

# THE ARENA

## ANZURA

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### THE MIND ARENA OF CHOICE

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

### Persons and Love

Love can sweep away our aches and pains. It can derange our most sensible plans. It can become sufficient motivation for life. Love is the business of persons. But for we baby Finaliters, love is strong stuff.

Too strong? An undiluted transmission or reception of love, in a single moment, can change utterly the way we see the world. Without question, this is unsettling. But love is the business of persons.

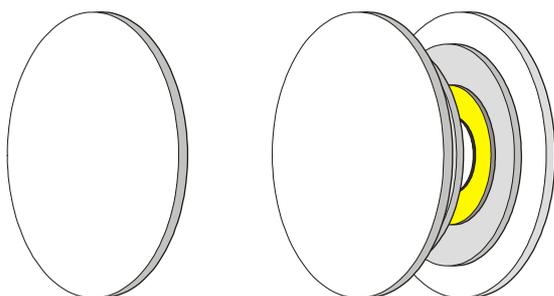
Two important things we know: that God is love, and that the Father was unable to delegate responsibility for the circuit of personality. What might we make of this?

\* \* \*

Seeing the big picture can help with understanding the small details. As humans, the details of most interest to us have not to do with the hierarchies of authority and control that underlie the organisation of the cosmos, nor with the behaviour of the patterns of primordial force when caught in the grip of a collapsed star. As humans, ascending towards the paradise home of our Father, the details of most interest and importance to us have to do with *persons*, and the relationships between them.

Getting the big picture on personality may (or may not) help us understand the small details about how persons interact, but it will certainly deepen our appreciation of this gift to us from the Father.

But to get the really big picture, we need to paddle somewhat upstream of all qualifications, delegations and attenuations. After some philosophical paddling, when we arrive at the headwaters of reality, we find the I AM. Now, glance from this frame to the far side of eternity:



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Once again, the picture holds little apart from the I AM. But I AM *ripened*. The pre-eternity face of the I AM, separated by some non-time sequence from His post-eternity face, is adjusted in some way.

Between these faces, the Absolutes sponsor that sequence mapped out, for the first time on our world, by the Urantia Papers. The Vicegerents of the Ultimate, the master architects and force organisers, Gods the Absolute, Ultimate and Supreme, all contribute to the ripening of the far side of the I AM.

Given that He can cause the necessary internal metamorphoses, what might the I AM be projecting upon His qualified and sub-absolute domains, extracted magically from the potentials of the Unqualified? What stuff is passed into the care of the Qualified Vicegerents of the Ultimate?

When the I AM qualified Himself as the Father and shone through the Son, *spiritual* beings responsive to the gravity grasp of the Son appeared. When the I AM, qualified as the First Source and Center, shone through Paradise, patterns responsive to the gravity grasp of Paradise appeared. An absolute response to these activations was the appearance of the Infinite Spirit. This third source took up the task of coordinating the two projected realities. Mind, responsive to the gravity grasp of the Spirit, appeared.

*(continued on page 2)*

*(Persons and Love, continued from page 1)*

Consider the nature of the energies and realities projected through these templates, Son and Paradise. Would they not reflect something fundamental about the nature of the ancestral reality, the stuff of the I AM? So, why might the Father of creation, the First Source of reality, the qualified heart of the I AM, be unable to delegate responsibility for the universal circuit of personality? And if Thought Adjusters come from upstream of the divergence of the personal from the non-personal, might they be termed pre-personal because they come from a place where there is no divergence of the qualified emanations of the I AM?

The concept of *monota* implies the existence of energies that, when projected one way, become spirit realities, and when projected another way, become material realities—an emanation of the I AM shining through the twin lenses of His Son and His Paradise. As the non-time sequence unfolds, this precursor acquires distinctions; a divergence of the personal from the non-personal sets in, triggering polarities and a creative turbulence. The potentials set in place by this development call forth from the I AM His deities Supreme, Ultimate and Absolute to oversee proceedings—to attend to the details.

*“On Paradise, monota and spirit are as one—indistinguishable except by name. In Havona, matter and spirit, while distinguishably different, are at the same time innately harmonious. In the seven superuniverses, however, there is great divergence; there is a wide gulf between cosmic energy and divine spirit; therefore is there a greater experiential potential for mind action in harmonizing and eventually unifying physical pattern with spiritual purposes. In the time-evolving universes of space there is greater divinity attenuation, more difficult problems to be solved, and larger opportunity to acquire experience in their solution. And this entire superuniverse situation brings into being a larger arena of evolutionary existence in which the possibility of cosmic experience is made available alike to creature and Creator—even to Supreme Deity.” (page 1275,6)*

If the Adjusters are chips off the old block, and partake of the native substance of the First Source, and if the projection of the light of this native substance through the lenses of Son and Paradise give rise to all spirit and nonspirit reality, this may give us an insight into the preeminence of personality, and why the Father was able to delegate all universal activities except those to do with personality. Could it be that the business of the universe is to foster the unfolding of personality, to ripen the substance of the I AM?

