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The Future of Urantia according to *The Urantia Book*

CARMELO MARTINEZ
Spain



AS I STARTED THINKING ON HOW TO FOCUS THIS subject, the very first thing that arose in my mind was the concept of utopia. According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, the word utopia expresses the idea of "An unpractical scheme for social improvement."

So, utopia according to common opinion is something perhaps optimistic but unpractical. Nevertheless, according to *The Urantia Book* utopia actually is something optimistic and PRACTICAL, and moreover UNAVOIDABLE. In *The Urantia Book* this future utopia is called "the age of light and life," which is asserted as the certain fate of mankind on this planet and on every inhabited planet. Paper 55 details this encouraging and optimistic account of events of our far-distant future. I dare to provide you with a figure of how far-distant: On Urantia this age could occur in thirty or forty thousand years, perhaps even sooner.

But it is not my intention to go that far in this article. I'm going to stay in the near future, the age to follow this one, which may be thriving perhaps in a few decades, maybe in one hundred or two hundred years; I'm going to stay in an age I deem is the age of *The Urantia Book*, the age of the fifth epochal revelation. Anyway, according to *The Urantia Book*, to proceed forward means to advance, to go to a better situation, so we have every reason to be optimistic, to stand in contrast to the many voices that predict all kinds of doomsday disasters.

To allow us to act as "fortune-tellers" or prophets, to anticipate what will transpire on the planet, *The Urantia Book* affords us a highly serviceable tool: Planetary Mortal Epochs.

First, I will review these planetary epochs, then attempt to position our present Urantia in one of these epochs, and finally act as a prophet, as I said before, and to predict certain aspects of the age that will follow the current one

If you would like to review *The Urantia Book* text, most of the information used to produce the charts presented here has been taken from Paper 52; Paper 49, page 567; and Paper 50 Section 5, pages 576 and 577.

Sometimes the future seems to be far away and difficult to visualize. However, it could chance to be right in front of us, at least in some respects. And this is the case here, for in a certain way, we are in the future right now.

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What is our future? What is your future according to your Thought Adjuster?

MY DEAR FRIENDS, READERS OF THE UAI Journal, I hope that this issue finds you all in great spirits.

We all know through our own experience what *The Urantia Book* has done for us individually. And in a way, we know from what we are reading that this planet will have a better and brighter future, more spiritually fragrant, where people will be able to experience the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man freely and openly: one nation, one religion, one language, all for one and one for all, all for God and God for all. We will all be long gone by the time the era of light and life will become a reality; nevertheless, we can all work at preparing the ground to make it happen, to make the kingdom of God, the family of God, a reality on this planet. It is a great gift from the rulers of our Superuniverse to be more aware of the divine realities through the Fifth Revelation. By living the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, by living God daily, we might know as well that there comes a time here or on the Mansion Worlds when we will have access to auto-revelation, revelation from our Thought Adjuster.

Truth is always a revelation: autorevelation when it emerges as a result of the work of the indwelling Adjuster; epochal revelation when it is presented by the function of some other celestial agency, group, or personality. [1109:4]

From our reading and studying of the papers on the Thought Adjuster, we have a better idea of how our TA works within our mind in order to expand our mind and make us more conscious of God and of the plan he has for us. Each Thought Adjuster has a plan for his subject. Do you have an idea of what that plan is? Have you ever dared to ask him when you connect with him during your meditation what is the plan he has for you? What is your future according to him?

One way to understand better what he has planned for us is to acknowledge his presence and collaborate with him and make him and God happy.



Adjusters are playing the sacred and superb game of the ages; they are engaged in one of the supreme adventures of time in space. And how happy they are when your co-operation permits them to lend assistance in your short struggles of time as they continue to prosecute their larger tasks of eternity. But usually, when your Adjuster attempts to communicate with you, the message is lost in the material currents of the energy streams of human mind; only occasionally do you catch an echo, a faint and distant echo, of the divine voice. [1205:5]

We have another great issue for you, thanks to our different contributors from all over the world: Carmelo from Spain is sharing with us his understanding of “The Future according to *The Urantia Book*”; Mark from the USA is guiding us in a reflection on curiosity as a divine gift... and it is indeed; you will find as well in this issue an essay from Nigel from Australia on the Lanonandek dilemma; if they have a dilemma, can you imagine ours? And finally, Gaétan from Canada is telling us about a personal experience with afflictions, what he learned from it and how it has become a great gift, a great opportunity for growth.

