

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." (page 1217)

Myth-makers to the fifth epoch

Take a look at Urantia's mindscape in these closing months of the millennium. The dogmas of materialism and other fundamentalisms have grown stale; physicists speak of a theory of everything; sport and recreation generate more interest and money than education; as populations win their freedoms, human rights and food, new hungers, more difficult to satisfy, appear. So where are we? What are the possible next steps? Was the purpose for humanity no grander than to fill a planet with almost-happy humans? What is wrong with this picture?

The backdrop is too small. As a planet, we need a new set of dreams to fire our jaded minds – and this is one of the roles to be played by the Urantia Papers. It provides a consistent myth, large enough to arouse the billions of souls due to start their ascent during this next age.

Notice how neatly it's been done. Carefully, set just beyond the edge of our understanding or measurement, the Urantia Papers erect a framework of truth sufficient to evoke a new and more appropriate set of myths. A framework to serve as backdrop and foundation for a fresh mindscape, a frame of truth for the planet's fifth epoch.

Think about how they are tweaking our cosmology. *The URANTIA Book* describes Paradise, a central discontinuity and great attractor, ringed by the torus of pervaded space, aligned with the reciprocal wings of unpervaded space. But since we currently measure the heavens by catching light (photons), and since light is constrained to move in geodesics through pervaded space, our present techniques will never be able to map such a cosmos. It must for now remain a *cosmological myth*.

But think of the power this myth might have to direct and shape the theories we invent. And what timing – over this last decade cosmologists have watched with growing dismay as their entire set of theoretical models fail. New astronomic data, streaming in from arrays of telescopes and high-speed gadgetry, conflict with at least one key prediction in every previously consistent theory – the theories upon which our current cosmic models and beliefs are based.

"It is important to understand that the first step in reaching a scientific understanding of any phenomena is to create a theoretical model which

In this issue...

IUA News

1999 ANZURA Study days	3
Millenium initiative	3

Articles

<i>The mind arena of choice</i>	4
<i>The liberating power of love</i>	5
<i>Youth movement</i>	7
<i>My "How I found it" tale</i>	8
<i>Guadalajara Book Fair, Mexico</i>	10
<i>Racism, 90's style</i>	13
<i>Andite adventurers</i>	13
<i>1999 ANZURA Conference</i>	14
<i>Study Groups in Australia & New Zealand</i>	16

provides a context in which specific details can be studied. The model then serves as a means of generating questions ... " (David Kantor)

The phenomenon of the cosmos will remain beyond our understanding and continue to defy measurement. But we understand enough to know that we need a better myth. Now, the key to a good myth is that it should fit the phenomena – a myth that is good enough not to conflict with any observable phenomena can function as part of a frame of truth.

"If mind cannot fathom conclusions, if it cannot penetrate to true origins, then will such mind unfailingly postulate conclusions and invent origins that it may have a means of logical thought within the frame of these mind-created postulates." (page 1260)

Consider how our fledgling science of cosmology is responding to the current situation. In the January 1999 edition of *Scientific American*, a snapshot of the state of evolutionary cosmology is presented. We readers may have thought our high-dimensional hourglass ringed by its pervaded doughnut partner was an outlandish notion,

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

but the tales Urantia's stargazers are now spinning in their attempt to describe and explain our cosmic neighborhood are truly bizarre. They speak in matter-of-fact terms about bubble universes, multiverses, the continual and chaotic popping into existence of baby universes, each enjoying their own brief big bang, before fading in an eternal wimper. They talk of the view of things from both inside and outside these bubble universes, hyperbolic surfaces of constant elapsed time, approaching but never touching their bubble's wall...

Here we find myth-making of the finest kind, and minds ready for *The URANTIA Book's* tale of the master universe.

* * *

As another example of the potential of myth, less cosmic but more immediately important, consider the one about the adjutant circuits and the Sangik offspring.

The information in the Urantia Papers about the adjutant circuits is new. We still lack techniques to measure how the adjutants relate to mind, so let's make a myth. Or rather, understand a truth about the Sangiks and make a myth from there. If the Sangik races were designed as psycho-biological specializations for fostering the differential urges of the adjutants, then we should use this fact to help color our reflections and hypotheses.

Three adjutants and their corresponding races are called primary because they foster the core functions of mind: Intuition, Understanding, Knowledge. The other adjutants and the races they sponsor are called secondary because they foster more complex but less essential intellectual elaborations: Counsel, Courage, Worship. The primary themes are designed to lay predictable foundations for society; the secondary themes are intended to embellish – to bloom as the surprising secondary flowers of counsel, courage and worship.

When the Intuition-attuned Red race subdue or absorb the Orange (see page 585), that primary race is impregnated with a refined response to the adjutant Counsel.

When the Yellow race absorbs the Green, that primary race is upstepped by a configuration of potentials that help amplify response to adjutant Courage.

When the Blue race absorbs the specialized psycho-neurochemistry of the Indigo, the combination of primary Knowledge enlightened by secondary Worship can give humanity such gifts as Whitney Houston, a voice that has caused many a transport seraphim to linger here slightly longer than scheduled.

Continuing the theme of this myth, we would not expect Indigo poets or priests to excel at farming or town planning. But see how they can stir the worship-challenged Caucasoids to seek the Father..

The Sangik races were specializations of the basic Andonic stock. In this age of specialists, we should appreciate both the value and the associated problems of being a specialist.



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National Study Day, April 17 1999

We invite all Australian readers to take a moment from their busy schedules on Saturday, April 17, to reflect on where we are up to, where we have come from, and what opportunities are unfolding even as we walk our various paths.

We plan to spend half that day thinking about the large number of unseen persons currently involved with the work of bumping our world towards birth into light and life; about all the tireless and loving commitment offered us by planetary Seraphic groups, our personal Guardians, and the midwayers whose planet we touch so briefly before launching (or fading) into eternity.

Some details are enclosed with this edition of The Arena, and a growing list of friends ready and pleased to welcome you appears on page 16. Remember that in this task of spreading this “message whose time has come”, we are supported and taught by professionals, and that we do not need to wait for continental drift to bring us together. Choosing to will make it happen faster!

The 3 images by Robert Venosa in this issue are to tempt you to visit his web site. The Celestial artisans do...



“Blue Angel” Robert Venosa
<http://www.venosa.com>

The Millennium Initiative

for Unity in the Twenty-first Century

The goals of the members of the Urantia Book Fellowship and the International Urantia Association are strikingly similar, and yet relations between these two reader groups have been strained. Substantial amounts of time and energy have been diverted from the true objectives and purposes of our organizations.

The URANTIA Book is a thousand-year revelation. Those of us who love the revelation must find a way to work together toward our common goals. The Millennium Initiative is a unification initiative, independent from the Urantia Book Fellowship, the International Urantia Association, and from the URANTIA Foundation. The primary goal of the Millennium Initiative is to explore the possibility of reunification of these two reader groups. If the primary objective cannot be obtained at this time, the secondary objective will be to explore ways in which these reader organizations can work harmoniously toward common goals. If we cannot find a way to work together, then at the very least we need to insure that our differences do not hinder or impede the dissemination of the Fifth Epochal Revelation. We cannot effectively take the message of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man to the world unless and until we can manifest unity within our own community of reader-believers.

