we can all be creative. In fact we all create quite different modes of service because we are each unique persons, and our compromises reflect this.

In Melbourne a couple of years ago, Bob Reynolds gave an instructive presentation distinguishing between an individual's “Circle of Interest” and his “Circle of Influence.” We all have an *interest* in building The Grand Universe; but, let's face it, we have somewhat more *influence* over building Urantia, and in particular over

running our own households and occupations, where our daily lives are lived. We are *interested* in our great vision. It is that which inspires us to collaborate with our fellow universe builders by serving where we have *influence*, in the mundane matters of daily life.

We need to remember that any occupation or activity can be a platform for service. There are actually as many ways of serving as there are people to do it. Jesus pointed this out in his words to the innkeeper on page 1475:

To the mistress of the Greek inn he said: “Minister your hospitality as one who entertains the children of the Most High. Elevate the drudgery of your daily toil to the high levels of a fine art through the increasing realization that you minister to God in the persons whom he indwells by his spirit which has descended to live within the hearts of men, thereby seeking to transform their minds and lead their souls to the knowledge of the Paradise Father of all these bestowed gifts of the divine spirit.” (p.1475:1)

Service is not so much what is done, as the spirit in which it is done. Whatever is done which is inspired by the vision of universe building is service. For most of us most of the time this involves service of our fellow men, this being the most common avenue of service. *Love is the desire to do good to others* (p.648:4), and service of our fellows is the natural expression of this.

But there are forms of service not immediately connected with other people, though in the end we all benefit from it, of course. Political and administrative work, artistic work, maybe even physical work, are all forms of service if inspired by the spirit of service, and if (consciously or unconsciously) collaborating in the great work of universe building.

But most of the time, service involves the people around us in daily life, and in my opinion it is important to perform this service quite as ourselves, without pretension. The Father has bestowed on each of us a unique personality. He wants to see us living *our* lives—not our imitation of Mother Teresa or Francis of Assisi living our lives. I'll really stick my neck out and suggest that He doesn't even want to see our imitation of *Jesus* living our lives. He wants to see the personality He gave *us* struggling with life's problems and difficulties, and serving in the way of our own devising. He gave us our personality so that it is *we* who learn and serve, and in His plan there is a part for all of us to play. Having been given a unique personality, we can pay people the respect of letting them see it. The effectiveness of service is reinforced if no attempt is made to hide it.

In conclusion, as with everything else in life, service boils down to doing the will of the Universal Father. If

there is confusion in our attempts to serve, if we don't know what to do, or how to do it, the solution is the same as that for all our other difficulties—to do our best to discover the Father's will in the matter, and to be creative in finding a way to do that will. The compromises we must make in down-stepping our vision to the practical level of daily life ultimately depend on how we interpret the Father's will.

And surely, this is exactly what we would expect, isn't it?

The Races Revisited

Susan Kelly, USA

As Andon and Fonta found their spiritual soul
they found the true destiny of life as a whole.
This male and female then became mother and father
to a larger organized tribe
The abodes they found, were all on the ground
and their generations began to thrive.
Andon was the first to cultivate fire
as he was chipping from flint, a weapon
And this discovery secured their supremacy
in all that would eventually happen.

The Andonic race of aborigines flourished
for thirty generations
But soon rivalry appeared, and the clans dispersed
segregating family relations.
From Mesopotamia, they spread westward to France
where they lived on the banks of the Somme river
And today by chance their evidence remains
for the finding of our archaeological endeavors.

The Andonite leader, Onagon by name,
was the first to find God recognition
And to all he proclaimed the Supreme Breath Giver
was deserved of worshipful tradition.
And if we dated, this very first priest
chronologically speaking it's 985,263 BC.
The geological formation of the earth at that time
allowed their mass migration
To the "Foxhall Man" of English clime
and the "Java Mans" visitation.
As the glaciers receded to the north they would go
evolving eventually the ancestor Eskimo
And in Northern India, in the Siwilak Hills
are found remains of "Badonan Man"
The superior forerunner to the tribe we know
as progenitor of Neanderthal Man.
And again I will spare you at least 20 pages
that would ensue, if I explained the ice ages.
So now jumping forward to pigmented fact
I'll attempt to describe how the 6 races were begat.

Somewhere around 500,000 BC
an anomalous incident occurred
In the northwestern highlands of India
the Sangik family appeared.

The most intelligent descendants of the Andonite clan
were about to give birth to the colors of man
From one man and woman came 19 offspring
whose skin in sunlight, did a very strange thing.
The first five turned red, then two orange and four
yellow
Followed by two green, four blue and two indigo.
And when full grown and mated in their offspring was
apparent
The dominating color from the pigmented parent.
And with this fact alone there is needed no other
to prove that all humans, are sisters and brothers.
Though in a normal evolutionary clime
they are usually dispersed and over periods of time
Yet the color arrangement stays the same
it is the law of pigmentation and its mandate remains.

