

# THE ARENA

ANZURA

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URANTIA Association

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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)*

### Editorial

*War is not man's great and terrible disease; war is a symptom, a result. The real disease is the virus of national sovereignty. (The Urantia Book, p.1491:1)*

*World peace cannot be maintained by treaties, diplomacy, foreign policies, alliances, balances of power, or any other type of makeshift juggling with the sovereignties of nationalism. World law must come into being and must be enforced by world government—the sovereignty of all mankind. (1491:3)*

These kinds of topics, among other things will be the subject of this year's annual National Study Day (see later on for more details). While quotes such as these will no doubt initiate discussion on the political affairs of the world today, it is hoped that readers pondering such sections of the book in these troubled times of war will rise above the level of political opinion and take a broadened philosophical approach in the light of the higher truths revealed in the Urantia teachings.

Let's ponder the answers to questions such as: What cures are there for this *virus of national sovereignty*? How can we become immunized from this debilitating disease? How can mankind avoid devastating clashes of cultures? How do we promote spiritual unity in the face of extreme cultural diversity? What can *we*, as students of *The Urantia Book*, do to promulgate a new and uplifting philosophy of thought? How can we broaden the framework of thinking in the hearts and minds are our fellow associates? What difference can the individual play in the shifting of paradigms that will influence world affairs?

Social evolution is slow but sure, as a detailed study of Part III of *The Urantia Book* will reveal. We have seen from studying the previous epochal revelations that small but dedicated teams of pioneers have usually been the spearheads for new ideas of philosophical thought and enlarged concepts of spiritual truth. Such pioneers sow the new seeds of thought but rarely see the results of their labours in their lifetime.

However, such seeds planted in fertile soil are fed and nurtured by the celestial waters of our unseen friends and by the Spirit of Truth. Such seeds provide the leavening

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that will swell the limitless potentials of the truths already imbedded in our moral, philosophical, and religious heritage, embellishing that which we already know and preparing the way for a broadened and enlightened vision into new vistas of philosophical and religious thinking.

### 2003 ANZURA Conference in Melbourne

3 – 6 October 2003

This year's annual conference for Australian and New Zealand readers of *The Urantia Book* will be hosted by the Melbourne study group and will be held at the Mountain Valley Centre in Boronia from 3 – 6 October. Stay tuned for more details, but meanwhile mark your calendars for this very worthwhile, value-packed event.

### Annual Study Day

17 May 2003

Every year ANZURA arranges a National Study Day to provide an opportunity for everyone to participate in a study group where readers discuss the same topic on the same day in regions throughout Australia and New Zealand. It also gives readers who are new to the

community of *Urantia Book* readers an opportunity to experience the value of meeting with other readers to study and socialise. This year's event will be held on Saturday, 17 May.

Various readers around the two countries have volunteered to be study group hosts. A list of these hosts is to be found on the back of this newsletter. If you would like to take part in the event to meet, study, share, and fraternize with other readers in your region, simply contact the host closest to you and he or she will give you details about the day.

This year's National Study Day will be concentrating on an in depth study of Paper 134—The Transition Years (p.1483). This paper portrays how Jesus conducted himself in the final years just prior to his final perfection as a mortal of the realm, and how he continued his personal ministry of planting the leaven for the gospel which helped to prepare the way for the wide acceptance of the teachings he preached in his public ministry.

In addition this paper deals with the intriguing Urmia lectures that Jesus gave in the temple of religion dedicated to the "spirit of religion" which had been built by Cymboyton. Of particular interest in the light of current events on our world are the lectures on Sovereignty—human, divine, and political—and on law and liberty in relation to sovereignty. This paper gives us an incredible insight into what is required before world peace becomes a reality on this world.

*Urantia will not enjoy lasting peace until the so-called sovereign nations intelligently and fully surrender their sovereign powers into the hands of the brotherhood of men—mankind government. Internationalism—Leagues of Nations—can never bring permanent peace to mankind. World-wide confederations of nations will effectively prevent minor wars and acceptably control the smaller nations, but they will not prevent world wars nor control the three, four, or five most powerful governments. In the face of real conflicts, one of these world powers will withdraw from the League and declare war. You cannot prevent nations going to war as long as they remain infected with the delusional virus of national sovereignty. Internationalism is a step in the right direction. An international police force will prevent many minor wars, but it will not be effective in preventing major wars, conflicts between the great military governments of earth.* (p.1489:1)

The Study Day has become a regular feature in ANZURA's timetable and has created many opportunities for joy and friendship over the years among readers in our two countries where we are all scattered far and wide. We hope that many of you will join a study group on 17 May and have a wonderful day.