The Millennium Initiative Committee is composed of a group of volunteers who are now or have been active in either the Urantia Book Fellowship or the International Urantia Association.

The Committee will begin meeting in March, 1999. The Committee members recognize this process is likely to be difficult and extremely challenging. Each member of the committee is personally committed to the integrity of this process. Serious efforts toward reunification cannot be biased for or against either organization and succeed. At the same time, the committee recognizes that both organizations have important issues which must be addressed during this process.

We believe that open communication will be essential to the success of the Millennium Initiative. We will keep both organizations informed of our progress. We look forward to working with you. We ask for your prayers and your support.

The Millennium Initiative Committee

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The Mind Arena of Choice

Chris Moseley, Oxfordshire UK

The concept of Mind in itself, in the abstract, unlimited sense of the word, does not imply free will, but the individual mind, mortal mind, has freewill as an inseparable, defining component. In the passage on p.1216 entitled 'The Mind Arena of Choice', there is a striking sentence that almost expresses the kernel of the whole human condition: "Human consciousness rests gently upon the electrochemical mechanism below and delicately touches the spirit-morontia energy system above". Viewed in these terms, what a finely-tuned creature a human being seems; what a mysterious fragility everyday existence has; and what grave responsibilities are implied for all the choices we make!

Whether undifferentiated, in the sense of infinite or absolute mind, or finite, acting through the ministry of the adjutant mind spirits, all mind can be 'superimposed upon energy' (p.102) – in other words, mind can directionize energies through its own choices. Mind adds meaning to energy.

Another thing we can say about all mind is that it originates from the Third Source and Centre, the Third Person of Deity. But that does not mean that mind is inherently divine. If it were, it would presumably be free of error and misjudgement. Nor would it be distorted by fear and prejudice.

One of the mysterious features of creature mind is that it develops in ways that can't be accounted for by physical growth or intellectual maturity. Individual minds do aspire upwards, or inwards, to the Third Source and Centre, which attracts them through the mind-gravity circuit. If this were not so, presumably the creature races would never progress, because they would not be able to assimilate values and make choices based on more than mere Things and Meanings. But we, as material beings, can't view this objectively; being unable to discern mind-gravity at work, we can't distinguish it from spirit gravity.

Material beings are most familiar with the workings of material gravity. It is the only kind of gravity of which mortals can have objective evidence. In fact, even that gravity is something we have only discovered in the last four centuries of our long existence. Mind, we learn on p.140 of the revelation, is 'Organized consciousness which is not wholly subject to material gravity, and which becomes truly liberated when modified by spirit.'

Our choices as mortals, then, are not as free as we might imagine, because of this invisible gravity pull, just as the tides are affected by the pull of the moon.

We must remember that Adjusters have minds of their own (p.1181), but don't exercise free will; this is the prerogative of the will creatures they indwell (p.1183). They have indwelt us through an act of volition, but their own free will is sacrificed to ours. The prepersonal is at the disposal of the personal.

And this is why it is so dangerous to automatically attribute our moral choices and decisions to adjuster guidance. The adjuster's leading may be felt in the long term, and maybe seen with hindsight, but, the book tells us (p.1207), it is wiser and safer to attribute our thoughts, choices and decisions to purely mental activity.

So we come to the crux of the problem. What I've been saying is just an attempt to prepare for reading 'The Mind Arena of Choice', the passage on p.1216. Let's try to comment on each paragraph.

The metaphor of 'human soil' used in the first paragraph implies that mind has nourishing and nurturing properties for the future morontia soul. This is a humbling reminder that minds have more work to do than merely steering us through mortal life.

In the second paragraph, the origin of individual minds – 'intellectual selves' – in the cosmic mind is likened to the origin of nebulae – an awesome simile. This serves to remind us, at the very least, that mortal mental activity is a distant echo of the cosmic destiny that awaits mortals whose minds have been evolving through the ministry of the universe mind-spirits.

The third paragraph likens mind to an arena, a venue for an important and visible performance. In this arena, far-reaching choices must be made.

The fourth paragraph reintroduces and re-emphasises the concept that this is a unique and irredeemable set of choices that our mortal minds must make: on these choices depends our whole future course as ascending beings.

I've already commented on the magnificent summary of the human condition that we find as the kernel of the fifth paragraph. Look again, though, at the reinforcing message:

"it is not so much what mind comprehends as what mind desires to comprehend that insures survival" (pp.1216,7).

The sixth paragraph shows us the perils and responsibilities of having a borrowed mental vehicle. Freewill choices are routinely made with short-term gains for the self in mind. But the hard lesson, perhaps the hardest lesson to learn, is how to surrender that will to God's.

The seventh paragraph seems hard to understand at first, as it implies that the vast majority of mortals are 'unstable', but this is what they are, if we view their choices as whims, or dependent on certain sets of finite circumstances.

The eighth paragraph restates the relationship of mind to the Adjuster. It is why they are called Adjusters rather than Manipulators or Controllers.

And the final paragraph contains magnificent truths that can't be distilled into summaries: 'Mind is your ship, the Adjuster is your pilot, the human will is captain.' The imagery of shipwreck and peril at sea reminds us again of the heavy onus on mortal beings to make right, Adjuster-guided choices.

Consider what imaginative modes of love that we, as Finaliters, may be able to express. Might this indicate something about God's purpose in permitting eternity?

On the Liberating Power of Love

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What we liberate in others, we also liberate in our selves. This is a phenomenon and little understood. Indeed, this is the only way to real and lasting freedom. Jesus alluded to this when he said, "my yoke is light." His yoke is the golden rule, that may be restated as: you are to love others more than you love yourself so that they, in turn, will love you more than their self, and this outward turning of love, when practiced by enough people, will kindle a great and unimaginable transformation in the world.

Service to others is not transforming when it is done as duty or when it is performed as a social or intellectual ideal. As long as service is conceived as service per se, it causes few changes; it may be the highest of pagan philosophies but it can never move into the realm of spiritual realities, nor can it transform individuals or the world.

Those who have children know the inimitable power and glory of selfless love. Few things in life change a person more than a loving parent-child relationship. The parent proper hardly conceives that which s/he does for the child as "service." It is done rather with great yearning and desire in the heart. It is joy and happiness. The parent desires greatly to give itself to the child, to do everything possible for it. Certainly s/he would die for the child. Few are the parents who do not wish at some point that they could take on the child's suffering or even give their own life for that of a child who is in desperate straits.

