

# THE ARENA

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## THE MIND ARENA OF CHOICE

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

### Editorial

#### Self-Respect and Love

*Spiritual living mightily increases true self-respect. But self-respect is not self-admiration. Self-respect is always co-ordinate with the love and service of one's fellows. It is not possible to respect yourself more than you love your neighbor; the one is the measure of the capacity for the other. (The Urantia Book p.1740:1)*

How many of us knew this? *It is not possible to respect yourself more than you love your neighbor; the one is the measure of the capacity for the other.* Herein lies a clue perhaps to the dilemma many of us find ourselves in when we wonder why we find it so hard to love our fellows. Could it really be that perhaps it's because we find it hard to like ourselves—to have a healthy self-respect? Do we all too often see in our fellows those faults and failings that we cannot tolerate in ourselves?

Why do so many human beings lack a healthy self-respect and why do so many youths suffer from low self-esteem? The answer probably lies in the various combinations of all of those complicated factors like parenting, education, peer group pressure, culture, neighborhood, genetic inheritance etc. So if we can recognize the possible causes, and if we realize that it's a major stumbling block to our ability to practice the Jesusonian gospel of loving our fellow man, what can we do about it? Do we go and visit a psychiatrist and seek to resolve all of those deep-rooted issues, only to discover that we still have a hard time liking ourselves? Once molded to certain behavioral patterns and ways of thinking it can be very difficult to change.

There are no easy answers to this sad human condition in which the human race finds itself. However, spiritual growth, the development of the soul, helps us to rise above the programmed, fear-ridden behaviour of our youth. With constant effort and practice to function from the high ground level of the mind whereby we seek to connect with the spirit, we gradually discover the supernal truth that it is "more blessed to give than to receive." When we throw ourselves into a task with no thought for selfish gain, we experience a higher kind of

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satisfaction of a job well done than if we are doing it purely for ourselves. When we realize our own usefulness we start to feel better about ourselves, and when we feel better about ourselves, we can more easily love others.

So the key is to find out what we are good at, what are our strengths, and determine how to harness those talents and put them to good use. To be Godlike is to give—to give is to love. Experience the satisfaction of giving and start to feel good about yourself.

*In bringing men into the kingdom, do not lessen or destroy their self-respect. While overmuch self-respect may destroy proper humility and end in pride, conceit, and arrogance, the loss of self-respect often ends in paralysis of the will. It is the purpose of this gospel to restore self-respect to those who have lost it and to restrain it in those who have it. Make not the mistake of only condemning the wrongs in the lives of your pupils; remember also to accord generous recognition for the most praiseworthy things in their lives. Forget not that I will stop at nothing to restore self-respect to those who have lost it, and who really desire to regain it. (p.1765:5)*

## ANZURA Conference 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2001

### ***Theme: “Organising the Soul for Dynamic Service”***

*Religion is not a technique for attaining a static and blissful peace of mind; it is an impulse for organizing the soul for dynamic service. It is the enlistment of the totality of selfhood in the loyal service of loving God and serving man. (The Urantia Book p.1096:6)*

Everyone should have received a registration form in the mail for the upcoming conference. Don't forget registration is due by August 31st. We hope to see you there.

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### **The Hammer and the Heart**

*Mark Philip Bloomfield.*

Between April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945, Royal Air Force (R.A.F.) – Bomber Command, under Air Marshall Sir Arthur Harris (1892-1984) conducted its final operation of the war. Codenamed Operation ‘Manna’ (as in the biblical reference ‘manna from heaven’) thirty three entire Lancaster and Mosquito squadrons (the latter aircraft type my uncle flew most of his 78 missions in) flew 3,191 sorties at little more than rooftop height over the flat fields of the Netherlands, whose beleaguered citizens were at that time on the very point of mass starvation (the Brits themselves not being all that far behind them.) Only a few weeks previously and in ghastly reflection of the rabid terror of a war gone mad, many of these same aircraft had comprised that 800 plus bomber raid on Dresden, a city that fire-stormed shortly after the raid due to the intense heat build up of the bombing, incinerating a hundred thousand human beings in a single night. But Operation Manna couldn't have been a more stark contrast to that horror, and as such serves as a worthy model, for this operation that marked the end of Bomber Command's war was a mission of mercy. For ten consecutive days and at diabolical risk to themselves, as the great waves of Lancasters and Mosquitoes swept down over the heads of the Dutch people, their bomb doors opened to release loaves of bread in their hundreds of thousands, to fall harmlessly around a bewildered people scarcely believing what they were witnessing. (My own future mother was a young girl at that time who, after seeing her own home city of Rotterdam quite literally flattened by the Germans earlier in the war, then witnessed this merciful mission by the Royal Air Force, and it was to become her most profound memory of the war. Sometime

after hostilities she moved to England and worked as a nurse so as to ‘return the gesture’ in her own small way. A small picture of Operation Manna still stands in my parent's home to this very day.)