Even as mortals, so have these angels been father to many disappointments, and they will point out that sometimes your most disappointing disappointments have become your greatest blessings. Sometimes the planting of a seed necessitates its death, the death of your fondest hopes, before it can be reborn to bear the fruits of new life and new opportunity. And from them you will learn to suffer less through sorrow and disappointment, first, by making fewer personal plans concerning other personalities, and then, by accepting your lot when you have faithfully performed your duty. [555:4]

Thank you, Vern, for jumping in to replace at last minute our dear friend and brother Mario, who needs to take a cosmic break in order to receive God’s healing. Thank you, Mario, for all you have done over the last two years; we

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Planetary Epochs — 1						
	Primitive Man	Post-Planetary Prince	Post-Adamic	Post-Magisterial Son	Post-Bestowal Son	Post-Teacher Son
Races	Six separate races.	Six separate races; perhaps some of them obliterated. Racial sorting starts.	Race improvement by Adamic blood infusion. Defective bestial tendencies very nearly eliminated. Races well blended in the end.	One race.	One race.	One race.
Intellectual capacity	Creative imagination begins to function.	Planning, building and communication skills developed.	Mental capacity enhanced as a result of blending with the violet race.	A great intellectual advancement initiated.	Philosophic integration leads to wisdom.	New functioning of mind circuit, understanding of cosmic citizenship.
Sex equality	No equality.	Sex need leads to cooperation.	Example of Adam and Eve as equals.	Men and women equal.	Men and women equal.	Men and women equal.
Family life	No family life.	Emergence of the home.	Home life established.	Family becomes the foundation of society.	Family life harmonized.	Family life perfected.
Social organization and government	Tribes, tribal government.	Advanced tribal epoch. Racial groupings, national life begins.	Internationalism. Monarchical or paternal form of rulership. World-wide educational system.	Representative government. Only those most fit, rule.	Gradual lessening of governmental supervision, still many nations. The military passes away. International harmony arrives.	Government vanishes. Rule of individual self-control.
Material progress and mechanical development	Fire and animals under control. basic tools. Hunting and hearing.	Agriculture appears, settled habitation and cultivation of the soil and domestication of animals begins.	Age of invention and mechanical development. Control of natural forces. Exploration and advancement of science.	Economic liberation. Leisure utilized for self-improvement. Height of development of physical sciences.	Economic liberation continues, life becomes refreshingly simple.	Administrative duties down to one hour per day per individual.
Group relationships	Prolonged and brutal struggles. Survival of the fittest.	Decreasing struggles.	World-wide peace is a social goal.	Brotherhood and world-wide peace	Planetary peaceful coexistence.	Brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God

hope you will be back soon... and thanks again to our great TEAM of devoted and committed individuals; it is a privilege to work with all of you.

In closing, please allow me to remind you of these beautiful words from a Thought Adjuster to his subject, and understand that our TA is trying to tell us the same thing:

Among other things, the Adjuster pleaded "that he more faithfully give me his sincere co-operation, more cheerfully endure the tasks of my emplacement, more faithfully carry out the program of my arrangement, more patiently go through the trials of my selection, more persistently and cheerfully tread the path of my choosing, more humbly receive credit that may accrue as a result of my ceaseless endeavours--thus transmit my admonition to the man of my indwelling. [1213:5]

Wherever and whenever, we are never alone; God is always with us here and now; it is to each of us to become more conscious of it through our effort, attention and diligence. And then, we may start to ask God what we can do for Him instead of what He can do for us...a great sign of spiritual maturity.

Are you following the plan of your God within?
 May the love and peace of our loving Father be with you and within you always.
 Your brother,
 -Guy

The future of Urantia according to *The Urantia Book*


Continued from page 1

Our relationship is one of mutual support, cooperation, understanding, and confidence—in short, a relationship of love, and not one of rivalry, suspicion, and rejection as is so usual in our present world. As I see it, since we are anticipating and enacting the relationships that will prevail between human beings in the age of our immediate future, we are experiencing the future now.