It is the bond of unselfish love that permanently attaches the child to the parent, not just in this life, but for eternity – not genetics. Parents who adopt infants come to love them just as much as "natural" children. The bond of love is the most powerful in the universe, one that will endure and grow forever. That bond is in fact a kind of proof of life after death, for those with the wisdom to discern such truths. Love is not stopped by death. When loved ones die, we do not love them less. Often indeed we desire that we could love them even more than we did, and the bereaved not unusually dream of ways that they could have given greater love to the departed. Love survives death, and this same love is insurance that s/he who desires to continue in love will indeed have that opportunity.

Love is of the essence of God and that is an immortal essence. Jesus so loved the world that he was resurrected, in fact this love was so great, that he was resurrected in such a manner that he was visible to, and able to continue

his ministry of love with, those close to him and they saw him and knew him. Jesus' love was to some degree frustrated during his life, but it was so great that it overflowed into the immediate days of the resurrection. His life exemplified the golden rule, which is to know each person as our loved one, even as our child. For we forgive our children of all manners of trespasses, which indeed are as nothing. To yearn for each person, to desire to love them – such love is transforming.

It is sometimes said that we cannot learn to love others until we learn to love our self. There is a certain truth to this, but it is not the highest truth. The highest truth is to learn to love God first, even before our self. All else comes from that. For if we love God, then love in us is energized, and we are led to touch others with it, to give it to others. For love is only made "real" when it is in transit, when it flows from one person to the next. Love exists only to be given; it can never be kept. First we give our love to God, then he pours forth love to us to give to others. As we give to others, then love is reflected back to us. In this sense it is not necessary to love the self first, or even at all.

But what does it mean to give love to another? What happens? When, in true and selfless service, we do unto others with love, in fact we are liberating them from those multitudes and multi-forms of ties that chain them to this so-called material existence, that bind their souls so that they cannot leap up towards God, that narrow the corridors of their minds so that they are aware only of very small parts of themselves and their environment and little of their true potential which is spiritual.

The purpose of living is to free the soul of its ties and encumbrances so that it may rise to God. The spirit of love is freeing. Great liberty is in the kingdom of heaven. The souls of kingdom believers are greatly expanded, as is their vision, their hearing, their senses, their imagination, their expressive ability, their love.

But the truth also is that we cannot free our self. We cannot be the architects of our own freedom. We cannot unchain our own souls by our self. Even as the lone soul opens itself up to God, in its relationship to God, it is not freed. God points the way to freedom – Jesus lived the freedom – he is the way and the light. No man can unbind his own chains. There is in fact very little that any person can do for himself – what we can do, are designed to do, is something for others. We can liberate others. Jesus said the way and the light is a narrow way, and indeed it is, because there is only one way to progress towards God and one way only. And that is to channel love – not service, not some intellectual ideal but real love – to another person. When a person is the recipient of the "direct current" of love, then something is liberated in that person. It may be the least of chains that bind them. Yet this smallest of liberations in them, this smallest of relief from the heaviness of chains that constrict them, sets them on a new path. For what really happens is that, as love comes to a person, it begins to make a "clean

heart” and a “clear mind” within so that love may flow through him or her. This love, received from another, at first may be the tiniest trickle. Yet it begins its work within. It feeds the soul, and the soul grows. It establishes channels for flowing. And these channels always lead to the expression of love. This is how love transmutes. Love cannot be “kept.” It is useless if it is stopped from flowing. So, as we receive it, it seeks above all things to find a pathway to another person. So, we are “liberated” to express love [from] our self to another.

Love comes to us, energizes us, and seeks an outlet from us into another. And so we look for another that we may “ground” in them the love that is in us. And so we liberate love to pass to another, and this liberation, this passing of the current of love within us and through us, greatly energizes us, it “frees” us to channel yet more love. Persons who learn how to conduct great love become very powerful.

Thus it is seen that love does us no good until it is passed to another. We cannot liberate ourselves, but we can touch another with love and liberate them. And as we liberate them, so, that love flowing now more powerfully through us to them, does great work within us; it begins to break the chains that bind us, and we become liberated our selves.

This is the way and the light – not to keep love; not even to be in love with God one-on-one; not to love our self; not even to think about the self; but to pass love on to others. Through this passing they are liberated. And as they are liberated, so does love work a mighty and reflective change of heart in our self, even lead us to a new birth.

After a while, after a new birth into the kingdom of *other-loving* believers, the child of love begins to delight in finding new channels of love to others. To find new ways to conduct love. To find new ways to “ground” love through another. To open new pathways in the self for the expression of love. And the person experiences tremendous growth and liberation through this process. S/he indeed becomes a great and powerful transmuter, a tremendous dynamo of love. And as this process of liberation and empowerment begins, it is discovered that the power of love has no end. As long as the child of God seeks to find new and ever-more imaginative methods of expressing love, they will continue to find them, even forever, even through eternity. This may even be one of the *reasons for* eternity. As long as we fulfill the purpose of eternity, then we are indeed eternal. And that eternity can be passed on to those who we love. Can those who feel the truth of such yearning of love in their mind, heart and soul really not-believe that this love will find relief, even eternal relief, even expression and fulfillment eternally?

Jesus’ love for others was great. His love for himself was a matter of relative indifference. That “looking out” of love through him attracted a mass of humanity. True, a few refused to let his love find a ground in them; they

saw its transmuting power and feared it; they loved themselves too much; they did not want to change. And so they remained bound, weighted down. But the mass of people came to him gladly. The masses did not love themselves inordinately. They wanted to change, to become liberated, to become like the master whose love knew no bounds and whose love was so clearly and yearningly expressed in his eyes – expressed then, and still expressed now, as all those who love in such wise will sometimes see for themselves. And that love today still circulates in the wo/men of the world, seeking expression through them and into others. This circulating love ensures that nothing truly bad can happen to the world.

The local celestial life “holds its breath” in anticipation of what will happen when larger numbers of men and women discover how to “liberate” and magnify the power of love by giving it to others.

The power of this circulating love, long kept impressed, long unexpressed, cannot be measured. No one can say what will become of the world and the persons in it, when the power of love is liberated.

Jesus promised to return. He will return (if not before) when this seed of love he left behind has been nurtured to fruition. He will return when enough people have learned to liberate his love to others, for then the world will be ready for the next and greater revelation of how to use love to find God.

“Science lives by the mathematics of the mind; music expresses the tempo of the emotions. Religion is the spiritual rhythm of the soul in time-space harmony with the higher and eternal melody measurements of Infinity. Religious experience is something in human life which is truly supermathematical.

In language, an alphabet represents the mechanism of materialism, while the words expressive of the meaning of a thousand thoughts, grand ideas, and noble ideals – of love and hate, of cowardice and courage – represent the performances of mind within the scope defined by both material and spiritual law, directed by the assertion of the will of personality, and limited by the inherent situational endowment.”