## New Charter for IUA

A new amended IUA Charter was presented to the CNP (the Council of National Presidents and Vice Presidents) after many months of collaboration, drafting, and feedback from National and Local Associations. It has now been adopted and is effective from 1 March 2003.

The new structure allows the IUA to function independently from Urantia Foundation. Up until now the Trustees of Urantia Foundation have also been the Board of Directors of IUA and the Foundation has provided most of IUA's funding. Now the IUA will have a new administrative board to take care of the management of the organisation and will become self-funding.

However, it will still be interdependent with Urantia Foundation and continues to work in partnership and cooperation in the dissemination of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and in supporting Urantia Foundation in its mission for the revelation.

The new structure is based on the model that *The Urantia Book* says is an ideal model in that it allows for an executive, legislative, and judicial body. The executive body is called the "International Service Board" and will take care of the administration of IUA at the international level. The legislative body operates identically to the former CNP and still consists of all the Presidents and Vice Presidents of all the National Associations. The only difference now is that the name has changed to the

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*Editorial contributions are welcome.*

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“Representative Council”. This body makes all the decisions about the international affairs of IUA and empowers the International Service Board, which is answerable to the Representative Council, to outwork its decisions.

In addition we now have a judicial body called the “Judicial Commission” which the old structure did not have. The lack of a judicial body proved to be an error of omission under the old structure on several occasions. Another new addition to the structure is a new “Member-at-Large” category. This means anyone wishing to join IUA in countries where no association exists yet may join as a Member-at-Large.

We hope this new charter will herald a new era for the IUA and provide for many more opportunities for service in the growing family of *Urantia Book* readers. Collectively we can achieve much.

## Appellate Decision on Copyright

*Tonia Baney, Executive Director Urantia Foundation*

On March 11, 2003, the majority of a three-judge panel of the United States Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the jury’s verdict in the case of Michael Foundation, Inc. v. Urantia Foundation. The appellate court held that the jury had sufficient evidence on which to base its decision that *The Urantia Book* is neither a “composite work” nor a “commissioned work,” and that Urantia Foundation was, therefore, not entitled to a renewal of its copyright. Urantia Foundation is exploring avenues for further appellate review.

The court based its decision on assertions by Harry McMullan III regarding creation of *The Urantia Book*, as outlined in the court’s written opinion: “In approximately 1900, an unknown patient (“the Conduit”) sought psychiatric help from Dr. William Sadler.” “In 1924, after approximately twenty years of treatment and generating ‘papers,’ the Conduit announced that he would compose *The Urantia Book*. He solicited questions from the Contact Commission to present to the celestial beings during his psychiatric sessions.”

The court’s characterization of the Urantia Papers as a product of psychiatric treatment sessions corresponds closely to that presented in court by Mr. McMullan and his lawyers. It differs sharply from Urantia Foundation’s position, which was based upon the testimony and writings of members of the Contact Commission and the Forum. Mr. McMullan, who has no first-hand knowledge regarding any of these circumstances, is the only one who testified that the Urantia Papers originated as a result of Dr. Sadler’s treatment of a psychiatric patient. Those who knew Dr. Sadler testified at trial that in the early days when he came in contact with the subject, he practiced

surgery and general medicine and only later studied and directed his focus in the field of psychiatry. The trial transcripts and the appellate briefs are available at <http://www.urantia.org/newsinfo/mcmullan.html>.

One of the judges filed a dissenting opinion indicating that in his view, “the district court erred in denying Urantia Foundation’s motion for judgment n.o.v.” In his opinion, “Urantia Foundation’s renewal copyright is valid and enforceable as a matter of law. See *Urantia Foundation v. Maaherra*, 114 F.3d 955 (9th Cir. 1997).”

The appellate decision only affects the United States renewal copyright in the English text of *The Urantia Book*. Urantia Foundation will continue to display a copyright notice in the English book in order to preserve its international copyrights. In addition, all of the translations have separate copyrights that remain valid in the United States and internationally.

Although McMullan also had contested the validity of two of Urantia Foundation’s trademarks, the court granted summary judgment prior to trial upholding the validity of the trademarks “Urantia” and “Urantian.”