Evolution of mankind on any inhabited planet is a path of ascension from early barbarism to the final ages of light and life. And this ascension always runs through certain stages that are defined and characterized in Paper 52.

Our planet has strayed quite far from the average trajectory because of the misfortunes of Caligastia's betrayal and of our Material Son and Daughter's default.

Drawing on the information from *The Urantia Book*, Eduardo Altuzarra helped me to make a chart, for my skills for drawing are few (see Charts 1 and 2). These charts summarize what *The Urantia Book* tells us about the stages of advancement on an "average" planet. However, as you very well know, our planet has strayed quite far from the average trajectory because of the misfortunes of Caligastia's betrayal and of our Material Son and Daughter's default.

Planetary Epochs — 2						
	Primitive Man	Post-Planetary Prince	Post-Adamic	Post-Magisterial Son	Post-Bestowal Son	Post-Teacher Son
Languages	Language appears.	Many tongues.	Tongues in unification.	One world language.	World language improved.	Local Universe language learnt.
Ethical attainment level	Ethics of the jungle.	Dawning awareness.	Great ethical advancement.	Ethical basis to world economy	Pursuit of truth and moral culture.	Focus on Local Universe ethics
Religion	Animal fear, tribal superstition, ignorance.	A blending of evolutionary and revelational.	Planetary presentation of Paradise Trinity	Great religious awakening.	One religion.	One religion. Paradise Trinity awareness.
Artistic achievement	Focus on survival, hunting tools developed.	Appearance of crafts, pottery and weaving.	Awakening of the interest in art.	Flowering of art, music, and higher learning.	Higher levels of art, music, and philosophy.	Art, music, and higher learning fully expressed.
Terrestrial escape	By death.	By death, and perhaps a few individuals by Adjuster fusion during the life.	By death.	Adjuster fusion potential grows, number of people experiencing son seizure increases.	By death, Adjusters bestowed to all normal minds. Fusion more common.	Many are translated from among the living, death becomes less frequent.
Extent of revelation	No revelation.	Local system.	Constellations.	Local universe.	Superuniverse.	Central universe and Paradise.
Adjusters bestowal	Receptiveness to Adjusters, but not fusion.	In increasing numbers.	In increasing numbers, increasing capacity to later fusion.	To the majority by not to everyone.	Spirit of Truth arrives and Adjusters bestowal becomes universal.	Individuals consciously aware of Adjuster communion.
Entry condition	Will appears.	Human groupings appear.	Natural biologic height occurs.	Evolutionary development of intellectual and ethical progression is completed.	The height of natural development of spiritual status is reached.	Apex of planetary evolution.
Epoch characterization	The nutrition epoch.	The security age.	The material-comfort era.	The quest for knowledge and wisdom.	The epoch of philosophy and brotherhood.	The age of spiritual striving.
Length of time	Usually 100,000 years.	An average of 500,000 years.	25,000 years.	From 25,000 to 50,000 years.	From 10,000 to 100,000 years.	Stabilized eternal destiny

For example, our planet has received a Bestowal Son, Michael of Nebadon itself, without having previously hosted a Magisterial Son, thus breaking the normal sequence of Sons' arrivals.

Each planetary stage is named according to the development of mankind which characterizes that period of time. The beginning of a particular stage is marked by a certain event or condition. During the stage, humankind advances according to its own forces and resources, followed by superhuman upstepping under the guise of a descending son who boosts evolution beyond the level that humankind alone would be able to reach.

With this global vision of the ages of an "average planet" in mind, we turn to the question of where Urantia is in the process today.

The age of Adam is one of material comfort, one of a technological development, but on Urantia this is just occurring now, almost 38,000 years behind the "average" scheme.

Adam is one of material comfort, one of a technological development, but on Urantia this is just occurring now, almost 38,000 years behind the "average" scheme. Even


The Urantia Book gives us clues in this respect. Page 830:3 reads: *The dispensation of the Prince has passed, the age of Adam, the third planetary epoch, opens amidst scenes of simple grandeur...* The age of

though we have already been visited by a bestowal son, two thousand years ago, I believe we are still in the age of Adam, probably toward the end of this age, but still in it. And the book says this on page 593:5: *Your world is a full dispensation and more behind the average planetary schedule.* If we look again at the chart, my assertion makes more sense: between the post-bestowal Son age and the age of Adam, the age of the Magisterial Son usually occurs; thus we are indeed a full dispensation and more behind.