The URANTIA Book, page 2080

Youth movement amongst readers of *The URANTIA Book*

Merindi Swadling [merindi@bigpond.com]

Hi there to all my fellow Australian readers,

I thought I would write a quick message to say Hello, and to fill you all in on the latest with the young readers of *The URANTIA Book*. I think most people on this list would have met me at some stage over the years. For those who haven't, I look forward to meeting you all soon. I am Kathleen & Trevor's daughter, am 25 years old, and am living in Narrabeen, Sydney (in my parents home). It has been with great pleasure that I have finally begun reading this amazing book that has been a part of my life since before I can remember. I still find it strange that I am reading (and immensely enjoying) this book. I guess I have never felt a need or had the desire to learn for myself the teachings of *The URANTIA Book*. Mum & Trevor have taught us almost everything about this book over the years... yet nothing can compare to experiencing these teachings myself.

I was recently in Chicago visiting with my parents, and had the opportunity to meet a young gentlemen by the name of Michael MacIsaac. Mike is a 24 year old reader, who is dedicated, at the moment, to joining young readers of *The URANTIA Book*. He is a charismatic, intelligent, and extremely genuine guy who desires to meet and join together the youth of this movement across the globe. He has set up a youth website which includes descriptions of young readers (and their photos), opportunity to 'chat' on the net together, a guestbook which has approximately 35 'signatures' at this stage, links to the Foundation and Fellowship websites, updates on conferences that are coming up, and an invitation to join the youth discussion list. It is a great website, and I encourage any of you to go and check it out...

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres/8974/>

even if it's only to check out the horrible picture of me on it! Mike has set up a database which has approximately 150 young reader's names, numbers & e-mail addresses. He has been gradually working through this list, introducing himself and encouraging the youth to join the discussion list, come to conferences, and basically just to network with each other.

I believe the work that Mike is doing is a positive step forward for the Urantia movement. The youth are a powerful medium to spread the teachings throughout our world.

Sometimes I think about the era when my parents (and probably many of you - no offence intended) found *The URANTIA Book*. This was an era when vast groups of western populations were searching for answers, were living alternative lifestyles, and were enjoying the rebellion against their parent's generation. Unfortunately, the youth generation today is not experiencing this desire to rebel, and people my age (in general) do not have BIG

questions about why are we here - and what is this all about.

I look upon this difference in our generation as a positive thing and believe that in general the youth of today are a fairly satisfied and confident group. But there are still plenty of questions that are going unanswered.

In order for young people to become enthusiastic about sharing the teachings of *The URANTIA Book* (or just enthusiastic about reading the book), we need to somehow tailor the social aspects of Urantia readers to the youth. People my age need to feel comfortable about spending time with people our parents age (or God forbid - our parents), and we need to have the support of others our own age who are struggling with reading this huge book, and are struggling with understanding many of its concepts. I have always found it slightly daunting to hang out with 'older' readers who have been studying the book for 20-30 years. The knowledge that most of you have is huge - compared to our limited knowledge and understanding.

Please don't take me the wrong way - I love discussing the teachings with my parents and other like-minded individuals. I learn so much from them. But I also love discussing the teachings with people my own age, who are struggling with similar things in life, and who have a similar understanding of the Urantian concepts. It's exciting to discover things for ourselves rather than have them 'taught' to us.

What I have to say on this topic could go on forever, and I know you would be bored by the end. The main reason I am writing this is to encourage all young readers out there to go the website and check things out for themselves. And of course I encourage all the older readers to talk to your children and let them know that things are happening amongst the younger generation, and that they are not on their own in the daunting world of being a 2nd generation *URANTIA Book* reader.

Mike is coming to Australia at the end of February. He is staying here in Narrabeen for a little while, and is then planning to travel through Australia for a while. One of his main reasons for coming is to meet all the young readers in Australia. I am planning to organise a little get-together whilst he is here. I will keep you posted on the exact date - but it will probably be the 1st or 2nd weekend in March (if you can keep it free). At this stage I have no idea what we are planning to do, but I would love to see all the young readers - I have still not met all of them.

Thanks for listening. I hope I haven't bored anyone. I look forward to seeing you all again very soon (and of course I look forward to meeting those of you who I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting). My parents are doing well in Chicago, although they are a little cold at the moment. Trevor is coming home at the end of March, which we are looking forward to. Mum will be staying in the States until December - so she will need our prayers as I believe she will be a little lonely.

My love and prayers are with you all,

Merindi

How I Found The URANTIA Book

Warren E. Wolfe

This is my “how I found the UB” story. I’ve **really** tried to make this accurate, but you have to understand that all of the “communications” I had were of what I think of as a direct link between minds, and do **not** translate well into words.

It started out with strictly physical motivations. I had been hounded by a new convert to the Campus Crusade for Christ. I was a very vocal, and very effective, debater for atheism. I became the “personal project” of a new CCC recruit, who followed me around with an intensity which would easily qualify under Michigan’s new stalking laws, had they been in place then. I think it was as much a gathering of intelligence about my movements that was a motivator as the hope that I might be converted. That could be nothing but paranoia talking. It’s easy to drift into paranoia while being stalked.

After many weeks of having this guy at most of my classes, and all of my meals, I was showing the strain. Well, at least I was **feeling** the strain. Finally, verging on desperation, I talked with him about a “deal” we could make. I asked him if he believed the Bible was written by God using men as we would use pencils, and he said “yes.” I asked him if he had faith in the inerrancy of the Bible, and he again answered affirmatively. I then told him that, if he would leave me alone for a week, I would produce a list of pairs of Bible quotes which appeared to be contradictory. I would then give him a week to look them up, and to study them. If, after his week, he could show me how my interpretation was faulty, I would do what he wanted, which was to go to the CCC meetings for a month. If, on the other hand, he became convinced that my quotes were indeed contradictory, he would do what I wanted, which was to leave me alone. He was suspicious, but I manipulated him by telling him he was placing faith in the Bible alone, not in his actions or perfection of understanding. He agreed.

So, gleefully, I began my task. I had read the entire Bible, and had some idea of its structure. The easy way is to get relevant quotes from the early Old Testament, and compare them against quotes from Jesus in the New Testament. One of my good friends came by, and was startled to see me reading the Bible and taking notes. I explained the situation to him. He was amused. He was also a Psychology major, and Theology minor. He asked if I was having any luck. I told him that I was indeed, and that I was enjoying myself immensely. He said that, when I got done with that, he had another book for me to rip apart in the same way. You only get one guess as to what that book was.

I finished my task, and handed it to him at the appointed time. I never saw him, or heard from him again. I may well have ruined his faith, based as it was upon a book. In any case, as the weeks crawled by, with me halfway expecting to see him around every corner, I came to realize that I had probably succeeded in regaining my life. Gradually, a glow of accomplishment built up. After

some weeks, I began to think about “that other book” in a yearning fashion. I was feeling omnipotent at detecting errors and inconsistencies. Finally, I asked Del if he had a copy of that book, and he quietly gave me a copy of *The URANTIA Book*.