Urantia Foundation has sought to make the most of this period of full worldwide copyright protection for the English text in order to carry out the mandates of the *Declaration of Trust Creating Urantia Foundation*: to exercise control over the printing and reproduction of *The Urantia Book* and all translations thereof. As the original publisher, Urantia Foundation has led the charge of safeguarding, translating, distributing, and disseminating the teachings of *The Urantia Book* to the world. If U.S. copyright protection is not restored, these tasks become increasingly important.

In furthering this work we ask for the helping hand of any and all who share our love for these magnificent teachings. Together, we can ensure that future generations will have access to an affordable and unadulterated *Urantia Book*. The Concentric-Circles Symbol and the words “Urantia,” “Urantian,” will continue to identify Urantia Foundation’s authentic publications and services.

We would like to thank the loyal and dedicated readers who have supported Urantia Foundation since its inception. You have blessed this work with your love of the book, your willingness to live its teachings, and your attention to the everyday tasks of disseminating the revelation. You have served on committees, staffed offices, answered phones, raised funds, facilitated study groups and conferences, attended book fairs, hauled and shipped books, called on stores, translated *The Urantia Book* and a multitude of other communications, and much more. You have generously given of your time and money to this noble cause. Thank you. You have been needed in the past and you will be needed even more in the future.

We look forward to the challenges of creating a bright future together.

## In Memory of David Shannon

We wish to advise of the sudden and tragic death of David Shannon who was a long-term reader of *The Urantia Book* and a valued member of ANZURA. David suffered a massive heart attack and died very soon thereafter. His unexpected passing is especially tragic as he was approaching retirement from his profession of optometry and was looking forward to a new venture with his beloved wife, Roselyn.

David was held in high esteem by all his friends associated with the Urantia teachings. For those of us at the conference last year, we truly have a wonderful memory of an extraordinary presentation. He just had that ability to identify key issues and communicate them in a beautiful way that we could all relate to. He had a profound knowledge of the book and introduced it to many people.

Marion Steward from New Zealand said: “I will miss him at conferences, I really liked David and was deeply impressed with his wisdom—I used to think what a great job he had for spreading *The Urantia Book* message, since his patients were a captive audience! But he seemed to choose very good words and approach people with a remarkable perception about what kind of message they needed to hear at that particular moment. He appeared very unassuming, but when you talked with him he showed a great warmth and concern for his fellow mortals. I’m sure they are appreciating this on the Mansion Worlds as we speak!”

We are so fortunate to have known David and seen the example of his life. He knew the teachings and lived them. There can be no higher accolade.

## Where are the Limits?

### Being and Doing the Extraordinary

*Presentation given by David Shannon at the Queensland 2002 Conference*

“Where are the limits?” Originally I titled the paper “Where are the Limits—to Being and Doing the Extraordinary?” My description of the subject matter became its subtitle in the program. However, I would like you to think of being and doing the extraordinary in your life.

When I talk to people about *The Urantia Book*, I am frequently asked “who wrote it?” and “is it true?” My reply is that it is a series of papers in four parts dealing with:

The whole of creation; that part of the universe where we are located; our planet, its origin and purpose; and the life of Christ from his birth to death.

I maintain that the authority of the book is the book

itself, as the authority of Christ was Christ himself. The answers to their questions will be found in the book. If it is the truth, then nothing (certainly not opinions) can make it untrue. Likewise if it is not what it says it is, nothing can make it so. It is just what it is.

To me truth is a subjective thing. Fact is inalienable—it is, full stop. Our belief in our interpretation of fact is called truth for us. People observing the same fact but with different beliefs and backgrounds may have completely different interpretations. For example, it was once believed that the world is flat, and from some points of view, it still is.

You probably have fresh in your memories the accomplishments of the athletes at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. Limits of accomplishments were extended every day. Swimmers swam new records pushing the limits further and further out. Weight lifters lifted weights greater than their body weights and then some! These extensions of the accepted limits were illustrated in all sports and athletes rightly became heroes.

Let us consider today what our limits are in the day to day living of our lives. What boundaries restrict us in what we would like to achieve?

An aside: A patient and I were discussing the state of the world. He had a very negative attitude towards it. Everything was wrong—the government wasn’t doing anything, young people have no respect any more, politicians are only there for their superannuation payouts—tragedy was everywhere and the world was going to pot.

I agreed that we could do with a lot fewer politicians and just a couple of dedicated statesmen, and observed that the two most important jobs in the country demanded no qualification—they being politics and parenting.

I would not agree that the world was doomed, rather that it was progressing according to a plan and mistakes were inherent in any progressive works. Mistakes did not make it wrong or impossible, they just added to the learning time.