Each year at the larger British air displays, the World War II ‘Battle of Britain’ memorial flight is always one of the favourite attractions. This three aircraft display routine consists of one of the same four-engined Lancaster bombers (usually flying in the centre); and, representing Royal Air Force – Fighter Command, (in those days under the command of Air Chief Marshall Hugh Dowding, 1882-1970) one Hurricane fighter on one wing and one Spitfire fighter plane on the other as the ‘fighter escort.’ There is one point in their routine when all three fly low along the crowd line, the deep raucous growl of the formation's six Rolls-Royce Merlin engines sending chills down the spines of young and old alike, - though especially the older folk. (This is about the point when in my younger days I remembered my mother start to snuffle and say, “I'll never forget that sound!”) Suddenly, both Spitfire and Hurricane violently ‘break’ away from the bomber in the centre symbolizing how the ‘escort fighters’ or ‘little friends’ as they were also sometimes known, would break away at the first sign of trouble to engage incoming enemy fighters that would tear through the vulnerable bomber formations during a mission. (Americans here might be using their own B17's and P51's in this illustration.) In a split second, the

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fighters would have all but disappeared, but just at this point where the fighter escort is just in the act of breaking away, we'll freeze frame. Hold that three aircraft 'breaking formation' image in your mind's eye if you would as herein lies my point:

The heavy bomber formation of organic study groups continues on its own 'Operation Manna' carrying the bread of fifth epochal truth, whilst the fighter escort of new leaders and teachers such study groups are spawning grounds for break away from the main formation to confront the many hideous heads of the 'dragon' of ignorance, and in so doing, unwittingly carry the unadulterated Jesusonian gospel to the ends of the Earth in accordance with the Master's original wishes. The steadiness, range and patient endurance of 'Bomber Command' is perfectly complimented by the agility, speed and inestimable firepower of 'Fighter Command,' – in fact, by definition, inherently incapable of ultimately becoming anything other than the greatest human power for good the world has ever seen. Words like order, discipline and duty of a united and effective fighting force drown out any last lingering, childish notions of unbridled personal liberty as an enemy far deadlier than all the Hitlers there have ever been is finally and resolutely faced up to after its million year orgy of chaos.

That practically every evil known to man is either a greater or lesser head of that one single dragon whose name is Ignorance, and that in turn, the deadliest enemies of 'Ignorance' are the fifth epochal teachings of *The Urantia Book* are nothing more than provable facts. For each of us to be in any way supportive of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* (though neither a bomb may fall nor a bullet fired) is to each be profoundly involved – up to our eyeballs, in the bitterest struggle of all: the simple fight to the death against Ignorance and its many terrible heads. Now that, fifty years on, the fifth epochal movement is metamorphosing into an effective fighting force for truth, beauty and goodness; through it the forces of order are being encouraged to separate from and array against the forces of chaos, and there will be no real peace until either one or the other is stone dead. Thus what we have failed to learn in peacetime we must now learn – and learn quickly, in the most profound form of warfare there can possibly be.

And in honour of those apostles of a new epoch killed or maimed for daring to love their neighbour as the Master loved, our robust and battle-hardened successors will, no doubt, raise a glass with a laugh and a cheer.

## River of Love

Gary Mullinix. USA

Having known little more in reality than the measure of love we witness that for us is often hidden and hard to recognise due to our quarantined spirit circuit isolation, it is little wonder that we long for greater assurance of the loving presence of God, and his governing authorities. To some extent we suffer as a race of Urantians from the diversion of the supernatural reality of our true leaders and the flow of spiritual communications that have been cut off. They have been constrained to maintain a behind the scenes administration of our world (not withstanding *The Urantia Book*) resulting from the misdeeds of the original spiritual governing crew that otherwise would find us in a more typical state of spiritual advancement.

And yes, I have read the dozens of guaranteed results of working through our condition, that are sure to temper our characters and of this special condition we are told we shall certainly be thankful, if not just yet. The challenge is of course greater and the reward is certain, though tough to endure for many.

As the people of such isolation we must look inward for the presence of God and partake of the living water from the river of love that flows so near. Looking to the world for comfort will only bring frustration because we are so far removed from being settled in light and life. We only have the satisfaction of knowing that we were here in the infancy of our worlds awakening to the reality of Urantian destiny.

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*The challenge is of course greater and the reward is certain, though tough to endure for many.*

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A course that will not fail, even having been set back so, even though little outward signs are available. In the interim we must seek diligently to discover and then to nurture the life of dynamic humility before God. Two things he promises is that no matter the travail we encounter, he is sympathetic to our plight (having lived it), and he will not leave us alone in it (the adjusters presence). It will do for now. Otherwise temporal reality is too bad to be true and I can not accept that.