But this experimental planet has no normal origins
so why should it normalize color disbursement of skin.
The oldest, the Red man, grew quite adept
in their governing castes, with monogamous precepts
But their governed tribes to some extent
were oftentimes torn in disagreement.
And their greatest invention of ages ago
was the design and usage of the arrow and bow.
But from their tendency to argue they were driven out
by the others
Pushed by their younger more peaceful yellow brothers.
Across the Bearing Land Bridge before it descended
into the Americas, the Red man ascended
And there they multiplied, but their warring nature
separated the clans of their roaming culture.
Yet, a great Chief among them brought some peace to
their nations
as he began to spiritually define,
The created unity in their family relations
and their glorious bloodline.
The "Great Spirit" was the name of the Red man's
Father
He was the bringer of hope, to all Red man brothers
This aged Chief, Onamonalonton, was 96 when he died
his direct descendants are of the Blackfoot tribe.

I must stop for a moment in this racial excavation,
for it was about this time we obtained spiritual
administration.

On all evolutionary worlds, the Planetary Prince
will establish educational centers
Directing and teaching primitive man
in civilization and agricultural endeavors.

So our divine worldly sovereign, now took control
and for a while all ran smoothly, till his hubris took
hold

Then our System Sovereign, Lucifer by name
became self deluded and went arrogantly insane.
Yet it took thousands of years for his ego to root
and destroy our progressing civilization
when rebellion appeared, mankind lost his truth
and arrogance remains an actualization.

In the continuance of the races, the second were Orange
and building was their primal desire
Being involved with organized pilings of stone
they kept piling them higher and higher.

A few of their delegates to the "Prince's" school went
superior architectural design, was their main intent
Then south they migrated, toward African lands
settling mostly where the Nile valley expands.

And their spiritual leader Porshunta by name
tried valiantly to instill "One God", even when their
end came
For the Green man approached, to crush their homes
and sons
destroying their capital city of Armageddon.

The Yellow man was the first, to give up the chase
Developing communities and agriculture in one central
place.
Singlanton was their leader spiritually
as he proclaimed the "One Truth" for all to believe
And they fostered fraternity, living together in peace
which allowed their numbers to continually increase.

Then three, grand Green divisions proceeded
those that went north were subdued
And enslaved by the more erudite races
of the peaceful Yellow and intelligent Blue.

Those that went east, were absorbed in India's races
today many are seen in its modern faces.
Then to Egypt and Africa the third group invaded
the Orange mans lands, which was afore stated.
Thus the Green men were weakened, from the
extensive migration
of their many clans in different directions.
Fantad, their spiritual leader tried
but couldn't hold together, the disagreeing tribe

And these giants of men nearly 8' in height
were scattered in groups, far and wide.
But in their continuous warring they were also depleted
making them subservient to the Indigo, as they seceded.

The Blue men of Europe had spirituality and
intelligence
and were the first to discover art and its rudiments.
Orlandof was their teacher, of the "One God" of
worship
Which was easily acceptable, of their thinking and
sentiment.

But being closest to the dwellings of the Planetary
Prince
They suffered the most from the rebellion in a cultural
sense. Yet they also reaped the most from the coming
Violet race which rehabilitated some of their surviving
grace.

The Indigo race was the last to migrate conquering
Africa they descended into many tribal states
And from their remote isolation, they only received a
hint of the Violet super plasma from the Adamic seed.

But Orvonon, a wise man of superior thought
induced a spiritual awakening, and to his people taught
that the God of Gods was their Creator of life
which promoted continuity of worshipful insight.

Through slavery trade in the last 500 years
their people have been sadly dispersed
With most surviving aboriginal tribes
Holding tight to the land of their birth

Their political advancement still lingers, as does their
oppression
And the Red man understands this well too,
We must all work together to aid progression
and the spiritual technology of mankind will come due.
In this compendium, all of the races
were extraordinarily tested, in the rigorous ice ages.

Yet for thousands of years they existed together
so antipathy was not peculiar.
And as the ice retreated, so did each color
with two new groups admixed, to form separate orders

The combined Orange and Blue were inclined to go
to the South American lands and Mexico.
A combination of Yellow and Red
forsook land travel and took the sea route instead
And these are the brown men spread hither and yon
inhabiting the islands they happened upon.

As this Sangik migration comes to a close
the Green and Orange races are gone
The Red men hold America,
and the Yellow is in Asia anon.
The Blue men are of Europe, and in Africa the Indigo
while in India many combinations had flowed
In Egypt many modified inhabitants were seen
of Indigo/Blue and Indigo/Orange/Green.
An amalgamated race of superior potentiality
to the South American highlands, went subsequently
The purer Andonites to Iceland and Greenland went
forth
and to some extreme regions of the American North.
And thus we spread and our colors unfurled
to every vast corner of this tiny world.