Following this thread, and assuming that love is the communication light both of the I AM, and between personalities, and assuming that adjusters can speak only with this light, an implication is that fusion with our adjusters requires that we can endure the impact of undiluted love.

A prerequisite for fusion—that one can endure a head-on collision with love.

We have the span of a mortal life to get used to the rise and fall of adjutant emotion; we have as long as it takes as morontian retards to get used to spiritual derivatives playing upon our selves. All of which is given that we may one day endure the impact of the love of the I AM and His adjuster echo aligning with our core.

October’s conference will explore the epic frame being put in place for the minds of Urantia’s fifth age. Central to this frame will be an understanding of personality, of love, and of that symptom of successful love—teamwork.

## **ANZURA Conference 2000**

***Canberra, October 6–9***

We invite all readers to join us at this year’s conference, to be held at Blackfriars Conference Centre, Canberra. If you have not yet received a conference brochure, or would like more information, please contact ANZURA,

*phone* ..... 02 9970 6200

*email* ..... anzura@urantia.org.au

Over this weekend, we hope to unfold fresh insights and discover deeper understandings. But for success, as with the Supreme, all are needed. Together, our value deepens and magnifies. May many of you have the opportunity to join us!

### **THE ARENA**

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## News from Estonia: First conference for children about *The URANTIA Book*

*Peep Sõber  
Tallinn, Estonia*

From 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of December 1999, we had in Tallinn a conference for children introducing *The URANTIA Book* and its teachings. A seminar named "Secrets of Universe" was prepared by our youth organization — Successful Children Organization (SCO) in co-operation with our readers.

Producer of SCO, Veikko Raagmets was a leader of a youth organization already during the time of Soviet occupation in Estonia. Then it was hardly dictated by Communists from Moscow. He was first in previous Soviet Union who declared this kind of youth organization to be independent from ideological pressure of Moscow. On re-establishment of our independence he worked out a new basis and structure for a youth organization, somewhat similar to scouts in Western countries. A few years earlier Veikko had discovered *The URANTIA Book* and, being inspired by that, reorganized SCO closer to these teachings. By that reason he offered work in SCO as consultant to our young reader Helen Anvelt.

SCO deals with after-school activities, mostly educational camps for 12-18 year-old children from all over Estonia. Their main task is to master successfully the challenges of living. According to SCO the signs of a successful living include, in addition to economic independence, many important factors such as peace of mind, good health, appreciation of the natural environment, harmonious relations with the people around us, the existence of goals and ideals, intellectually honest self-awareness, self-respect, self acceptance and Higher Consciousness. In addition to many courses there is some activity with entertainment, sports, fine arts and a chance to enjoy the natural environment.

The SCO is not a political or religious organization and it does not co-operate with a political party, a working church or a sect. They have about 1000 members joined into 60 clubs. All members are introduced to *The URANTIA Book* by an introductory lecture as it is an ideological basis of SCO. They have small membership fees. The membership allows every member to participate free in at least three different educational camps during one year. SCO is financed partly by state and different funds. The Speaker of Estonian Parliament is their patron. You can get more information from the web site: <http://www.online.ee/~elorg/english.html>

And now the time was ready to broaden the world view of SCO members by *The URANTIA Book* teachings. The aim for this seminar was: to make children conscious about the structure and administration of the universe; the origin and destiny of man; the connection between religion, philosophy and science; to give a new concept

of time, eternity and Deity; to give some practical advice how to use knowledge of philosophy and religion in daily life. But the main task was to help participants to discover their personal truth. We did not enforce (or even suggest) that they should believe all this.

Leaders of SCO had never experienced such an interest towards any previous seminar. By the week before already 120 children had applied for the seminar but they had only 85 seats in the hall. So they had to close the registration a week early, and 90 children came and participated! It was really our biggest conference ever! Of course they were permitted to bring their parents, but no one did.

These were our lectures by Veikko Raagmets, Ruth Kask, Riho Kokk and me: "The Structure of Universe, leadership and laws"; "Our Cosmic Career"; "Man in Universe"; "Life and Teachings of Jesus"; "Origin of the Book and Urantia Movement in Estonia and in the World". Some of them were prepared and presented using Microsoft's PowerPoint program. The children saw URANTIA Foundation's video clip about the translation, then a clip made by American TV, and a media talk show made this year in Vancouver. We also planned a time for study groups on following topics: "Invisible World: to Believe or not?"; "Everyone Can Create His Own Happiness"; "Love, Marriage and Family Life"; "Invisible World and Daily Life". There was no time for dancing as children met with our well-known actress who got from me some translated Papers already 12 years ago and certainly she will read the book when it is published and available in our language. Another meeting was organized with our famous composer who is also an amateur astronomer and had built his own observatory. But the highlight of all was the meeting in the end with Severin Desbuisson from France. It was encouraging to hear that he started to read the book when he was 14 years old. Severin became like a pop-star after a concert, giving autographs left and right to Estonian girls.