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*Life is but a day's work--do it well. The act is ours; the consequences God's.*  
(p.556:13)

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## What Does *The Urantia Book* Instruct Concerning the Dissemination of its Teachings?

By Seppo Kanerva, Finland

We may note that *The Urantia Book* does not come up with any explicit instructions concerning the dissemination of the Revelation. We can of course study the methods employed in the dissemination of the four earlier revelations and then endeavour to apply the same methods in the dissemination of the fifth epochal revelation.

The first revelation, the Dalamatia teachings, was propagated through a method which involved inviting individuals from various tribes and peoples to Dalamatia where they received education and were then sent back to their tribes as emissaries of a new and better life.

As concerns the second epochal revelation, the Edenic teachings, the method of dissemination was partly identical with that of the first revelation, but there was also the new feature of Adam and Eve organising about one hundred centres of culture and progress in various parts of the world. After the death of Adam and Eve the teachings were, during thousands of years, disseminated by a priesthood trained by Seth, the eldest surviving son born in the second garden. Seth's grandson, Kenan, instituted a missionary service which spread the new teachings among the surrounding tribes, near and far (p.849:7). The impact of the teachings of the Sethite priesthood began to wane only around 2500 BC .

The first disseminator of the third epochal revelation, Makiventa Melchizedek's teachings, in the 19th century BC, was Abraham to the end of his life, whereupon the Salem missionaries took over and went on spreading the good news for hundreds of years. The dissemination of the 6th century BC "mini revelation" happened through prophets and the founders of the new religions of that epoch.

The disseminators of the fourth epochal revelation included the apostles, other disciples, the group of 70 teachers, the woman evangelists and the other Jesus-trained followers and religionists in several corners of the Roman Empire. Long after Jesus' earthly death his teachings were committed also into writing. A particular role in the spread of this revelation fell upon the Pharisee Saul after he had, because of an unexplained experience become Paul, the champion of his understanding of Jesus' teachings. Mainly through the efforts of Paul and to a lesser extent because of the activities of the apostles, and due to an unwitting distortion of Jesus' teachings, Christianity and the Christian church gradually evolved.

We may, however, question the helpfulness of the methods employed in the propagation of the previous revelations as concerns the dissemination of the fifth epochal revelation. The fifth revelation was delivered to us as a book, and the depth of its teachings can hardly be

forced into the patterns observed in the dissemination of the previous revelations. Not many of us can and will hit the road and start proclaiming the good tidings on street corners and market places. Even so, the teachings of the book do give a multifaceted portrayal of the ways a religious revelation wins the hearts of men: It is spread by all those who believe in the revelation, and the believers do it through their own lives, in their relationships with their fellow men, in their contacts with other humans. Dissemination happens in believers' deeds, behaviour, speaking, and teaching.

### What Is the Message to Be Disseminated?

An exhaustive reply to this question would require a factual presentation of all the teachings included in *The Urantia Book*. That is: I should read *The Urantia Book* to you within an hour, or come up with an exhaustive summary of its teachings. I shall not do so.

Each disseminator of the message will create his personal conception of what the message is that he endeavours to spread. It may, for example, be the gospel of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. The message may be God's love and our doing his will. The will of the Father is that each of us becomes perfect even as he is perfect, and God has reserved for man an eternal career so to enable him to achieve the goal of perfection.

Man only needs to give his free-will consent to doing God's will. Of Jesus we are told that the burden of his message was: *the fact of the heavenly Father's love and the truth of his mercy, coupled with the good news that man is a faith-son of this same God of love* (p.1460:6).

Said Jesus: "*Simply go forth proclaiming: This is the kingdom of heaven—God is your Father and you are his sons, and this good news, if you wholeheartedly believe it, is your eternal salvation*" ... "*When you enter the kingdom, you are reborn. You cannot teach the deep things of the spirit to those who have been born only of the flesh; first see that men are born of the spirit before you seek to instruct them in the advanced ways of the spirit. Do not undertake to show men the beauties of the temple until you have first taken them into the temple. Introduce men to God and as the sons of God before you discourse on the doctrines of the fatherhood of God and the sonship of men.*" (p.1592:6)

The truths above might do well as the message of even the modern disseminators. In the teachings of *The Urantia Book* there is much that is of general religiosity and which the book holds in common with the doctrines of institutionalised religions. Secularism and the predominant material-mindedness, materialistic philosophy, and the unlimited confidence in the unaided mere human ways of solving the world's problems, are facts which speak for—even call for—our propagating the message of general religiosity. A reader of *The Urantia Book* may, however, induce into the spreading of even this message of general religiosity details and features

which no institutionalised religion is capable of providing. One the nature of genuine, true religion. The teaching of *The Urantia Book* is that true religion is personal, it concerns man's personal relationship with God; true religion does not signify that one adopts certain doctrinal tenets, lives in accordance with some preconceived rules of morality, nor does it signify observance of some given rituals. Personal, genuine and true, religion becomes manifest in man's life. It will appear as fruits of the spirit. It will make such an religionist spiritually fragrant and attractive.