Then he said, “well, it is not up to me, I can’t do anything about it”, and again I hastened to disagree. (I get argumentative sometimes—blame it on advancing age!) “Yes, you can” I said. “What?” said he. “You can be those things you want others to be. Those who agree with you sentiments will be encouraged to stand up for them also; enough will do this to make the change. A country is not rich unless its citizens are rich. It is people being rich that make the country a rich one. If you want to have a tolerant society you should be the first one to be tolerant. It will not be so unless you are.”

We are here today to consider “Being and Doing according to *The Urantia Book*.” Not only should we look at *what* we are to be and do—it is comparatively easy to advise *what* one should do—but knowing *how* to be and do depends on the understanding of it.

Author Napoleon Hill in his “Master Key to Riches”,

a non-spiritual book aimed at success in the world of business, unconsciously employs spiritual principles called by other names. He does not refer to God, but 'Universal Intelligence'. He maintains that "we are not what we think we are, we are what we think", and by self-mastery and correct thought can achieve things extraordinary.

I wonder how many of us fully understand the potential of the power within us, and what its source is? To appreciate what extraordinary powers we have access to, let us refer to Paper 111 on "The Adjuster and the Soul" which discusses 'The consecration of Choice'. May I share it with you?

*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—with the very God who has made such a creature life of inner meaning-value possible. Sharing is Godlike—divine. God shares all with the Eternal Son and the Infinite Spirit, while they, in turn, share all things with the divine Sons and spirit Daughters of the universes.*

*The imitation of God is the key to perfection; the doing of his will is the secret of survival and of perfection in survival.*

*Mortals live in God, and so God has willed to live in mortals. As men trust themselves to him, so has he—and first—trusted a part of himself to be with men; has consented to live in men and to indwell men subject to the human will.*

*Peace in this life, survival in death, perfection in the next life, service in eternity—all these are achieved (in spirit) now when the creature personality consents—chooses—to subject the creature will to the Father's will. And already has the Father chosen to make a fragment of himself subject to the will of the creature personality.*

*Such a creature choice is not a surrender of will. It is a consecration of will, an expansion of will, a glorification of will, a perfecting of will; and such choosing raises the creature will from the level of temporal significance to that higher estate wherein the personality of the creature son communes with the personality of the spirit Father. (p.1221:2-6)*

It goes on to explain that such choosing does not consist in a negation of will such as 'not my will but yours be done' but instead 'it is my will that yours be done'. Our freedom of choice is not compromised.

### **Freedom of Choice**

I have maintained that our greatest asset, freedom of choice, can also be our greatest liability. We defend our freedom of choice as a right, but it is not impressed on us that every action has a consequence. God does not punish us for our wrongdoings and punishment we receive is inherent in the action. If our actions are godlike, the blessing is inherent in the doing. If our actions are offensive we may not welcome the consequences of them.

Our heaven and hell are of our own making.

So what does this mean? To me it means that if my choice is in harmony with God's will then I must succeed, for what cannot be accomplished by the power of God that I have within me and can utilize?

It also means that I must be very careful in my choices, because negative endeavours will also succeed but the consequences may be catastrophic.

What could have been accomplished if the organising and planning abilities that resulted in the September 11 attack had been directed, to say, relief of drought victims in Africa?

How can I be sure? All I have to do is ask!! The explanation on the effectiveness of prayer is discussed at length in *The Urantia Book* and could well be the subject of another paper.

Personally, I find the best 'how to' assistance in the words of the prayer on page 1622. I have adopted it as a guide and a source of affirmations to keep me on track when challenges confront me.

*Our perfect and righteous heavenly Father,  
This day guide and direct our journey.  
Sanctify our steps and co-ordinate our thoughts.  
Ever lead us in the ways of eternal progress.  
Fill us with wisdom to the fullness of power  
And vitalize us with your infinite energy.  
Inspire us with the divine consciousness of  
The presence and guidance of the seraphic hosts.  
Guide us ever upward in the pathway of light;  
Justify us fully in the day of the great judgment.  
Make us like yourself in eternal glory  
And receive us into your endless service on high.*

A perfect guide for spiritual living, for thought control and action evaluation, is it not?

We indeed have extraordinary potential. What we are and what we do is completely in our own hands. We can choose to be ordinary and let life carry us along according to the whims and fancies of the world. OR we can choose to align ourselves with God, make responsible use of our gifts and be EXTRAordinary as God empowered us to be.