It was an extraordinary experience to prepare and assist with such a unique and untried event. It was incredible to see how deep can be spiritual perception and interest among our school children. Most astonishing of all was to see that our youngest participant, 10-year-old Toomas, asked such clever questions and even in English from Severin!

At the end there was a little test and children received a Master Degree or Disciple Degree on *The URANTIA Book* by the answers. Now they know that URANTIA Foundation is a publisher and not a church, and that the first printing of the book was made already in 1955 in Chicago.

There was much joy and humour among us and we never heard any criticism or skepticism. The only sad thing was that we cannot yet offer the book itself in our native language. But the time is not far when our translation will be ready and hopefully soon published by URANTIA Foundation. By that seminar the door

*(continued on page 11)*

## Without a Team We're All Alone

*Kathleen Swadling*

*Sydney Australia, May 2000*

*Few are the duties in the universe for the lone servant. The higher you ascend, the more lonely you become when temporarily without the association of your fellows.*

*(The URANTIA Book p.312.1)*

How many of us would answer 'yes' to the following question: Are you tired of struggling and striving with your fellow man to the point where you feel tempted simply to turn your back on them and 'go it alone'? For those of us who answer 'yes' to this question, we need to take heed of the above quote, and indeed the entire context to which this quote belongs:

*These [the Union of Souls] are the angels who foster and promote the teamwork of all Orvonton. One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is teamwork. The spheres of perfection are manned by those who have mastered this art of working with other beings. Few are the duties in the universe for the lone servant. The higher you ascend, the more lonely you become when temporarily without the association of your fellows. (p.312.1)*

Through our study of *The URANTIA Book* we see many patterns emerge which give us insight into the mind of the Great Designer—the First Great Source and Centre of all things and beings, our one and only Universal Father. One intriguing pattern is to see how the energy created from polarisation, or from opposing forces can be harnessed and used as a powerful, positive energy source. In a recent internet discussion on this topic a reader of *The URANTIA Book*, Jane Ploetz said: “Emergent energy has great potential for creativity or destruction, depending on how it is used. That part is up to us. I feel a sense of confidence for the first time that the polarity we are experiencing is capable of producing something very positive if we use the energy it creates in the tension between those poles in a useful, rather than destructive, way.”

If we keep in mind this particular pattern while contemplating the endless struggle that exists between human beings, we may not feel so perturbed, or so disillusioned with our seemingly futile attempts to work and strive with our fellow man. We may not feel the need to turn our backs on the team and 'go it alone.' Margaret

Mead said about the Power of Teamwork: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

If we, as teams of *URANTIA Book* readers wish to change the world by introducing the book and its teachings to mankind, we must ever be mindful of the power of intelligent teamwork, coupled with wise leadership. We are told on page 911.2 of *The URANTIA Book*:

*In civilization much, very much, depends on an enthusiastic and effective load-pulling spirit. Ten men are of little more value than one in lifting a great load unless they lift together—all at the same moment. And such teamwork—social co-operation—is dependent on leadership. (p.911.2)*

One of the essential ingredients to effective teamwork is for each team member to recognise, adopt, and cooperate with the other team members and with the team's leaders. This often means facing the challenge of having to go along with something with which we may not agree. A couple of major hindrances to successful cooperation lies in the facts that many of us possess the immature tendency to revere individualism as well as to mistrust those with leadership qualities. Couple those with the difficulties we have in loving one another as Jesus loves us, no wonder we despair of ever being able to accomplish great things together.

By studying the characters of the twelve apostles we glean much insight into the strengths and weaknesses of our human natures. On this topic of cooperation and teamwork, the apostle Nathaniel makes an interesting case study. In his final admonitions and warnings to the apostles Jesus said to Nathaniel:

*“Nathaniel, you have learned to live above prejudice and to practice increased tolerance since you became my apostle. But there is much more for you to learn. You have been a blessing to your fellows in that they have always been admonished by your consistent sincerity. When I have gone, it may be that your frankness will interfere with your getting along well with your brethren, both old and new. You should learn that the expression of even a good thought must be modulated in accordance with the intellectual status and spiritual development of the hearer. Sincerity is most serviceable in the work of the kingdom when it is wedded to discretion.*

*“If you would learn to work with your brethren,*

*you might accomplish more permanent things, but if you find yourself going off in quest of those who think as you do, in that event dedicate your life to proving that the God-knowing disciple can become a kingdom builder even when alone in the world and wholly isolated from his fellow believers. I know you will be faithful to the end, and I will some day welcome you to the enlarged service of my kingdom on high.” (p.1960.2 & p.1961.1)*

Jesus also said to Nathaniel: *“If, therefore, you serve me with a whole heart, make sure that you are devoted to the welfare of my brethren on earth with tireless affection. Admix friendship with your counsel and add love to your philosophy. Serve your fellow men even as I have served you. Be faithful to men as I have watched over you. Be less critical; expect less of some men and thereby lessen the extent of your disappointment. And when the work down here is over, you shall serve with me on high.” (p.2049.1)*

Note how Jesus tells Nathaniel: *“If you would learn to work with your brethren, you might accomplish more permanent things...”* and how he gave him a complete set of instructions on how to accomplish greater tolerance for his fellows. We know, however that Nathaniel could not work with Peter and the others after Pentecost (p.2051.4) as he was opposed to the shift in the proclamation of the gospel from sonship with God and brotherhood with man to the proclamation of the risen Christ. So although he was right in the fact, he missed the essential truth of persevering with his fellows to work for the greater cause. Nathaniel was even described as being the “odd genius of the twelve.” (p.1558.5) If he’d had stayed and worked with the team Jesus went to such lengths to train, perhaps his greater understanding of the gospel message would have eventually had a positive impact on the direction the Christian movement was to take. As it was, he went off alone into India and no doubt did good work, but how much more could he have accomplished if he’d only taken heed of Jesus’ preferred admonition for him.