Jesus taught: "*Let me emphatically state this eternal truth: If you, by truth co-ordination, learn to exemplify in your lives this beautiful wholeness of righteousness, your fellow men will then seek after you that they may gain what you have so acquired. The measure wherewith truth seekers are drawn to you represents the measure of your truth endowment, your righteousness. The extent to which you have to go with your message to the people is, in a way, the measure of your failure to live the whole or righteous life, the truth-co-ordinated life.*" (p.1726:2)

The Revelation intimates that your religiosity is bound to be manifest and recognisable. We may, hence, conclude that you need not assert it or advertise it to others. If you feel a need to advertise, it is warranted to doubt if genuine faith truly exists. The quotations hereafter verify this statement: *Observing minds and discriminating souls know religion when they find it in the lives of their fellows. Religion requires no definition; we all know its social, intellectual, moral, and spiritual fruits... One of the characteristic peculiarities of genuine religious assurance is that, notwithstanding the absoluteness of its affirmations and the stanchness of its attitude, the spirit of its expression is so poised and tempered that it never conveys the slightest impression of self-assertion or egoistic exaltation... Thus do the words and acts of true and undefiled religion become compellingly authoritative for all enlightened mortals* (p.1119:6—7).

Ostensible religiosity, which actually consists of a mere superficial — not internalised — mastery of certain dogmas and moral codes, and of critical attitudes towards one's own life, but particularly towards the lives of others, in the light of these dogmas and codes, ends up in fanaticism, intolerance and intolerableness, betrayal of intellectual honesty, isolation and lessened efficiency as a propagator of the saving message.

The precondition for anyone's capability of disseminating the message through one's spiritual fruits is of course that one has the faith which yields these fruits of the spirit. In the absence of the faith, the only method of propagating the message is that of preaching. The fifth epochal revelation explains in so many ways what the manifestations of faith and genuine religion, the fruits of the spirit, are. The exhaustive list appearing in paragraphs p.1108:4—16 of *The Urantia Book* is not quoted too

often in discourses dealing with the ways that religion and spirituality manifest themselves in an individual. These manifestations include: 1) Genuine religion causes ethics and morals to progress. 2) Religion produces a sublime trust in the goodness of God even in the face of bitter disappointment and crushing defeat. 3) True spirituality generates profound courage and confidence. 4) Genuine religion exhibits inexplicable poise and sustaining tranquillity. 5) Religion maintains poise and composure of personality in the face of maltreatment and the rankest injustice. 6) Religion maintains a trust in ultimate victory. 7) True faith does not falter in the face of intellectual sophistries; it rather has a unswerving belief in God. 8) True religiosity has faith in the survival of the soul regardless of the contrary allegations of science and philosophy. 9) Faith does not collapse under the overload of civilisations. 10) Genuine faith contributes to the survival of altruism in spite of human selfishness, antagonisms, and greediness. 11) Spirituality believes in universe unity and in divine guidance regardless of the presence of evil and sin. 12) Goes right on worshipping God in spite of anything and everything. Dares to declare, "*Even though he slay me, yet will I serve him.*" (p.1108:16)

As concerns religion, the Revelation instructs that its intellectual earmark is certainty, its philosophical characteristic is consistency, and its social fruits are love and service (p.1126:5).

The morontia Jesus imparted these teachings at Tyre in AD 30: "*those who are born of the spirit will immediately begin to show forth the fruits of the spirit in loving service to their fellow creatures. And the fruits of the divine spirit which are yielded in the lives of spirit-born and God-knowing mortals are: loving service, unselfish devotion, courageous loyalty, sincere fairness, enlightened honesty, undying hope, confiding trust, merciful ministry, unfailing goodness, forgiving tolerance, and enduring peace. If professed believers bear not these fruits of the divine spirit in their lives, they are dead*" (p.2054:3).

#### **Dissemination of the Message**

Advocacy of religiosity does not require any mastery of *The Urantia Book*, neither needs one refer to its teachings nor necessarily possess any revelatory knowledge at all; yet a mastery of *Urantia Book* teachings, reference to them, and a possession of revelatory knowledge make all advocacy of religiosity easier and provide a solid foundation for it. When one is engaged in the advocacy of religion it is crucial to recall the revelatory piece of knowledge which reiterates that religion concerns itself only with values (p.1110:5; 1130:3). It is much easier for men to agree on religious values—goals—than on beliefs—interpretations (p.1130:3). Facts are the domain of science, not of religion. The importance and meaning of experience as well as the evolutionary nature of our existence are likewise aspects that are helpful to recall and put forward

in any propagation of the message once it is done on a revelatory basis. A third factor which will prove helpful in the advocacy of religiosity, if it is done on a revelatory foundation, is the information about the life after death, eternal life, and about the purpose of earthly life; all of that information is available only in the Revelation. No institutional religion can give a satisfactory answer to these questions.