The only limits are self imposed ones that restrict our choices and actions. Let us extend our horizons beyond our present vision, communicate with the powers within us, BE what we believe we ought to be, and DO what we believe we were meant to do.

There are no limits where there is belief and faith.

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*Happiness ensues from the recognition of truth because it can be acted out; it can be lived (p.42:7)*

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## DOING According to the Urantia Papers

Presentation given by Neil Francey at the Queensland 2002 Conference

The aim of this presentation is to explore a technique for acting in accordance with divine grace. Hopefully we will discover how, through our actions, we can have a real and personal experience of living in the loving over-care of our Father while enjoying heightened relationships with our family and friends.

What activities does *The Urantia Book* highlight as being the most important acts we can do?

- Home and family
- Service to others and the community
- Leading a life that is an example to others (the life of Jesus)
- Developing a personal relationship with God
- Faith through worship.

There is an action that operates above and beyond these essential commitments. Before we try to identify this however, we firstly have to define 'doing'.

*The Urantia Book* had a few surprises for me when I took a close look.

### Thinking is doing:

*...it is sad to record that so few persons on Urantia take delight in cultivating these qualities of **courageous and independent cosmic thinking**. (p.192:5 emphasis mine)*

***So few mortals are real thinkers**; you do not spiritually develop and discipline your minds to the point of favorable liaison with the divine Adjusters. (p.1213:1 emphasis mine)*

*The divine spirit **makes contact** with mortal man, not by feelings or emotions, but in the realm of the **highest and most spiritualized thinking**. It is your **thoughts**, not your feelings, that **lead** you Godward. (p.1104:6 emphasis mine)*

### Making Choices and Decisions – this is doing:

*Man can never **wisely decide** temporal issues or transcend the selfishness of personal interests unless he **meditates** in the presence of the sovereignty of God and **reckons with** the realities of divine meanings and spiritual values. (p.1093:2 emphasis mine)*

*The success of your Adjuster in the enterprise of **piloting** you through the mortal life and bringing about your **survival depends not so much on the theories of your beliefs as upon your decisions, determinations, and steadfast faith**. (p.1205:6 emphasis mine)*

***Moral will embraces decisions** based on reasoned*

*knowledge, augmented by wisdom, and sanctioned by religious faith. Such **choices are acts** of moral nature... (p.1111:7 emphasis mine)*

### Problem Solving is also doing:

*Religious habits of **thinking and acting** are contributory to the economy of spiritual growth... Habits which favor religious growth embrace ... **worshipful problem solving**... (p.1095:3 emphasis mine)*

### Being Spirit Led is doing:

*"...some persons are naturally more happy than others. Much, very much, depends upon the willingness of man to **be led and directed by the Father's spirit** which lives within him." (p.1674:4 emphasis mine)*

***Such spirit-born individuals are so remotivated** in life that they can calmly stand by while their fondest ambitions perish and their keenest hopes crash; (p.1096:5 emphasis mine)*

*If you would be **led by this spirit** from above, very soon would you begin to see with the eyes of the spirit, and then by the **wholehearted choice of spirit guidance would you be born of the spirit** since your only purpose in living would be **to do the will of your Father** who is in heaven. (p.1602:6 emphasis mine)*

### Living Faith is doing:

*When, by **living faith**, you become **divinely God-conscious**, you are then born of the spirit... and attain the **experience** of finding God the Father on Paradise. (p.2052:3 emphasis mine)*

*Although **religious experience** is a purely spiritual subjective phenomenon, such an experience embraces a positive and **living faith attitude** toward the highest realms of universe objective reality. (p.1141:3 emphasis mine)*

So there can be a process. If we implement this process what are we actually doing? The answer can be described as *taking faith steps*. Thinking, discovering values, making decisions and choices, solving problems, being spirit led—all actions in *doing*. This is the way we can *implement* the Father's will. It is not so much asking 'what is your will' as allowing God to bestow his will.

All we have to DO is *hand over to God*. (Absolute, Total, Unqualified). To put it in a more loving way, a way that creates a relationship with God, *acting with absolute trust in our Father for all things*. This is *real doing*. (Real is defined as oneness with God, the unreal being the extent of our removal from true reality [God].)

By *doing* this, what is likely to happen? The results of our actions may never be known to us. There may be no direct reward or recognition from others. There may be no personal power or glory (the consequence is God's). There's no time line. We need to be prepared to act without

knowing (faith steps). There may be personal risk involved. There is no set formula for action or success known to us. It does not mean a life of ease; it will involve sacrifices. There'll be no 'yes buts', no excuses. It is not about asking for something for yourself.