Isn’t it interesting how we mortal creatures cannot get along without each other, yet we have such a hard time getting along with one another? Perhaps we can gain strength and comfort from the following passage regarding the role of the Union of Souls.

*Completing the triune staff of attachment to the Perfectors of Wisdom, are these reflectors of the ideals and status of ethical relationships. Of all the problems in the universe requiring an exercise*

*of the consummate wisdom of experience and adaptability, none are more important than those arising out of the relationships and associations of intelligent beings. Whether in human associations of commerce and trade, friendship and marriage, or in the liaisons of the angelic hosts, there continue to arise petty frictions, minor misunderstandings too trivial even to engage the attention of conciliators but sufficiently irritating and disturbing to mar the smooth working of the universe if they were allowed to multiply and continue. (p.311.5)*

Note where they say: *Of all the problems in the universe requiring an exercise of the consummate wisdom of experience and adaptability, none are more important than those arising out of the relationships and associations of intelligent beings.* [emphasis mine]

\* \* \*

So we may as well settle in for the long haul and get used to conflict and tension. May we learn to thrive and grow from the conflicts and form mighty teams of men and women willing to commit themselves to the work of the Urantia revelation; may we learn to cooperate with one another in order to achieve meaningful ends, instead of splintering off into disillusioned factions, seeking out like-minded brothers and sisters who are easier to work with, or simply turning our backs on the program because we may choose not to persevere.

*This training of mind and education of spirit is carried on from the worlds of human origin up through the system mansion worlds and the other spheres of progress associated with Jerusem, on the seventy socializing realms attached to Edentia, and on the four hundred and ninety spheres of spirit progress encircling Salvington. On the universe headquarters itself are numerous Melchizedek schools, the colleges of the Universe Sons, the seraphic universities, and the schools of the Teacher Sons and the Union of Days. Every possible provision is made to qualify the various personalities of the universe for advancing service and human happiness. The instinctive desire of the self and the altruistic urge of the higher self (divine spirit) are co-ordinated and reconciled by the unified will of the integrating and supervising personality.” (page 1134)*

## The Bridge

Once upon a time two brothers lived on adjoining farms. For 40 years they farmed side by side without a hitch, sharing machinery, and trading labor and goods as needed. One day, they had a small misunderstanding. It grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence. The long collaboration had fallen apart.

One morning there was a knock on the door of the older brother, John. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days work" the man with the toolbox said. "Perhaps you have a few small jobs here and there. Can I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother, "I do have a job for you. See that farm across the creek. That's my younger brother's farm. Before last week there was a meadow between us. Then he took his bulldozer to the river and dug a creek between us. Well, he may have done that to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber curing by the barn? I want you to build me an 8-foot fence so I won't need to see his place anymore.

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger, and I'll do a job that pleases you."

John had to go to town for supplies, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing. When the farmer returned, about sunset, the carpenter had just finished his job.

John's eyes opened wide and his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge—a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work—handrails and all—and the younger brother was coming across, his hand outstretched.

The younger brother said, "You are quite a fellow, John, to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers met at the middle of the bridge, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox onto his shoulder. John said, "No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you."

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have so many more bridges to build."

## Re: The Bridge

*On May 5, Jane Ploetz made this response to the "Bridges" tale:*

Dear Kathleen,

It is so interesting that you began this thread with your piece on "Bridges" at this time.

Our study group is currently studying the section in "The Eternal Isle of Paradise" on "Paradise Gravity." The first couple of times I read this section, I thought, "Some physicist somewhere, some Stephen Hawking, is going to find this section (and the one on Space Respiration) very interesting, and that information will be the key to some incredible discovery – maybe the key to discovering a new form of energy."

But this week, I am feeling a different reason behind the inclusion of this information in *The URANTIA Book*. I am beginning to see that all information in the book is useful if looked at from the vantage point of PATTERN.

Certain themes run throughout the book, whether material patterns, mindal or spiritual – they maintain the same pattern integrity. For example, page 125: "*Every known form of cosmic reality has the bend of the ages, the trend of the circle, the swing of the great ellipse.*"

On page 126 is the pattern of emergence, development, evolution into more individuation.

Energy, for example, emerges and evolves. It moves from pregravity stages, to gravity stages, to postgravity stages. There is a stage where it is prematter. Then it develops into a relatively neutral stage, pre-electron, the ultimata stage. Only later does it develop polarity, wherein it becomes charged with a negative and positive quality.