I began to read, looking primarily for massive inconsistencies. I found none. It appeared to be internally consistent. A couple time I thought I found something which turned out, upon closer examination, to be due to me missing a “not” or some such. A tough nut... I was forced to actually READ the thing, with an eye towards a thorough understanding, rather than just a skim for major ideas. This proved to be very destructive to my atheistic faith. It was written with such power, such complex mentation behind it, such sterling grammar! It seemed to me to be beyond the scope of what was possible in a hoax. So, with my atheism crushed, a simpering agnostic, I offered up a truly sincere prayer, to any creative Deity who might be in attendance, to offer me some indication if this book I was reading had any shred of validity. This was at lunch time.

Strangely enough, within about ten minutes of reading, after waiting a while for a “sign” to appear, I came across a passage which described an ancient meeting between people, at least one of whom had arrived on the scene on a Fandor.

I knew, at that point, that the albatross was the true bird with the largest wingspread ever, at about fourteen feet. There is simply **no way** that an albatross, let alone a smaller bird, could **ever** lift a three-and-a-half foot tall monkey-like person into the air. It simply could not happen. I calculated that the bird would have to have a fifty-foot wingspread, **minimum**, to accomplish the task. I knew that nothing like that had ever been found. Ergo, the UB was BS. I was jubilant. While internally consistent, the UB had been proven to be a load of fertilizer.

I now had a problem... I still liked to think of myself as an atheist, even though I was in the middle of a crisis of faith. On the other hand, it appeared that either God had answered a prayer of mine, or I had just had an **incredible** coincidence. It was disturbing. I resolved to think about it.

That evening, on the CBS Evening News, Walter Cronkite told me, with his own face, that contractors digging a foundation for a bank building in San Diego had uncovered the skeleton of a true bird with a wingspread of over fifty feet, and that archeologists from all over were converging on the site. Immediately, the hair on the back of my neck stood on end, and the bottom dropped out on my stomach. Hoo, boy. The idea that **this** was a coincidence was just too far-fetched to believe.

So, for the second time in the same day, I was making a sincere prayer to God. I just stated how I was feeling, as the UB had led me to believe was the proper way. I pointed out how hard-headed I was, and how tied I was to evidence, logic, and proof. I said that I **wanted** to believe, but that I seriously doubted that I could, unless I could have some actual contact with the spiritual world.

Immediately upon finishing that prayer, I felt pulled within myself. I was sitting in the lotus position on my bed. I could not tell if I had been withdrawn inside my body, made incredibly small, or if my body, now a shell, had expanded to galactic proportions, leaving me tiny (by comparison) in the center of the space it enclosed. I was alone in a vast space, not afraid, but nervous. While I sat there, transfixed, I could “hear” a sound which seemed to be coming from the back of my head... It started out as inaudible, and gradually increased in frequency up to about 1 kHz. (I’m a calibration technician. <Grin>) It started below 20 Hz, and worked up the scale slowly. The **impression** I got was that it was my alpha rate. I don’t know WHY I got that impression, but it fits with what happened, in a weird way. The knowledge that it was my “basic frequency” simply appeared in my mind.

Suddenly I was (****) (Fill in with something somewhat like lassoed, picked up, embraced, rescued...) by a bodiless male person. This person was very benign, and his dominant emotion, as he “reached down a hand” to “pull me up” was one of incredulous amusement. I was cracking him up. I got the impression that I was somewhere not in the physical realm, and he was seeing me much as a high school student would see a chimpanzee who happened to wander into the classroom, and take a seat. I got a vague impression of being asked if I wanted to communicate more personally. I **really** wanted to.

Again, suddenly, I found myself “wired” to this person. He was able to send **huge** seas of information to me in almost no time. I was confused, and “asked” if he was getting the same from me. He was, he said with the equivalent of a chuckle. It was immediately apparent that it was impossible to lie in this medium, and that even hiding information was not possible.

I “asked” if he was God, and he practically went into hysterics. He was not, he said, but he was on the same team. I got the impression of a human laughing so hard they were crying. One of the things I got from him was that I was NOT supposed to be there normally, not for a VERY long time, but that I couldn’t ever GET there if it was really against the rules. He asked me what I wanted to know, since I was there, and I just felt a huge desire to know where everything was going, and how it all fit together. Immediately, I felt suspended in space, looking down at the galaxy. I could see the whole thing, and see the invisible lines tying the whole thing together, as well. I found I could focus in on particular parts, and zoom in on things, even down to the point where I could see individuals. I “knew” that this was real-time. At every level, I could see the interactions of beings and forces, and knew not only that they worked, and what they were doing, but knew, at a very deep level, that they were RIGHT, that they were as they should be. It was incredibly comforting. Additionally, I was able to grasp the wholly incredible amount of information, process, and understand it all as it came in. It occurred to me that people just **can’t** see the very rightness of things because they see so little of the picture. I was aware that I was forming conclusions at lightning speed, and testing them out by

searching for more data... I was processing a massive stream of data, and everything was checking out. I was amazed at what my mind could do.

After a time, to which I cannot really place a measure, I noticed that I was losing the sharpness. I was not integrating all the new data at all well, and much of it was rolling off me without my being able to grasp it, and file it away, as had been happening. I panicked, and “turned to” my friend, who informed me that I had to stop what I was doing, as it would burn out my mind. I could not do what I had been doing for long. I consoled myself with the thought that at least I had more information added to my memories than a hundred times the store I had before this experience. He let me know that I could not hold that much information in my normal mind, and as I got this information, I could sense things slipping away. In desperation, I tried to put what I had learned into ideational coding, like parables, so that I’d have at **least** a flavor of it. The “slide” back to “normal” increased, and I could **feel** the memories of the experience losing their intensity, their fine edge, and becoming fuzzy. While I was trying desperately to nail down some of these memories, I lost contact with my new friend.

I startled, and gasped, on the bed where I sat. I looked at the clock. It appeared that no time had passed, or a very few minutes at most. I was so befuddled, had had so many things going through my mind that I went out and asked Del what day it was. It was the same day. I felt an incredible sadness that the contact was over. My mind also felt somehow “bruised,” as if I had overworked a muscle. I was mentally a bit slow for about a week. That’s it...

What I retain as **certain** knowledge is that there is a vast group of inhabited worlds out there, tied together much as communities are tied together here by the Internet. The “big guys” are very loving, and competent. Things work **very** well, close to perfectly, whatever the appearances are here. We have a **great** deal of incredible experiences to anticipate joyously, and we are **supposed** to get there by doing what we can do where we are. This much I **know**. After that, there’s a lot of fuzzy stuff, but the above I was able to nail down while I had it. I sometimes wonder if I actually hurt myself spiritually by having that experience. I mean, how impressive is having faith, once you’ve been there and SEEN how it is set up? I feel that was the experience I had.

I don’t know to whom or what to attribute the experience I had. I do know that the UB is the closest to the experience in the **feel** of it, albeit **anything** one could write, falls incredibly short of doing it justice. I am well aware that what I write about it falls into the same category. It is the same kind of thing as trying to describe the Grand Canyon to someone who’s not been there. “Yeah, it’s a REALLY big hole. You said that. I believe you. So?” Then they GET there...