The other chart (see Charts 3 and 4) is similar to the previous one, but each row highlights in gradual shading the development I think we have reached. You will recognize that our human progress is not uniform across all the development characteristics.

After seeing this second chart my assertion of being at the end of the age of Adam becomes clearer. In some respects we have further to go because of the universal bestowal of Adjusters (thanks to the bestowal of Michael of Nebadon) and the revelation degree (thanks to the receiving of *The Urantia Book*). Nevertheless, our evolution squares with the age of Adam in terms of racial, intellectual, and ethical development, as well as social and religious organization, and group relationship

And now I must act the prophet. But this will be easier after such an analysis because it is simply a

Mankind's future according to <i>The Urantia Book</i> — 1						
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matter of “pushing forward” on each row of the chart. Nevertheless, I’m not going to do a row-by-row analysis; I will try instead to describe an overall frame inside which, in my opinion, the era after the present age will come into existence and evolve.

To me, this era will be the closing of the age of Adam and the opening of an age in a sense equivalent to the post-Magisterial Son age. But I don’t think we are going to receive the divine help of a descending Magisterial Son, at least not during the next one or two thousand years. Instead, we already have *The Urantia Book*, which seems to be planned to act as the divine help, the superhuman help, in this new era—or at least in its beginnings.

There is an “apocryphal” text that is believed to derive from the conversations of Contact Commissioners with midwayers during the development of the book. I don’t know whether this origin is true or not, but its contents very well fit the vision of the future I’m trying to convey to you. It reads thus:


“We regard *The Urantia Book* as a feature of the progressive evolution of human society. It is not germane to the spectacular episode of epochal revolution, even though it may apparently be timed to appear in the wake of one such revolution in human society. The Book belongs to the era immediately to follow the conclusion

of the present ideological struggle. That will be the day when men will be willing to seek truth and righteousness. When the chaos of the present confusion has passed, it will be more readily possible to formulate the cosmos of a new and improved era of human relationships. And it is for this better order of affairs on earth that the book has been made ready.

“But the publication of the book has not been postponed to that (possibly) somewhat remote date. An early publication of the book has been provided so that it may be in hand for the training of leaders and teachers. Its presence is also required to engage the attention of persons of means who may be thus led to provide funds for translation into other languages.”

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And from this text emerges the first characteristic of that future age: the willingness to seek truth and righteousness. In the present age people are motivated by such things as selfishness and ambition and look down on altruistic individuals who try to be fair and ethical in their relationships. In contrast, this future age that

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Length of time	Usually 100,000 years.	An average of 500,000 years.	25,000 years.	From 25,000 to 50,000 years.	From 10,000 to 100,000 years.	Stabilized eternal destiny

will follow ours, truth and righteousness will be sought throughout the world.

Personal relationships will be based on mutual support and regard, on the search for fair and equal treatment—in short, based on more maturity and will accordingly be more ethical. Nevertheless, not everything will be good, as it is sometimes believed. Page 805:0 reads: *Only love, brotherhood, can prevent the strong from oppressing the weak.*

Following some rows in the chart, I would say that world peace will be attained; something not so difficult to believe despite the conflicts of recent times. Brotherhood will begin to thrive, even though in its beginnings, and a great ethical advance will occur.

Page 805:5 also reads: *Present-day profit-motivated economics is doomed unless profit motives can be augmented by service motives. Ruthless competition based on narrow-minded self-interest is ultimately destructive of even those things which it seeks to maintain. Exclusive and self-serving profit motivation is incompatible with Christian ideals—much more incompatible with the teachings of Jesus.*

And to me this is another characteristic, now in the economic domain, of the age to follow us. Today

economics has become world-wide, and the well-known concept of globalization applies only in the economic domain because the big multinational corporations, the big world-wide fortunes, have found in globalization a breeding ground for continuing to hoard more and more wealth.

In the economic world of today, the profit motive has reached a maximum. I don't need to remind you that big corporations and big banks no more look for a larger profit, but for an increasing profit enlargement, something I call the "second derivative." In other words, corporations expect not only that their profits will increase each year, but also that the increase in profit will also get larger each year. And these corporations announce these profits without the least embarrassment.