Prayer needs to become worship. When all self-centered desires are lacking, prayer transforms into worship, sublime *thinking* into *superthinking* [p.1616:9].

Let's think about a small decision that you have to make—one that can be overcome in the short term. This could involve other people, a fear that you have about something, or an uncertainty about the way forward.

When the issues have been clearly identified, when you have taken it to a reasonable stage by doing, I want you to consciously and superconsciously hand it over. Pass it on to the Father so he can deal with it. And then leave it in his care with absolute confidence that He will resolve it with you. Trust in the Father's loving overcare while you walk with Him through the fear, the decision, the uncertainty, until it has been beautifully and mysteriously resolved.

### Our Human Role

We need to proceed on all fronts to encounter/create situations that will provide solutions. Life is not a passive experience of dependency on God's grace. We earn it. This technique is not a substitute for taking action; it is not a cop-out. In fact it requires a heightened sense of life involvement. Here are some quotes on Action:

*...the teachers of this new religion are now equipped with spiritual weapons. They are to go out to conquer the world with unfailing forgiveness, matchless good will, and abounding love..* (p.2064:3 emphasis mine)

*The contact of the mortal mind with its indwelling Adjuster, while often favored by devoted meditation, is more frequently facilitated by wholehearted and loving service in unselfish ministry to one's fellow creatures.* (p.1000:2 emphasis mine)

*The motivation of faith makes experiential the full realization of man's sonship with God, but action, completion of decisions, is essential to the evolutionary attainment of consciousness of progressive kinship with the cosmic actuality of the Supreme Being.* (p.1211:2 emphasis mine)

*The religion of Jesus demands living and spiritual experience.* (p.1782:3 emphasis mine)

### Trust and Faith

Remember life is all about decisions and more decisions. We must be prepared to accept the consequences. This is a process for character and spiritual growth. The aim is to gain trust until we have absolute trust.

*Commit your way to the Lord—trust him— and he will bring it to pass.* (p.1445:4 emphasis mine)

*... with God all things are possible.* (p.1803:4 emphasis mine)

*Mortals live in God, and so God has willed to live in mortals. As men trust themselves to him, so has he—and first—trusted a part of himself to be with men....* (p.1221:4 emphasis mine)

*Jesus taught that, by faith, the believer enters the kingdom now.* (p.1861:2 emphasis mine)

So how do we do *take* faith steps? Steps that might help us hand over to God, to trust in the Father? (Incorporating the seven adjutant mind spirits which represent an equivalent aspect of *being*.)

1. It is a process in the mind to commit to this course of action. Engage in a dialogue with God. Make love the primary drive. (*Understanding*)

2. It will involve decisions and more decisions for the present moment, for the short term, and for the long term. Seek guidance and direction from all sources e.g. lots of effort, research, friends and family. (*Knowledge*)

3. Patience. Be prepared to wait and wait for a direction to present itself, to become clear. The process cannot be forced. Work with the Ministering Spirits, Thought Adjuster, and prayer. (*Intuition*)

4. Proceed without knowing, sometimes without reason or logic. Forfeit your personal will. Sense the rhythm. Look out—something will happen. It always does. (*Courage*)

5. Confirmation of the action will be given in some way. (*Wisdom*)

6. Review and relate the experience into spiritual terms and values. (*Council*)

7. Give thanks. (*Worship*)

Now we have invoked the over-riding power of spirit—**The Spirit of Truth**. It prepares us for the Thought Adjuster, it personalizes truth, gives heightened fellowship with, and consciousness of, Michael. (What would Jesus do?) It gives a consciousness of Sonship with God.

*Having started out on the way of life everlasting, having accepted the assignment and received your orders to advance, do not fear the dangers of human forgetfulness and mortal inconstancy... for the Spirit of Truth will always speak, saying, "This is the way."* (p.383:2 emphasis mine)

### The Example of Jesus

This is the real core of this presentation. We need to practice living in the presence of the Father. We need to have trust and implicit faith. Here are some ways Jesus did it:

*...Jesus ever deferring his slightest wish to the will of the Father in heaven, and his daily life of implicit trust...* (p.1555:2 emphasis mine)

The secret of Jesus' unparalleled religious life was his: *consciousness of the presence of God; and he attained*

*it by intelligent prayer and sincere worship—**unbroken communion with God**— and not by leadings, voices, visions, or extraordinary religious practices.* (p.2089:0 emphasis mine)

***He depended on the heavenly Father as a child leans upon its earthly parent, and his fervent faith never for one moment doubted the certainty of the heavenly Father's overcare.*** (p.2089:1 emphasis mine)

What astounding results and benefits *might* happen if we were to live as Jesus lived? (A word of caution: we cannot say that Jesus' life was made any easier because he had unbroken communication with God.)