This polarity is useful. It creates the potential for electricity. Charge. Movement. Power.

For the first time, I looked at this information in a new way. I have always looked at polarity in the material universe as a good thing, as a useful aspect of our universe. Electricity can be harnessed for tremendous creative work. It also carries great powers of destruction, if misused. The essential element is how is this energy used?

I look with a new sense of wonder at our spiritual polarity. First, it is part of the natural emergent order of differentiation that occurs in the cosmos as a reality emerges and differentiates. It is not a "bad" thing. It is a natural stage. Look at every religious sect, every philosophical school of thought. Eventually they all develop an orthodox, conservative, and reform point of view. Every one.

Secondly, it allows great potential for movement and development within our spirituality. I look back on our own changes in the community of readers, and the positive changes that have resulted from controversy and discussion. In the last ten years, think of all the positive creations to do with *The URANTIA Book* – translations, softcover editions, etc. Maybe these would have been

produced eventually, but the polarization created a need and a market, and energized us into more intensified action.

Third, emergent energy has great potential for creativity or destruction, depending on how it is used. That part is up to us. I feel a sense of confidence for the first time that the polarity we are experiencing is capable of producing something very positive if we use the energy it creates in the tension between those poles in a useful, rather than destructive, way.

Thank you for “sparking” my thinking on this thread, Kathleen.

Love,  
Jane

Then on May 8, Kathleen replied to Jane:

### Re: Re: The Bridge

Hi Jane and all,

I think you’ve hit the nail on the head, Jane. As we study *The URANTIA Book* we see this pattern as the very basis for the creation of the time and space experiential universes. People often ask in study groups: but why did God have to make it so difficult? Why did he want us to climb out of the slime, and struggle through the mud, and go through all of this heartache and hardship? Why couldn’t he have just made us perfect? We see that on every evolutionary planet the stage gets purposely set up for struggle and hardship. The very nature of imperfect, selfish, primitive beings being thrown together on one planet and having to survive without killing each other off guarantees that relationships will be difficult and complex. The different coloured races were purposely programmed to appear which set a new stage for increased diversity and increased conflict. Man progressed when faced with the struggle to survive in the ice ages. We’re told about the social benefits of war in the early years of the evolutionary struggle. The family evolved to be the stabilizer of society as a result of man and woman’s dependency on one another, despite the conflicts that arose as a result of their inability to understand one another.

We’re told on page 312: “*One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is teamwork. The spheres of perfection are manned by those who have mastered this art of working with other beings.*”

In addition we’re told that on the Edentia training worlds: “*Your sojourn on Edentia and its associated spheres will be chiefly occupied with the mastery of group ethics, the secret of pleasant and profitable inter-relationships between the various universe and superuniverse orders of intelligent personalities.*” and “*...but now on the constellation training worlds you are to achieve the real socialization of your evolving morontia*

*personality.*” [page 494:2,3]

Then they go on to tell us how this will be done. We must learn to:

“1. *Live happily and work effectively with ten diverse fellow morontians, while ten such groups are associated in companies of one hundred and then federated in corps of one thousand.*

2. *Abide joyfully and co-operate heartily with ten univitatia, who, though similar intellectually to morontia beings, are very different in every other way. And then must you function with this group of ten as it co-ordinates with ten other families, which are in turn confederated into a corps of one thousand univitatia.*

3. *Achieve simultaneous adjustment to both fellow morontians and these host univitatia. Acquire the ability voluntarily and effectively to co-operate with your own order of beings in close working association with a somewhat dissimilar group of intelligent creatures.*

4. *While thus socially functioning with beings like and unlike yourself, achieve intellectual harmony with, and make vocational adjustment to, both groups of associates.*

5. *While attaining satisfactory socialization of the personality on intellectual and vocational levels, further perfect the ability to live in intimate contact with similar and slightly dissimilar beings with ever-lessening irritability and ever-diminishing resentment. The reversion directors contribute much to this latter attainment through their group-play activities.*

6. *Adjust all of these various socialization techniques to the furtherance of the progressive co-ordination of the Paradise-ascension career; augment universe insight by enhancing the ability to grasp the eternal goal-meanings concealed within these seemingly insignificant time-space activities.*” [page 494:4-9]

How’s that last sentence? “...augment universe insight by enhancing the ability to grasp the eternal goal-meanings concealed within these seemingly insignificant time-space activities.” — “...seemingly insignificant time-space activities”? Woe – what does this tell us? This whole section tells me it’s going to be a long and difficult road to master teamwork and to get dignified in our socialization. I think Jane’s right when she says we can harness the energy generated by polarization and conflict and turn it into something positive if we so choose. We shouldn’t get hung up on the fact that there is conflict—we need it to grow. It’s intended for us to grow. And we shouldn’t really get hung up on the fact that we and some of our fellows don’t deal with it very well—rather we should be continually working on how to deal with it better next time, and helping one another learn how to get better at dealing with it. We’re just on the bottom rung of our careers. Let’s be gentle with each other while maintaining a firm hold on our principles.