*The Urantia Book* teaches that man enjoys free will. Hence, no one can be forced to become religious. Many divine influences endeavour to help man's free-will choosing and his thinking on the arena of the mind; these influences include the Thought Adjusters, the Spirit of Truth, and the adjutant mind-spirits. What the disseminators of a religious message can only do is to help a fellow man take the crucial step and accept the idea that he is a son of God and that other people are his brothers. No disseminator of this message can make such a choice, such an effort of will, on behalf of another person.

Since *The Urantia Book* presents in its Foreword and Parts I–III the fifth epochal revelation and in Part IV a restatement of the fourth epochal revelation, it means that its teachings are to a high degree revelatory in nature; they include new pieces of information, unknown to mankind, things that mankind on its own and through the evolutionary means could never have found out. The teachings of *The Urantia Book* thus are fraught with enormous potentials. Through the application of these teachings to one's daily living and human relationships it is possible to rectify many errors. With the help of these teachings it is possible to rectify controversies and absurdities in the doctrines of institutionalised religions. These irrationalities and controversies have, for many truth seekers, thinkers, and sensible people, become an effective obstacle blocking their advancing in the personal religious growth.

Apart from the revelatory teachings' providing means for a rectification of absurdities in the tenets of institutional religions they can be employed also to rectify inaccuracies, false notions, and absurdities in science and philosophy. Since the revelatory teachings are truthful, they can be exploited as a priori knowledge, which means that it is wise to try to achieve the same knowledge also through the traditional scientific research methods and through the traditional methods of philosophic thinking. Philosophy is predicated on certain postulates which are tested in one's thinking of reality and making observations as to the workability of the postulates in this reality. Science is founded on a great number of observations and results obtained through experiments, which need to be so explained as to yield a consistent view which is in harmony with the laws of mathematics and logic. Revelation is conducive to widened horizons, it opens new vistas even in the field of logic, it comes up with knowledge that no mere scientific observations and methods of deduction can ever discover.

The revelations included in *The Urantia Book* are

truly exceptional even from the universe viewpoint. The book contains a great deal of revealed truth which on inhabited planets of more conventional development will be revealed only after several dispensations. We Urantians are told even about Paradise and Havona; on other planets this revelation is made only in the post-Teacher Son epoch. Yet these revelations were given to a mankind that is a full dispensation and more behind the average planetary schedule (p.593:5). Why are we Urantians told about these things early like this?

The teachings of the Revelation can in a decisive way help us to understand and to correctly interpret evolutionary reality. They can prove extremely helpful in man's analysis of the evolution of mankind so to find out what this is all about and where we are going. The teachings of the Revelation must be exploited as a priori knowledge and be wisely applied to all human activities, social life, politics, business, marriage, pair relationships, education, culture and so on, as the foundation for ethical and moral decisions, as the determiner of the direction where to go. They must be so applied and so related to reality as to make them a part and parcel of evolution. In practical terms this means that the teachings can hardly ever be applied maximally and in a pure fashion; one has to be content with something less, provided the tendency and direction are correct. A few examples will perhaps shed light on what I mean. The Revelation instructs that mankind should strive towards a situation where only one united world government wields power, where only one institutional religion prevails and only one language is spoken. This a priori piece of knowledge is helpful for anyone who has to determine where he stands with regard to, let us say, the unification of Europe, the defence of national self-determination, small nations' struggle for independence, measures "in rescue" of dying languages, language training, and ecumenicalism — co-operation between institutionalised religions. It is good to note that this sort of stand-taking, too, constitutes "dissemination of the message."

Evolution does not signify straight-forward advance towards a given goal. Not at all. Evolution is slow, but it is terribly effective (p.900:5; 957:2), and it consists of many backsteps and sidesteps, and then again speedy progress.

Another example. The Revelation instructs that men are born unequal in capabilities and propensities, that there are considerable differences between the races, that there are even greater difference within the races.

The Revelation is unequivocal where it declares that some people and groups of people are decadent and that their procreation should be restricted. Freeing mankind of these elements must be the objective. All of that runs counter to what is generally believed. We may propagate the message also in our refusing to act upon illusory beliefs, in our daring to go against the mainstream, putting our trust in the a priori revelatory knowledge and acting upon it.