Peace,

Warren E. Wolfe

Report on the Guadalajara Book Fair, Mexico 28th Nov to 6th Dec 1998

Robert Coenraads & Robert Solone

Summary

The Mexico City based publisher and distributor "Grupo Editorial Pax" was contracted to distribute *El libro URANTIA* in Mexico. Their first order for 300 soft cover 6"x8" *El libro URANTIA* (Spanish translation, 30 boxes of 10 books each) was delivered directly to the Editorial Pax stand on December 7th. Many major Mexican book chains and stores, including Sanborns and Gonvill will now carry the book.

Interest in *El libro URANTIA* at the Guadalajara Fair was high, partially due to publicity generated by the radio interviews in previous years and interest in it as the source of ideas for Spanish author J.J. Benitez. Interest in the book through word of mouth recommendation by readers who had purchased the book in previous years was also high. During the Fair, 169 copies of the book were sold at the stand, which was manned by up to six volunteers, mostly readers from Guadalajara.

The physical quality of this printing of the Spanish translation was disappointing and the rejection rate high (4% or 22 examples out of the 500 examined).

Distribuidora Los Heraldos C.A. was visited at their premises in Caracas, Venezuela and an order for 150 soft cover 6"x8" copies of *El libro URANTIA* and 20 soft cover 6"x8" copies of *The URANTIA Book* was taken. It is becoming clear that URANTIA Foundation should select its distributor in a particular country based on the recommendations of the large bookstores or chains in that country, and also following a visit to that distributor's premises.

Comments on Mexican distributor, *Grupo Editorial Pax*

A contract was signed with "Grupo Editorial Pax", a distributor and publisher that has been operating in Mexico for over half a century. Based on personal visits to their offices, examination of their background and reputation, and discussions between Foundation representatives, Robert Solone, Robert Coenraads and Pax Director General, Gerardo Gally, a contract was agreed upon.

History of the "Grupo Editorial Pax":

The original company "Pax" was formed in Mexico over 60 years ago by Mr. Carlos Césarman and located in the historic heart of the Federal District. After the discovery of the Aztec temple complex "Templo Mayor" in Mexico City's historic center, the company moved to its present location, a three storey building in the south

of Mexico city, where it has been now for over 20 years. The Pax Group comprises the following publishing companies: Pax (the original company), Arbol Editorial, Hoja, Tres Lunas and Circulo Cuadrado. The objective of the Group has been to offer quality books written simply and clearly by experts in each area.

The Group has over 800 titles of its own with over 100 books in preparation, all of which, including those books that it agrees to distribute, must encourage readers to improve their knowledge in the areas of their interest. These books are advertised in catalogues, in categories according to their subject area, for example, architecture, art and ecology, religion and spirituality, health, children's books etc.

The company believes that for placement in its catalogues, a book should be capable of selling at least 800 copies per year. Their idea for distribution of *The URANTIA Book* is to order in 3 lots of at least 300 books during 1999, with the expectation for continued growth. They expect to penetrate the lucrative Sanborns market because of their size and reputation in the region.

Grupo Editorial Pax are to be notified as soon as the Spanish hard cover and CD ROM versions of *El libro URANTIA* become available. They have also requested a box of promotional pamphlets, "A Description" and "Selected Excerpts". Dedicated reader and small-scale distributor of *El libro URANTIA*, Javier Posada, has agreed to assist Grupo Editorial Pax in whatever way possible to help the distribution of *El libro URANTIA*.

Other Latin American Distributors

During the course of the Guadalajara Book Fair, Foundation personnel met with the following distributors who should be followed up on, possibly through a personal visit to allow an inspection of their premises and methods of operation. I feel that it is important that URANTIA Foundation should select its distributor in a particular country based on the recommendations of the large bookstores or chains in that country, and also following a visit to that distributors premises. This will ensure a far wider distribution and safer arrangement than simply going with those distributors that select the Urantia Foundation. The Foundation can then also feel safer in allowing terms of credit.

Comments on the Guadalajara Book Fair, 1998

The URANTIA Foundation Booth, No. 2335, was situated near the back corner of the exhibition center near loading door 6. The center itself and its installations and

the facilities provided were of international standard. The Foundation booth was manned by up to six persons at any one time, many of whom were local readers willing to volunteer their time to further the spread of the teachings of *The URANTIA Book*. These included Carlos Mauricio Gomez Tanco, Guillermo Cebberos Sierra, Roberto German Ayala Zuniga, Gamel Garcia Varela, and Antonio Serafin from Guadalajara. One reader came all the way from Oaxaca to participate, Roberto Martinez Sosa. A strong bond developed between the readers, formerly unknown to one another, during the course of the Fair and the discussions over dinner afterwards were also a great help to this process. They look set to become the strong nucleus of a readers group in Guadalajara. Five hundred books were delivered to the booth and these were used to decorate the booth itself. The overall whiteness of the Urantia Foundation booth, with a slight hint of blue was most attention grabbing, being in distinct contrast to the bright colors of the other booths. Particularly attention grabbing were some large posters, prepared and plasticized by reader Antonio Serafin, containing selected excerpts from *El libro URANTIA* concerning the origin of the papers and other interesting extracts. Four books were placed on the front tables as display copies and chairs were provided for browsers to sit and read. The following is a breakdown of how the 500 books were used:

Sales from the booth	169
Defective books from the initial 500 (4%)	22
Display copies	4
Display copy for Sales, Editorial Pax	1
Books delivered to Grupo Editorial Pax	300
New books remaining with Carlos Gomez	2
TOTAL	498

Direct sales were lower than previous years. However lower sales this year were recorded by many book sellers and other product sellers in general, and this was attributed to consumer reluctance to purchase luxury items in the face of a fall in the value of the peso and rising prices of fuel and other basic commodities. The 4 display copies and 22 defective books were designated for library placement and as gifts for the volunteer workers (one book per volunteer, a total of 6 books). Carlos Gonzales was placed in charge of holding the books for library placement. Two books remain unaccounted for.

Recommendations for Future Book Fairs

It was felt by all present at the Foundation Booth that the Fair was highly successful as a public awareness exercise (unlike the Hong Kong Fair (Coenraads and Louie, 1998)) and that Guadalajara must now be the biggest (?) center of Mexican readers listed on the Foundation records. In fact readers felt that the Foundation should also attend other large fairs held in Mexico City and other principal cities to repeat the

successes of Guadalajara. With its new distributor in mind URANTIA Foundation should now probably NOT sell discounted books at any future fairs in Mexico, but sell at the full-recommended retail price. Next year it might also be convenient to locate our booth next to that of our distributor (say with no joining wall?). We were informed that J.J. Benitez would be attending the Guadalajara Fair in 1999 to launch his new book.

New URANTIA Book Readers in Mexico

During the course of the book fair many new readers filled out address cards to be included on the URANTIA Foundation mailing list. These cards are an important means by which readers can become known to the Foundation. We included address cards with as many books as we could but ran out after placing them in some 200 of the books. Perhaps address cards should be included automatically with the next printing. The main card also requires updating with a Mexican contact address. We now have volunteers in Mexico City and Guadalajara willing to act as contact persons for new readers.