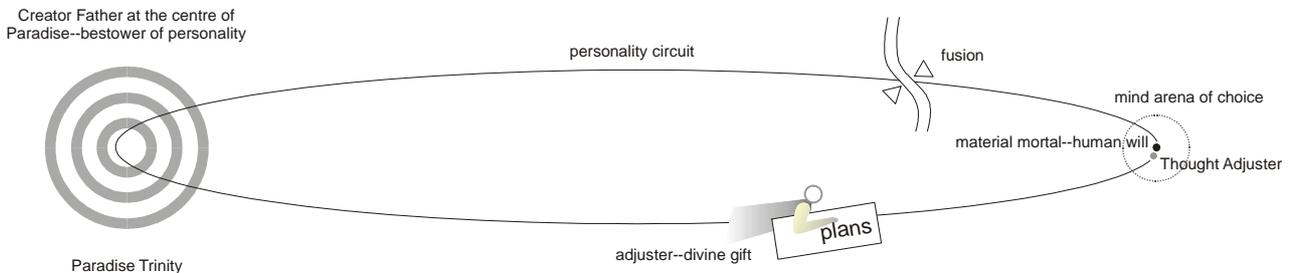
Thanks Jane for shedding further insight into this topic.  
Love,  
Kathleen

Conference 2000

## PERSONALITY

### THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE—PASSPORT TO PARADISE

Verner Verass, Australia



[The following article introduces Vern's conference presentation on Personality. We include this here in the hope that our readers may devote some time prior to October's conference pondering Personality. Ed.]

The aim of this presentation is to take a look at personality. In this attempt I propose to ask a series of relevant questions and encourage you to personally participate.

Let me begin by focusing on the heading line "The Pearl of Great Price—Passport to Paradise". It is not possible for us in our spiritual infancy to put a true value on personality, but we are able to get an appreciation of its worth when we realise what unique privilege it is to be recipients of the gift of personality. Personality, a gift from our Paradise Father, is a level of deified reality. This is a great comfort, to know that the personal exchange we are now enjoying is based on such a reality.

When speaking of the value of personality, we may ask, who has most clearly illuminated the true worth of a person? Jesus, our Father/Brother and fellow one time mortal. Jesus loved men and women more than any human who has ever lived, he highly valued each person, he knew how precious was the father's gift of personality to each mortal. A perception of value is a level on which personality functions—experientially realised in the progressive realms of the material, morontial and the spiritual.

#### How is personality like a passport?

By definition, personality is permanence in the presence of change; no matter how many transformations we go through on the paradise journey it is by our personality that we will be known—recognised. Personality is absolutely unique. There are no duplicates. *You* are a living passport to paradise.

This subject has the potential to take us into many interesting related topics which could occupy us well into the future, beyond the time allocated for this presentation.

After all, even the high personalities of the universe deem personality one of the mysteries of the universe. Let's try to stay on the subject and delve into the mystery:

#### Where does personality come from?

There is no personality apart from GOD the Father. To personality GOD cannot be plural; GOD is father to each of his creatures, it is literally impossible for a child to have more than one Father. As mentioned earlier, personality is a gift from our Paradise Father.

#### That said, what else can we gather about personality?

To all created intelligences, GOD is a personality, the origin and destiny of personality throughout all creation—in fact GOD is personality. Someone who can "know and be known", who can "love and be loved" [p27-28]

#### Of what is personality made? Sugar and spice and all things nice?

One thing is for sure, a material body is not indispensable to personality in either man or GOD. Personality is one thing which can be added to spirit. Though transcending its constituent parts personality is dependent on them for functional identity. Personality is superimposed on energy and is associated only with living energy systems. Living energy systems which are the culmination of the Life Carriers' plans—evolutionary mortals such as ourselves.

#### Where does personality reside?

During the mortal life, mortal will, the personality power of decision-choice, is resident in the material mind circuits. As life progresses and ensuing growth proceeds, this self, with its priceless powers of choice, becomes increasingly identified with the emerging morontia soul; and after death and consequent to mansion world resurrection, the human personality is completely identified with the morontia self.

### **What does personality look like?**

*Beauty is in the eye of the beholder*, could apply here. In a previous record it is said man is made in the image of GOD. Also on record is that all mortals of will dignity are erect animals—bipeds.

To a certain extent, the appearance of the material body form is responsive to the character of personality identity; the physical body does to a limited degree reflect something of the inherent nature of the personality.

On the spirit level outward form and inner nature begin to approximate complete identification.

### **How is personality transcendent?**

Personality and mortal memory of personality relationships having cosmic value will persist beyond this initial life. Beyond this life you will remember and be remembered by your one-time associates in the short but intriguing life on Urantia.

### **What distinguishes personality?**

Two self-manifesting and characteristic phenomena of mortal reactive behaviour: self-consciousness and associated relative free will.

Self-consciousness in the intellectual awareness of personality actuality including the ability to recognise the reality of other personalities.