A third example. The Revelation instructs that

evolution has a direction, and that the direction is upwards and forwards, ultimately towards something better. This teaching, too, runs counter to what is generally believed. There are even those who deny and refute development altogether. The objective of their activities is that of pushing mankind back to a more primitive existence. This kind of pessimistic vision is fashionable, and in public discussion it enjoys a dominant, if not an exclusive, role.

Consequently, we may disseminate the message also in our refusing to act upon these illusory notions and denying our support to them. We should rather be emboldened to go against the mainstream, putting our trust in the revelatory knowledge and acting upon it.

A fourth example. The Revelation has it that democracy is the most advanced form of government, yet concurrently it warns us about the weaknesses and right away dangers of democracy. Democracy has become a phenomenon which is so sacrosanct, so much a taboo, that it is not politically correct to submit it to a reasoned analysis. The dangers imbedded in democracy include among others: glorification of mediocrity, choice of base and ignorant powerbrokers, ignorance of the basic facts of social evolution, universal suffrage in the hands of uneducated and indolent majorities, slavery to public opinion, which has become a factor not many dare to challenge, etc. The Revelation underlines the responsibility of the individual, the significance of the individual, and the importance of individual choices. It exhorts us to question, to analyse, and if needed, to align ourselves against public opinion and that which is viewed as “politically correct.” The Revelation instructs:

*Well-organized and superior minorities have largely ruled this world (p.908:3).*

Propagation of the message, thus, includes also a well-reasoned attitude towards democracy, the courage, if need be, to point out its weaknesses and the dangers that are an inherent part of it. A disseminator of truth should not be afraid of being in the minority.

Fifth example. The overdone adoration of democracy has also obscured the importance of leadership. True leadership is vitally important, but unfortunately only less than one per cent of world population are capable of true leadership.

*Leadership is vital to progress. Wisdom, insight, and foresight are indispensable to the endurance of nations. Civilization is never really jeopardized until able leadership begins to vanish. And the quantity of such wise leadership has never exceeded one per cent of the population (p.911:7).*

Another revelatory teaching proclaims:

*Most great religious epochs have been inaugurated by the life and teachings of some outstanding personality; leadership has originated a majority of the worth-while moral movements of history. And men have always tended to venerate the leader, even at the expense of his teachings; to revere his personality, even though losing sight of the truths which he proclaimed. And this is not without reason; there is an instinctive*

*longing in the heart of evolutionary man for help from above and beyond. This craving is designed to anticipate the appearance on earth of the Planetary Prince and the later Material Sons (p.1008:7).*

It is politically correct to question the importance of leadership because leadership is—incorrectly—viewed as something antagonistic to democracy.

The Revelation, however, instructs us in the words of Jesus: “*In my universe and in my Father’s universe of universes, our brethren-sons are dealt with as individuals in all their spiritual relations, but in all group relationships we unfailingly provide for definite leadership. Our kingdom is a realm of order, and where two or more will creatures act in co-operation, there is always provided the authority of leadership.*” (p.1959:0)

Consequently, we may disseminate the message also in our refusing to act upon these illusory notions about democracy and denying our support to them. We should rather be emboldened to go against the mainstream putting our trust in the revelatory knowledge and acting upon it.

The scope of the efficacy of the propagation of the message depends on the propagating individual’s spirituality, faith, and capabilities of being convincing, yet to an equal extent it depends on the attitude of the target of the propagation effort. Some people are conformists: they willingly subjugate themselves under the dominance of tradition and authority. A great part of even those who view themselves as religious belong to this order of people. Likewise, a great part of those who do not view themselves as religious belong to this same category. They are slavishly obedient to traditions, they hardly question anything.

Some people again are happy with modest achievements, which are only just adequate to make everyday life balanced. At an early stage they stop pondering the deep issues of life and fail to progress beyond this level of modest achievements. Their relationship with God is almost dead. They believe that matters take care of themselves—struggle and effort are not needed. The number of those who fit into this characterisation is high.

Then again there are those who do think and ponder and advance up to the level of logical intellectualism. They do not, however, progress any further because they dare not take the step of faith, the stride of belief. They are prisoners of their cultural setting and their social network. The door of the cell is open, but they dare not walk away. Those who are engaged in the domains of science and culture are well represented within this category.

Within these three categories faith is not excessively vibrant. They have a tendency to be fanatical, to persecute dissenters, and to be intolerant. *Living faith does not foster bigotry, persecution, or intolerance (p.1115:0).*

Finally, the fourth category consists in those who have liberated themselves of all obstacles put by conventionalism and traditionalism and who have mustered the courage *to think, act, and live honestly, loyally, fearlessly, and truthfully* (p.1114:2). Those who belong to this group do not concern themselves so much with any specific beliefs or given modes of living as they concern themselves with discerning the truth of living, the good and right technique of reacting to the ever-recurring situations of human existence (p.1115:6).