Library Placement Program In Mexico

During the book fair, three copies of *El libro URANTIA* were donated to librarians who approached the Foundation Booth. Fourteen copies remain with Carlos Gonzales, and seven with Roberto Ayala for library placement. Volunteers are currently assembling a list of public and other libraries in Mexico.

(continued)

BTW, when I say dinosaurs were dumb please don't get me wrong. I think dinosaurs were decidedly cool and am glad they had a run at things for a long while. I am currently having a fine time researching and executing a series of illustrations of the dinosaurs of Alaska for the Bureau of Land Management. I grew up even more enthralled by dinosaurs than even the average kid of today and I still love them. Still, as unfashionable as it may be to say it, they were nowhere near the sharpest tools in the zoological shed .

Carl Ramm <ramm@ALASKA.NET>

*Sometimes it isn't really the issue
that causes the conflict
but a conflict
looking for an issue to hang on.*

Spanish Printing

The Third Edition (1997) of *El libro URANTIA* printed in Spain (Cayfosa, Carretera de Caldes, km 3, 08130 Santa Perpetua de Mogoda, Barcelona) was noted to have a disappointingly large number of defects. The main problems being the pale or light type, often variable across the page, on rather yellowish paper (compared with the earlier Spanish printing displaying darker type on a whiter page). The alignment of the text block on the pages was also often poor or even somewhat angled. In 22 cases out of the 500 books examined (4%) the defects were so bad that the books were removed from the saleable stock to be used for library donations. The problems encountered were:

1. *Upside down cover (approximately 10-12 books like this, rejected in all cases)*
2. *White bar code printed over the title instead of on the back cover (approx. two like this)*
3. *Glue and other mark on the blue cover (so many of the books had marks that only the very worst could be rejected).*
4. *Blobs of glue on the sides of the pages sticking bunches of them together (again, so many of the books had this glue problem that only the very worst could be rejected)*
5. *Plastic outer cover glued down misaligned with its inner blue page (approx. 2-3 cases)*
6. *Dirty marks or fingerprints on the sides of the pages (approx. 2-3 cases).*

There was quite a bit of interest in the Spanish hard cover edition, which we advised would be available in 1999. The main reasons given for the interest were the larger font size making reading easier, and the smart appearance of the hard cover with its white dust jacket. Interest in the Spanish language CD ROM version was also high.

Comments On Venezuelan Distributor

The opportunity to visit the premises of our Venezuelan distributor in Caracas was taken:

Distribuidora Los Heraldos C.A.

Lic. Hildebrando Alvitez (Presidente)
 Av. Luis Roche – Edif. Teatro Altamira P.B. L-6
 Apartado 68489, Caracas, Venezuela
 Tel: 265 4294, 261 6704;
 Fax 267 3117;
 Email: alvitez@telcel.net.ve

Distribuidora Los Heraldos has been in business for nearly 20 years. Sr. Alvitez has his stock and inventory located in the basement below Libreria Garnier, a retail outlet for esoteric books in which *El libro URANTIA* is

displayed alongside well known titles, such as “Metafisica” by Venezuelan author, Conny Mendez. I saw approximately 100 copies of *El libro URANTIA* stored on shelves in the neat and orderly basement and was advised that these were fully paid for copies of the books. Through discussion with Sr. Alvitez, I learned that he should be able to move many more copies if a 90 day credit arrangement were possible with the Foundation which he could, in turn, pass on to the bookshops to which he distributes. Based on his history in the business, my personal observations of the premises and the fact that he had paid in full for his previous order, I tentatively approved a 90 day credit arrangement between Distribuidora Los Heraldos and URANTIA Foundation and took an immediate order for 150 copies of *El libro URANTIA* and 20 copies of *The URANTIA Book* (English) based on the conditions offered at the Guadalajara Book Fair and current until the end of 1998.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank URANTIA Foundation for the opportunity to attend the Guadalajara Book Fair, 1998, and serve in the dissemination of the teachings of *The URANTIA Book*. We are indebted to those local readers who rescheduled their lives and gave much of their time during the nine days of the Guadalajara Fair. These include Carlos Mauricio Gomez Tanco, Guillermo Cebreros Sierra, Roberto German Ayala Zuniga, Gamel Garcia Varela, and Antonio Serafin from Guadalajara, and Roberto Martinez Sosa from Oaxaca.

Flag wavers, Horn blowers

“The wealthy Pharisees were devoted to almsgiving, and they did not shun publicity regarding their philanthropy. Sometimes they would even blow a trumpet as they were about to bestow charity upon some beggar.”
 (page 1651)

Are there horn blowers amongst us? Are YOU a horn blower? Take this simple test and see. (Recall: You might be a RedNeck IF...)

Do you need an audience in order to act civil? Do you treat people rudely behind the scenes? You might be a horn blower. Do you yell, slam doors, pout, tease people, and kick the dog? Congratulations you’re a normal brat or jerk... you are not a horn blower. However, do you then go to study meetings or public email lists and talk about LUV, bragging about how kind, and patient you are? You might be a horn blower. Is there a perpetual scowl on your face... is it hard for you to smile or laugh at home, but you “turn it on like crazy” in public? Careful.

Racism, 90's style

The following story is reported to be true:

On a British Airways flight from Johannesburg, a middle-aged, well-off white South African lady has found herself sitting next to a black man. She called the cabin crew attendant over to complain about her seating.

"What seems to be the problem, Madam?" asked the attendant.

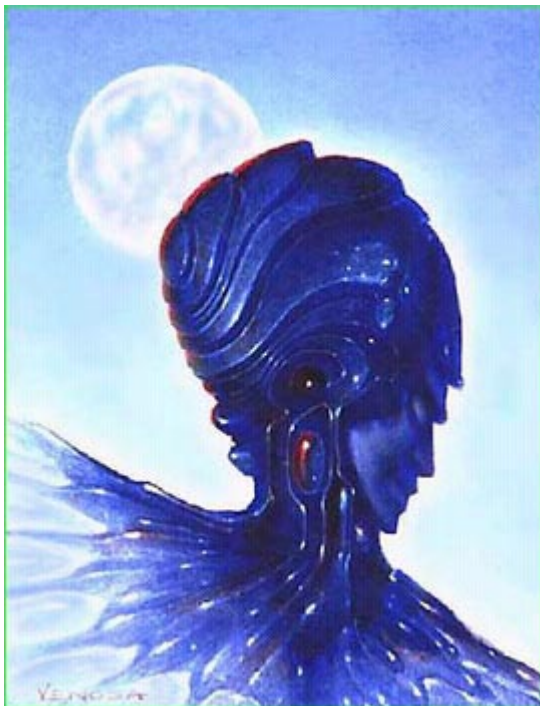
"Can't you see?" she said, "You've sat me next to a kafir. I can't possibly sit next to this disgusting human. Find me another seat!"