### **What is the purpose of personality?**

Bestowal of the dignity of cosmic citizenship. To make a gift to GOD—dedication of free will. Respond to the Adjuster lure of the Universal Father to the end that the prize of eternal life is achieved and personality is truly liberated—launched on a magnificent adventure of eternal unfolding even to the penetration of the absolute. Held as potential in each mortal is the synthesis of the lowest with the highest.

### **What guides the personality?**

Personality responds to the Father's personality circuit. Personality invariably attains Deity destiny; your choice to share this destiny is optional.

### **What is the relationship between Personality and the Thought Adjuster?**

They have the same origin, but when they first come from the Father, Thought Adjusters are identical in nature, whereas personality is diverse, original and exclusive.

The attainment of personality is the Adjuster's quest. Fusion with the mortal of its indwelling—in this way the Father completes his promise of the gift of himself to his material creatures.

We are responding to the call from within with a personality response to cooperate with the Adjuster's personal plan of spiritual growth.

### **Does the type of Adjuster influence personality?**

More experienced Adjusters choose to indwell the higher types of mortals. Through the ages many great intellectual and spiritual leaders exerted influence because of the superiority of their indwelling Adjusters.

Mystery Monitors are one of the real potentials of advancing civilization.

Adjusters are fostering planetary cross fertilization in the domains of truth beauty and goodness. Mortals benefit from the previous experience of experienced Adjusters, and consequently, so too does Urantia.

### **If choice is characteristic of personality how can a pre-personal Adjuster choose?**

Though they are not personalities they are real entities—true realities. They exhibit traits of personality, they select mortal subjects, plan their careers and volunteer to indwell them. They exhibit will, choice and love.

But they are subservient to existent personality

### **What effect does fusion have on personality?**

A fused individual is in reality one personality, one being whose unity defies analysis. Man and adjuster, no longer able to be distinguished, stand in the personal presence of Michael of Nebadon—triumphant Adjuster has won a personality, valiant human has acquired immortality.

When fusion occurs each contributing partner gains all of the experiential qualities of the other. It will take an eternity of future experience to completely endow the personality partnership with the meanings and values the Adjuster carries forward from the eternity of the past.

The Thought adjuster is the full spirit stability focus of the ascending mortal while mortal free will offers the Adjuster an eternal channel for liberation of the Divine and infinite nature.

### **Where does personality operate?**

Because a personality exhibits the power of choice in the operational realm of the mind circuits, it is within the mind arena of choice that personality unity is realised.

In this arena human personalities live, are self conscious, make decisions, choose GOD or forsake him, eternalize or destroy themselves.

### **Where is personality most effective?**

Only in the inner life can personality, which is inherently creative, function effectively for the individual. Happiness and joy take origin in the inner life.

What are the significant personality choices? Those which culminate in the survival of self.

During material existence—Survival decisions must be formulated. During the morontia career—Survival decisions are confirmed. Spiritual emergence when—Survival decisions have been made.

*(continued on page 10)*

**Is mind necessary for personality function?**

Exercise of will is essential for personality expression, a body minus the volitional mind is no longer human. [p1230]

**How is personality linked to brotherhood?**

You become conscious of your creature brother because you are already conscious of GOD as your creator Father. Fatherhood is the relationship out of which we reason ourselves into the recognition of brotherhood. The closer the personal relationship to GOD the greater the motivation to make meaningful contact with other persons—service to others.

**How can personality achieve the art of living?**

The greatest problem of living is the task of unifying the soul powers of the personality by the dominance of LOVE. Only a person can love and be loved. Only a personality can know what it is doing before it does it.

The challenge is to replace reactive habits to life situations with a balanced farseeing wisdom that is willing to exercise patience in place of impetuous action.

**What do we know about personality?**

It causes spirit to strive for mastery of energy-matter through mediation of mind.

*Unifies the identity of any living energy system.*

*Displays a qualitative response to the personality circuit*

*Characterised by morality—consciousness of others and differing levels of conduct between persons.*

*Responds directly to another person's presence*

*Personality is uniquely conscious of time.*

**How is personality linked to spiritual growth?**

The sum total of personality realization on a material world is contained in successive conquest of the 7 psychic circles.

Psychic circles are indicators of personality status—moral maturity

The successful traversal of the circles is achieved by harmonious functioning of the entire personality. The parts grow in proportion to the expansion of the entire self.

Persons become more real as they ascend from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> level of mortal existence—the journey from child to mature human of immortal potentiality.

**What are the outward signs of personality unity?**

Light-hearted joyous life with a consequent successful and honourable career on earth.

**What has forever changed all meanings and values of human personality?**

The Universe fact of GOD's becoming a man.