The Revelation presents also another, slightly different, categorisation which classifies professed believers. In this categorisation believers are classified either as indolent conformists or escapists and romantic sentimentalists, finally as activists (p.1120:4— 1121:2).

Indolent conformists: *There is no real religion apart from a highly active personality. Therefore the more indolent of men often seek to escape the rigors of truly religious activities by a species of ingenious self-deception through resorting to a retreat to the false shelter of stereotyped religious doctrines and dogmas ... Intellectual crystallization of religious concepts is the equivalent of spiritual death* (p.1120:4).

Escapists and romantic sentimentalists: Again, there are other types of unstable and poorly disciplined souls who would use the sentimental ideas of religion as an avenue of escape from the irritating demands of living.

*When certain vacillating and timid mortals attempt to escape from the incessant pressure of evolutionary life, religion, as they conceive it, seems to present the nearest refuge, the best avenue of escape. But it is the mission of religion to prepare man for bravely, even heroically, facing the vicissitudes of life... Mysticism, however, is often something of a retreat from life which is embraced by those humans who do not relish the more robust activities of living a religious life in the open arenas of human society and commerce. True religion must act... Never will religion be content with mere thinking or unacting feeling* (p.1121:1).

Activists: *But true religion is alive... To keep pace in his life experience with the impelling demands and the compelling urges of a growing religious experience means incessant activity in spiritual growth, intellectual expansion, factual enlargement, and social service* (p.1120:4).

For a disseminator who approaches people with a revelatory message the situation is not hopeless with regard to any of the classifications above. As targets those of the first three groups are of course more difficult than the others, but the Revelation does contain potentials which, if applied wisely, will penetrate even the most petrified heart. There is one exception: the situation is hopeless with regard to those who are spiritually dead. The fifth epochal revelation instructs:

*Intellectual crystallization of religious concepts is the equivalent of spiritual death* p.(1120:4).

### **Circumstances which facilitate propagation.**

There are, apart from the superhuman influences mentioned above, also a number of features and capacities in man himself which help him in truth recognition and message acceptance.

The endowment of reality sensitivity. The Revelation unveils that man is endowed with a power to recognise reality, a truthful portraiture of that which exists:

*All divisions of human thought are predicated on certain assumptions which are accepted, though unproved, by the constitutive reality sensitivity of the mind endowment of man.* (p.1139:3).

The desire to know. The Revelation intimates that human curiosity is purposeful:

*Curiosity—the spirit of investigation, the urge of discovery, the drive of exploration—is a part of the inborn and divine endowment of evolutionary space creatures. These natural impulses were not given you merely to be frustrated and repressed* (p.160:1).

Perfection hunger. There is in man a hunger for perfection, and that fact of course has its bearing on the dissemination of the message: *There must be perfection hunger in man's heart to insure capacity of comprehending the faith paths to supreme attainment* (p.1118:4).

The craving for survival. Man has an inborn desire for survival, and that again constitutes the fundament of faith:

*The highest evidence of the reality and efficacy of religion consists in the fact of human experience; namely, that man, naturally fearful and suspicious, innately endowed with a strong instinct of self-preservation and craving survival after death, is willing fully to trust the deepest interests of his present and future to the keeping and direction of that power and person designated by his faith as God. That is the one central truth of all religion* (p.1127:5).

Religious tendencies are innate. Religious tendencies need not be created in any human being for it is an innate inclination: *The religious tendencies of the human races are innate; they are universally manifested and have an apparently natural origin* (p.1129:2).

Because religion is about spirituality, about one's personal relationship with God, there is no language which on the level of the mind could adequately discuss this value. This is an aspect to recall when one is engaged in the propagation of the message. The fifth epochal revelation describes this paradox in these words:

*Religious speculation is inevitable but always detrimental; speculation invariably falsifies its object. Speculation tends to translate religion into something material or humanistic, and thus, while directly interfering with the clarity of logical thought, it indirectly causes religion to appear as a function of the temporal world, the very world with which it should everlastingly stand in contrast. Therefore will religion*

*always be characterized by paradoxes, the paradoxes resulting from the absence of the experiential connection between the material and the spiritual levels of the universe—morontia mota, the superphilosophic sensitivity for truth discernment and unity perception (p.1121:4).*

**The message is a Revelation!**

The message to disseminate is a revelation, the fifth epochal revelation and the restatement of the fourth epochal revelation, printed in a book, *The Urantia Book*. It is therefore worthwhile to study in what manner the Revelation characterises itself.