"Please calm down, Madam." the stewardess replied. "The flight is very full today; but I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll go and check to see if we have any seats available in club or first class."

The woman cocks a snooty look at the startled black man beside her (who was almost as startled as many of the surrounding passengers). A few minutes later the stewardess returns with the good news, which she delivers to the lady, who cannot help but look at the people around her with a smug and self-satisfied grin.

"Madam, unfortunately, as I suspected, economy is full. I've spoken to the cabin services director, and club is also full. However, we do have one seat in first class."

Before the lady has a chance to answer, the stewardess continues: "It is most extraordinary to make this kind of upgrade, however, and I have had to get special permission from the captain. But, given the circumstances, the captain felt that it was outrageous that someone should be forced to sit next such an obnoxious person."



"Full Moon" Robert Venosa
<http://www.venosa.com>

With that, the attendant turned to the black man and said: "So if you'd like to get your things, sir, I have your seat ready for you."

At which point, the surrounding passengers stood and gave a standing ovation while the man walked to the front of the plane.

Journeys of the Andites

Caucasian mummies in the Tarim Basin

from Carl Ramm, ramm@alaska.net

"But even in the twentieth century after Christ there are traces of Andite blood among the Turanian and Tibetan peoples, as is witnessed by the blond types occasionally found in these regions. The early Chinese annals record the presence of the red-haired nomads to the north of the peaceful settlements of the Yellow River; and there still remain paintings which faithfully record the presence of both the blond-Andite and the brunet-Mongolian types in the Tarim basin of long ago." (page 879)

It appears that the accounts mentioned above have not generally been taken seriously by scholars: In an article Victor Mair (a specialist in Chinese language and literature at the University of Pennsylvania) wrote for *Archaeology* magazine last year, he says: "The new finds are also forcing a reexamination of old Chinese books that describe historical or legendary figures of great height, with deep-set blue or green eyes, long noses, full beards, and red or blond hair. Scholars have traditionally scoffed at these accounts, but it now seems that they may be accurate." More details can be found at:

<http://www.fi.edu/inquirer/mummy.html>

The caution in the last sentence is just strange. "...seems that they may be accurate."? At least in general they must have been accurate, given the natures of the mummies recently found. I find it interesting that those paintings lost repute and are now being vindicated, and that the UB has been proven correct in this regard.

Dubious virtues

"Patience" appears to lessen with understanding, because there is no longer any need for it. Suffering short time-units creates the need for patience. A longer understanding, or a more transcendent view, creates a decreasing need for that dubious virtue.

It's like forgiveness... another dubious virtue. As judgement lessens there is a decreasing need for forgiveness. When enjoying the longer view, using long time-units, understanding reduces judgement and decreases the need for forgiveness.



Beyond 2000

ANZURA URANTIA Book Conference

October 1–4, 1999

Our 1999 get-together will be held over the October long weekend, beginning on Friday October 1 and closing on the Monday, October 4. Booking forms and further details will be sent out during June. But so that we can start making plans, here is some early info:

Booth Lodge

22 Grantulla Road, Kallista, 3791, Victoria

The venue for our 1999 conference is Booth Lodge, conveniently located at Kallista in the Dandenong Ranges, less than an hour's drive East of the Melbourne CBD. The forest surrounds and the mountain views will make it difficult to believe that Booth Lodge is only 45 kms from the heart of the bustling city of Melbourne. The grounds that encompass the complex are simply inspirational and present many opportunities for outdoor activities. The Lodge is adjacent to the tranquil Sherbrooke Forest, with panoramic views to Melbourne's southern suburbs, Port Phillip Bay and beyond.

The facilities at Booth Lodge create the perfect environment for a clear thinking conference.

Booth Lodge has four comfortable accommodation units, each with five bedrooms and a syndicate room designed to ensure that your stay is productive and stress-free. The 20 bedrooms all have ensuite bathrooms, reverse cycle air conditioning, king size single beds, a study desk and excellent lighting. All rooms enjoy an inspiring outlook over the tranquil gardens that surround the property. The rooms are large enough to comfortably accommodate up to 40 delegates in a twin-share configuration.



During the conference, there will be time to relax in an environment that allows reflection, socialising, and space to ponder the big picture: *how goes the birth of Urantia's fifth age? Are we helping or hindering?*

* * *

The conference area is fully equipped with the most up to date equipment, and the Centre offers a range of recreational facilities including:

- Spacious lounge with open fire*
- billiards table*
- BYO Bar*
- golf courses nearby*
- contemplation room/chapel*
- extensive garden walks*
- fern gully*
- forest walks*
- golf driving net*
- volleyball court*
- Dandenong Ranges tourist area*

Some of us older folk employ long time units, so this invigorating weekend, only six months away, will come around very quickly. So if you have any ideas with regard to the agenda, possible activities or are ready to go public with that conference seminar to change the world, please make contact with Mr Conference, 1999 –

Bob Reynolds 03 9562 0111

No matter how difficult it is to get away, or how short of time we are, I think the those of us fortunate enough to have attended the last few conferences would agree on something: that our coming together – the gathering of even a hundred minds lit by the light of the dawn of the fifth epoch, contributes to the necessary work of widening channels for the river of truth. Integration of this fresh dose of concept into the main stream of our societies is a social task. Thus it will be effected by *groups* of individuals, enlightened to whatever degree, but all keen to help. And apart from the business at hand, this will be a really great holiday! Looking forward to seeing you all there.



Study Groups in Australia and New Zealand

If you would like your study group listed here, or if details have changed, please contact the Editor.

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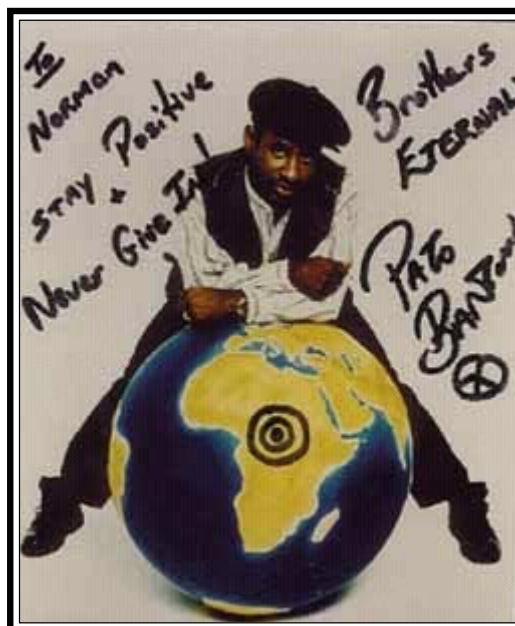
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unto us

*angels, rest.
burdens imaginary
and otherwise
laid aside we
shake the debris
of circuitous journeys
from brilliant garments
and glimpse the understanding
it is no accident
two should find one
another pausing to refresh
at this deepest of springs.
joining hands
our oasis encompasses
two spirits
one heart
one love.*

**michael s. queen
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