Poor countries have thus become impoverished and burdened with external debt. However, step by step, these countries will progressively get out of such an economic yoke; and such a movement will be the end of this economic scheme and the beginning of a new order. It's already so. The status of large numbers of shanty dwellers and extremely poor groups—people without electricity, running water, or schools for children—cannot last very long. And this new model will come not only because of the reaction of poor countries, but

even by the raising of social consciousness in the domain of economics in general, and among the companies in particular; companies will be service-to-man oriented in their own internal organization and also in their function in, and profit to, society. Companies no more will be like machines, tools to earn money; they will be like organisms integrated in social organization and oriented to economic service to society.

Do you think such a utopia is unachievable? I want to remind you that according to *The Urantia Book*, utopia is POSSIBLE and UNAVOIDABLE; social forces inexorably push in such a direction. Also I want to remind you that on a neighboring planet, on one of its eleven continents, there exists a society that has already taken these steps, that has run a way up similar to ours, and that now stands in advance of us.

Here is a quote from page 805:3 linking economics to social relationships and the coming of brotherhood: *Throughout the earlier ages of any world, competition is essential to progressive civilization. As the evolution of man progresses, co-operation becomes increasingly effective. In advanced civilizations co-operation is more efficient than competition.*

Back to the chart, such economic changes, such social-profit and service orientation of companies, will make available greater economic freedom and more spare time. In fact, it's already happening.

And now I want to talk about political organization. On this neighboring planet, politicians are the more altruistic individuals and the better trained for their function. They have schools of statesmanship which are attended by all who want to be elected to public responsibilities. It's considered a great honor for any individual to be appointed to such responsibilities, and they try very hard to pass and to be the best.

In the age to come we will progress in representative government and only the most suitable persons will govern.

The era of personally prospering from politics, our present era, will be over. The era of corrupt politicians not devoted to public service will be over. The new era will herald the arrival of politicians who are truly oriented to public-service.

Such an epoch is drawing near; indeed, it is knocking at our doors. And *The Urantia Book* is planned for such a new time. It is the superhuman support for such an age, it is the Magisterial Son-made book. This is my point of view.

And we readers of *The Urantia Book* are privileged individuals; we were ready for the book and the book found us. But this implies more of an obligation than a privilege. We are, must be, the scouting party of this new age. As I see it, more important than spreading the teachings of the book is acting in our lives with such a view of the future, so as to clear the way for these new times. We each must act in our own lives, guided by our Thought Adjusters. We make way for the future though action and personal example.

The Midway Commission who wrote Part Four of the book makes this same appeal on page 2084:6 in a polite manner: *The call to the adventure of building a new and transformed human society by means of the spiritual rebirth of Jesus' brotherhood of the kingdom should thrill all who believe in him as men have not been stirred since the days when they walked about on earth as his companions in the flesh.*

And here ends my introduction. There are other aspects of the future, in addition to these I have emphasized, but I will leave them to your reflection. But irrespective of the new age details, it seems to me that this age is knocking at our door. Everything seems to denote that change is already occurring. □

The call to the adventure of building a new and transformed human society by means of the spiritual rebirth of Jesus' brotherhood of the kingdom should thrill all who believe in him...



...“in order for a tadpole to become a frog he must live loyally as a tadpole – so let’s go out there and work our tails off.”

Curiosity: A divinely designed engine

MARK A. KURTZ
United States

WHAT IS YOUR USUAL reaction or feeling upon discovering you are curious about something? An old Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines curious as "careful and inquisitive." It also says a person is "marked by desire to investigate and learn." Webster defines curiosity as "desire to know."

What causes curiosity? It is reasonable to assume that God created curiosity to drive man to ask questions. A suitable answer is the fourth of seven adjutant mind spirits. On page 402:6 read:

The spirit of knowledge--the curiosity-mother of adventure and discovery, the scientific spirit; the guide and faithful associate of the spirits of courage and counsel; the urge to direct the endowments of courage into useful and progressive paths of growth.

Curiosity is a gift of our Universe Mother working tirelessly in cooperation with her other mind spirits.

According to Clyde Bedell in his book, *Concordex of The Urantia Book*¹, Urantia mortals have been asking three fundamental questions since human life began.