*....revelation (the substitute for morontia mota) leads to the consciousness of true reality... p.1122:1).*

*Revelation liberates men and starts them out on the eternal adventure (p.1122:2).*

*... revelation glorifies man and discloses his capacity for partnership with God (p.1122:3).*

*... revelation portrays the eternal brotherhood, the Paradise Corps of the Finality (p.1122:4).*

*... revelation is the assurance of personality survival p.1122:5).*

*Science indicates Deity as a fact; philosophy presents the idea of an Absolute; religion envisions God as a loving spiritual personality. Revelation affirms the unity of the fact of Deity, the idea of the Absolute, and the spiritual personality of God and, further, presents this concept as our Father—the universal fact of existence, the eternal idea of mind, and the infinite spirit of life (p.1122:7).*

*... revelation tends to make man Godlike (p.1122:10).*

*Revelation unifies history, co-ordinates geology, astronomy, physics, chemistry, biology, sociology, and psychology (p.1123:6).*

How does one propagate it?

Jesus instructed his apostles in many ways. As concerns the dissemination of his message he said i.a.

*“When you enter the kingdom, you are reborn. You cannot teach the deep things of the spirit to those who have been born only of the flesh; first see that men are born of the spirit before you seek to instruct them in the advanced ways of the spirit. Do not undertake to show men the beauties of the temple until you have first taken them into the temple. Introduce men to God and as the sons of God before you discourse on the doctrines of the fatherhood of God and the sonship of men.” (p.1592:6)*

*“Do not strive with men—always be patient. It is not your kingdom; you are only ambassadors.” (p.1593:0)*

*“... how many times have I instructed you to refrain from all efforts to take something out of the hearts of those who seek salvation? How often have I told you to*

*labor only to put something into these hungry souls? Lead men into the kingdom, and the great and living truths of the kingdom will presently drive out all serious error. When you have presented to mortal man the good news that God is his Father, you can the easier persuade him that he is in reality a son of God. And having done that, you have brought the light of salvation to the one who sits in darkness. Simon, when the Son of Man came first to you, did he come denouncing Moses and the prophets and proclaiming a new and better way of life? No. I came not to take away that which you had from your forefathers but to show you the perfected vision of that which your fathers saw only in part.” (p.1592:4)*

About Jesus’ teaching methods we are told at least these aspects:

*And this was his method of instruction: Never once did he attack their errors or even mention the flaws in their teachings. In each case he would select the truth in what they taught and then proceed so to embellish and illuminate this truth in their minds that in a very short time this enhancement of the truth effectively crowded out the associated error (p.1456:0).*

In all his teaching Jesus unfailingly avoided distracting details. He shunned flowery language and avoided the mere poetic imagery of a play upon words. He habitually put large meanings into small expressions. For purposes of illustration Jesus reversed the current meanings of many terms, such as salt, leaven, fishing, and little children. He most effectively employed the antithesis, comparing the minute to the infinite and so on.

*His pictures were striking, such as, “The blind leading the blind.” But the greatest strength to be found in his illustrative teaching was its naturalness. Jesus brought the philosophy of religion from heaven down to earth. He portrayed the elemental needs of the soul with a new insight and a new bestowal of affection (p.1771:1).*

The modern disseminator of the message will most certainly act in a wise manner if he endeavours to be faithful to Jesus’ teaching method, a method which in many ways is greatly different from the ways of human teaching.

**In conclusion**

Once the lives of individuals undergo profound changes, it will unavoidably bring about profound changes also in their actions. Today it is still difficult to discern changes which would be occasioned by any conscious efforts for world betterment founded on the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

We must not worry about this much less feel guilty because of it, for the revelators themselves intimated that the Revelation was delivered to us long before its world-wide impact. Everything, after all, depends on evolution. And evolution is slow but terribly effective.

## Time slips away

*Words to a song by: Trevor Swadling, Sydney*

Nothing is questioned  
 Except how do you feel  
 Nothing is tested  
 Except your ideals  
 Our thoughts and those days  
 Like seeds that were thrown  
 Some of them fell on fertile ground  
**Time slips away Oh time slips away**

In a valley of distance  
 Wild rivers part  
 The water they flow from  
 Keeps us apart  
 I see it all clear now  
 Like ships on the sea  
 Sailing the four winds we all know  
**Time slips away Oh time slips away**

The past turns its face  
 Where the future looks down  
 Life is so sweet  
 And my lips were so dry  
 Now a welcome light  
 Hangs from my wall  
 The key will always be in the door  
**Time slips away Oh time slips away**

When teardrops fall  
 From your eyes  
 Storm clouds gather  
 In the sky  
 There's nothing to conceal  
 When all things are found  
 May the well of desire  
 Never run dry  
**Time slips away Oh time slips away**

The facts of life  
 Is not all that's real  
 Never get too hard  
 As not to feel  
 It's easy to say  
 Than it is to do  
 In all of the trials  
 Life puts us through  
**Time slips away Oh time slips away**

If you think that it's too cruel  
 If you think it's too hard  
 Abounding this softness is a thousand scars  
 So to all who are gathered on this day  
 Just remember, time slipped away  
**Time slips away Oh time slips away**

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