We may experience an effortless energy flow. We may sense a power that seems to be at work. We may sense a knowing that something is going on. Life could become an incredible, inexplicable adventure. Life would be truly unique: potentials would become actuals; personality would become real. There could be a sense of freedom in the mind and heart, an increased capacity for spiritual receptivity and preparedness to take action, and a life of purpose. By living life to the fullest we experience a feeling of genuine happiness and the complete satisfaction of contributing to Light and Life.

And who knows, one day it may even be fashionable. JUST TRY IT. People may think you're crazy, but love you for it anyway.

## The Book Sings

*By Bill, a reader who sent this message to the UrantiaT Internet discussion list*

When I first started to read *The Urantia Book*—I won't mention how long ago for fear of giving away my age—it was very important for me to believe that the book was not written by a person. I had to be absolutely convinced that not one passage, sentence or word be placed into that book by person or persons unknown. It was really important that I believed it was written by the beings it says it is written by.

And so I believed for many years. But the day came when I wasn't convinced. I started to think that maybe someone on our planet did write it. And so I put it down for six months and fretted over whether I should try reading it again.

When I picked it up again I came upon one of those passages that sing like a choir. Do you know what I mean when I say that? There are times when I am reading the book, and I can be ploughing through some mundane subject that's putting me to sleep, and all of a sudden the book starts to sing to me. The writer starts to talk about something like the wonderful future awaiting us—the universe adventure. And it seems like a choir of angels has appeared in my room singing of heavenly things. This

happens a lot. And the only way I can think of to describe it is to say it sings.

And so I never put the book down again. And I stopped thinking about whether it was written by people or not. And instead of worrying about such things, I listen to the song.

You see, what matters to me is the book sings. It sings to me of truth and of light and of life. It sings to me of God. And it sings to me of me. And that is what counts. Now many people are raising questions about the book, same as I had. And many people are criticising it and many people are casting doubts about it. So what? It doesn't matter to me what anyone says. What matters to me is the book sings. And it keeps on singing, even when I have read it over and over again. And the song I hear is more important than anything else.

## Missing Matter

*Nigel Nunn, ACT*

Those star-students mapping our finite back yard have some fine tools nowadays, and are making good use of them. This just in at this website:

[http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/missing\\_matter\\_030212.html](http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/missing_matter_030212.html)

“Today's announcement directly concerns only normal matter. But astronomers have realized in recent years that this baryonic variety acts as a sort of shadow for the totally undetectable dark matter.

“We believe baryons are drawn to the gravity of the dark matter, so they trace the location of dark matter through space,” Mathur said. “One provides a map to the other.”

*The Urantia Book's mentions:*

*Universe power includes all forms of energy which, while still responding to Paradise gravity, are directly responsive to linear gravity. This is the electronic level of energy-matter and all subsequent evolutions thereof.* (p.9:9)

*Gravity acts positively on the power lanes and energy channels of the power centers and the physical controllers, but these beings have only a negative relation to gravity—the exercise of their antigravity endowments.* (p.473:2)

*Throughout all organized space there are gravity-responding energy currents, power circuits, and ultimatonic activities,...* (p.473:4)

## Confucius

In the wake of Melchizedek's life and teachings there appeared great teachers in the Orient. One of them we know as Confucius. Below is a little bit of his wisdom which well reveals why he is still revered in China.

But first, *The Urantia Book* makes several comments about him, here are a few:

*...the writings of Confucius have ever since constituted the basis of the moral fabric of the culture of almost a third of Urantians.* (p.1034:6)

*...In China, the two outstanding teachers were Lao-tse and Confucius.* (p. 1033:5)

*Confucius was to Chinese morality what Plato was to Greek philosophy...* (p. 1009:6)

From *The Great Learning* by Confucius:

(Written around 500 BC)

What the great learning teaches, is to illustrate illustrious virtue—to renovate the people—and to rest in the highest excellence.