**What was unique about the Master's personality?**

While we cannot hope to attain the high perfection of character of Jesus of Nazareth—every mortal believer can develop a strong and unified personality along the perfected lines of the Jesus personality, a unique feature of which was its symmetry, its exquisite and balanced unification:

*Unfailing kindness in combination with strength of character*

*Sincere and genuine, lived the truth as he taught it—was truth personified*

*Well poised and unafraid, imaginative yet practical, courageous but not reckless*

*Sympathetic but not sentimental, he evidenced exquisite discrimination associated with an extraordinary sense of propriety*

*Surcharged with divine enthusiasm, but he never became fanatical*

*Frank yet friendly, touchingly considerate because he loved his fellows and believed in them*

*He exhibited courage born of faith—truly brave but never audacious.*

And so it is literally true “if any man has Christ Jesus within him, he is a new creature...”

**How is personality a bridge to paradise?**

Stop and ponder the solemn fact that God in his own way has already bridged the gulf that exists between him and you. He is willing to share your life and toil with you as you pursue your universe career.

**Bridge to Paradise?**

The above paragraphs cover the facts about Personality as we may find them on our first few readings of the Urantia Papers.

As we continue to ponder this business of Personality, we cannot help notice that despite His best efforts to delegate all of everything to his coordinate creators and their hierarchies of administrators, the Father was unable to divest himself of *responsibility for Personality*.

What can we make of this? That underlying all manifestations, qualifications and attenuations, the foundation and fabric of reality is *Personal*?

Before qualification into the Absolutes, the I AM is. Could it be that in this hypothetical extra-eternity moment, all that ever could be was contained within the *Person* of the I AM?

The relationship between the I AM, personality, and reality underlies any descriptions or models we can make. We hope to explore this further during Sunday's presentation, “*Surfing the Absonite*”.

(news from Estonia, continued from page 3)

became opened, its their choice to come in or not. *The URANTIA Book* became highly evaluated, 90% of children wanted to participate next time again, 75% were ready for deeper knowledge and 62% believed that all this is true.

Some years ago, trustee Georges Michelson-Dupont said that there is good soil for *The URANTIA Book* teachings in Estonia. Now we can say that this is true also for our younger generation.

[The following description of the "Whales of the Successful Children's Organisation" (SCO) illustrates one of our goals: evolution reaching for revealed targets. Ed.]



## Whales of the SCO

Ways of dealing with the world are conveyed to the members of SCO in a comprehensive way through the language of the SCO whales. SCO whales are the thoughts of a child, seven great and important thoughts. SCO whales, child's thoughts, avail him/her to understand who he/she is and how he/she is connected with everything surrounding him/her. These principles are like his own thoughts, which are constantly developing; at first they are new and maybe a little bit strange, but in a while they become a part of his/her own nature.

### The first whale - me

*I am a human being, absolutely singular and I have my inborn aptitudes. I will get to know about myself and find my aptitudes, I will explore why I am just as I am, Where I came from and where I am going. I will form my aptitudes and abilities and I am constantly developing them. I am steeling my body, training my mind, developing my soul and bracing my spirit. I like myself, I love myself.*

### The second whale - me and we

*I have friends and associates, together with them I am stronger and wiser. I study together with my friends "The wisdom of operating (acting) together", because I know that ten could win a hundred, if these ten*

*have mastered this wisdom. I always act with other people as I wish them to act with me. I love my associates.*

### The third whale - me and my home

*I have come to this world through my parents, I have a home and I am a member of my nation. I will get to know about the origin of my family, history of my native land, joys and troubles of my nation today. I will do my best (make my contribution) that my home could be nicer and my native land could become more prosperous, that my nation could be more able to develop. I love my parents, my home and my native land.*

### The fourth whale - me and nature

*I am a part of nature. I will get to know about the wildlife, its power and troubles, I will master to ability to live and survive in the wilderness. I will protect nature and treat animals and plants with respect and reverence. I love nature.*

### The fifth whale - me and the world

*My world is the planet Earth. There are living together with my nation many other nationalities. I will get to know about the history of my planet and the present state of the world. I will study other languages to communicate with other nationalities. I will work together with children of different nationalities to solve the common problems of our Earth. I love my home planet.*

### The sixth whale - me and the universe

*My home-planet Earth is a small part of the interminable universe beside a billion of other orbs. I will explore the structure and the laws of the immense universe. My "cosmic consciousness" helps me to attain my aims and to be successful in my on-going propositions. I love the whole immense universe.*

### The seventh whale - me and my higher consciousness

*The Higher Consciousness is like a powerful centre of administration that arranges everything that happens. I am going to explore the nature of the Higher Consciousness and my opportunities to be in connection with him. I get help from the Higher Consciousness to attain my aims and to solve my problems. I seek for the connection with the Higher Consciousness. I love him.*

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## Ego and Soul

Two stores within  
hold the results  
of our work

one a pattern  
of response  
to adjutant drives

one a pattern  
of destiny  
partially achieved

one pushed by urge  
and the need to survive,  
reverberates a while

one pulled to Paradise  
by the gravity of Love,  
unfolds forever

one drowns out  
the whispers  
of the Adjuster

one lights up  
with each touch  
of Adjustment

Love,

the Father's circuit,  
whose particle is Love,  
pulls Persons to Paradise

while such love  
is the breath  
of the soul,

the ego must act upon  
a truth response –  
the solution of faith

Ed.