The ancients who wished to illustrate illustrious virtue throughout the kingdom, first ordered well their own states. Wishing to order well their states, they first regulated their families. Wishing to regulate their families, they first cultivated their persons. Wishing to cultivate their persons, they first rectified their hearts. Wishing to rectify their hearts, they first sought to be sincere in their thoughts. Wishing to be sincere in their thoughts, they first extended to the utmost their knowledge. Such extension of knowledge lay in the investigation of things. Things being investigated, knowledge became complete. Their knowledge being complete, their thoughts were sincere. Their thoughts being sincere, their hearts were then rectified. Their hearts being rectified, their persons were cultivated.

Their persons being cultivated, their families were regulated. Their families being regulated, their states were rightly governed. Their states being rightly governed, the whole kingdom was made tranquil and happy.

From the Son of Heaven down to the mass of the people, all must consider the cultivation of the person the root of everything besides.

It cannot be, when the root is neglected, that what should spring from it will be well ordered. It ever has been the case that what was of great importance has been slightly cared for, and at the same time, that what was of slight importance has been greatly cared for.



I'VE SEEN  
BETTER DAYS,  
AND  
WORSE DAYS,  
  
BUT THIS IS  
THE ONLY DAY  
I'LL SEE  
TODAY.

## Spiritual Unity

From *The Urantia Book* p.1591

*One of the most eventful of all the evening conferences at Amathus was the session having to do with the discussion of spiritual unity. James Zebedee had asked, "Master, how shall we learn to see alike and thereby enjoy more harmony among ourselves?" When Jesus heard this question, he was stirred within his spirit, so much so that he replied: "James, James, when did I teach you that you should all see alike? I have come into the world to proclaim spiritual liberty to the end that mortals may be empowered to live individual lives of originality and freedom before God. I do not desire that social harmony and fraternal peace shall be purchased by the sacrifice of free personality and spiritual originality. What I require of you, my apostles, is spirit unity--and that you can experience in the joy of your united dedication to the wholehearted doing of the will of my Father in heaven. You do not have to see alike or feel alike or even think alike in order spiritually to be alike. Spiritual unity is derived from the consciousness that each of you is indwelt, and increasingly dominated, by the spirit gift of the heavenly Father. Your apostolic harmony must grow out of the fact that the spirit hope of each of you is identical in origin, nature, and destiny.*

*"In this way you may experience a perfected unity of spirit purpose and spirit understanding growing out of the mutual consciousness of the identity of each of your indwelling Paradise spirits; and you may enjoy all of this profound spiritual unity in the very face of the utmost diversity of your individual attitudes of intellectual thinking, temperamental feeling, and social conduct. Your personalities may be refreshingly diverse and markedly different, while your spiritual natures and spirit fruits of divine worship and brotherly love may be so unified that all who behold your lives will of a surety take cognizance of this spirit identity and soul unity; they will recognize that you have been with me and have thereby learned, and acceptably, how to do the will of the Father in heaven. You can achieve the unity of the service of God even while you render such service in accordance with the technique of your own original endowments of mind, body, and soul.*

*"Your spirit unity implies two things, which always will be found to harmonize in the lives of individual believers: First, you are possessed with a common motive for life service; you all desire above everything to do the will of the Father in heaven. Second, you all have a common goal of existence; you all purpose to find the Father in heaven, thereby proving to the universe that you have become like him."*

*Many times during the training of the twelve Jesus reverted to this theme. Repeatedly he told them it was not his desire that those who believed in him should become dogmatized and standardized in accordance with the religious interpretations of even good men. Again and again he warned his apostles against the formulation of creeds and the establishment of traditions as a means of guiding and controlling believers in the gospel of the kingdom.*

## The Cracked Pot

*Author unknown*

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried cross his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But, the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream, "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do extra work, and you don't get full value from your efforts."

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day as we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so interesting and rewarding.

## Who Is Jesus?

*(Adapted from p.1965 of The Urantia Book)*

After Jesus had finished his earth life, *The Urantia Book* tells us that he could truly say that he is the bread of life; the living water; the light of the world; the desire of all ages; the open door to eternal salvation; the reality of endless life; the good shepherd; the pathway of infinite perfection; the resurrection and the life; the secret of eternal survival; the way, the truth, and the life; the infinite Father of his finite children; the true vine of which his followers are the branches; the hope of all who know the living truth; the living bridge from one world to another; and the living link between time and eternity.

*Thus did Jesus enlarge the living revelation of the name of God to all generations. As divine love reveals the nature of God, eternal truth discloses his name in ever-enlarging proportions. (p.1965:20)*

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