Curiosity leads a willing soul into the potential of all life. Curiosity, not a savior, but power to affect the mind to inspire one's will to action to choose goodness.

They are: Who am I? What am I doing here? Where am I going? I would like to add a fourth: What is my role in life? We mortals are naturally curious and we've been asking them in many different ways for age upon age. Mortals

are curious about the meaning of life and are wondering if we are worthy. These four and additional related searching questions are discussed herein with comments about spontaneity.

This article originated as a Sunday school course to inspire discussion and interest in greater satisfaction for relating to God and to inspire greater desire for increased curiosity for learning. It seems to me that *desire* is needed for all mind activities we use to find God. The reader is asked to personalize the questions and also is encouraged to list personal questions or concerns. The opinions listed here are not absolute answers, only experienced suppositions based on listening and reading various works.



"Curiosity" collage

Readers may discuss these questions with friends and are asked to carefully listen to responses. Groups frequently use sharing for discovery. There are benefits to sharing of everything that we thoughtfully consider as appropriate for friends or public consumption as we listen to our inner selves. We should intensely listen for the best of the inner mind or soul (our Thought Adjuster) of others, for it is in the sharing that God is active in leading humankind toward a high divine ideal of life. Divine judges measure individual personal spiritual progress, but we mortals are able to observe progress, as Jesus said, by the "fruits" of the spirit. We see these fruits in our relationships with persons. We wish a greater understanding of the fruits through curious investigation with philosophic questioning. Our best, thoughtful responses are sought for all.

People become curious by the aid of the spirit living within and by the capture of one's attention to a situation or by the sayings of another person. A person might wonder why another's act or statement, that is significantly different from what was previously learned or found acceptable, has caught one's attention. Animals become curious, but humans use curiosity at higher levels to assess a situation for value or goodness. It is this greater ability that makes real the potential for greater insight and attainment. It is divine value and the recognition of goodness that is partially definitive in separating animal behavior from human potential for eternal life and relationship with God.

Curiosity leads a person into the temple of truth seeking, a temple of continuing learning that begins in the human life and endures in the University of Universes of eternity. It leads a willing soul into the potential of all life. Curiosity is not a savior, but it is power to affect the mind to inspire one's will to action to choose goodness. And will is sovereign for each person. God allows us an "arena" of mind to observe and experience Universe values in accordance with our present understanding at any moment. Spiritually, we live or die according to our decisions. Mind allows curiosity to thrive. Mind gives power to curiosity and is therefore a great divine gift.

Divinity provides all that is needed for choosing eternal life. There is nothing we can add; all that we need to do is accept all that is given. Although curiosity can be used for evil discovery and living, used rightly it is a tool of divinity to drive man to seek the higher ideals of God.

Mind is the arena in which we live and experience all relationships. It is the arena in which we decide what to do with what we learn from being curious. It is the one gift of life that allows present tense acceptance or rejection of anything we observe at any moment. Mind is a gift of God, but is either the victim of godless thinking or the valued steward of a love-seeking soul. It is the victim of itself if it chooses any concept that is not in harmony with God's will. It is a great steward of a person who recognizes and chooses the magnanimous goodness of God. It serves us divinely when we desire to become like God. Curiosity is the engine that drives a person into action to investigate what is true or what is observable. Desire is its mindal cousin.

Relationship with God is like a man who discovers a great jewel in a field and sells all that he has to buy the field. Curiosity to relate to the jewel is the power to find the great, but hidden, extent of the value of the jewel. It is like a jar or box; we open the lid to look inside. We have a great Universe "box" to open. Let us be a kitty and become playfully curious about our divinely designed life in a Grand Universe of learning. I invite your curiosity with the three basic questions and bonus topics that could easily be related.

Question 1. IDENTITY, WHO AM I?

1. Who am I? You might have asked this question in different ways many times.

Our identity is more than our name, address, phone number, social security number, driver license number, bank account number, investment assets numbers, passwords, library card number, and family genealogy. Divine authorities probably know all the genetic admixed codes that came together since all the history of humanity that now determines our DNA uniqueness! Our divine friends know our identity. We are the result of our father's sperm and our mother's ovum. Our divine friends probably have a unique name for the each person for their precise combination of all these factors and that became exactly who we are. We are part of a life plan of this planet sphere. We hail from a planet that probably has a specific spiritual address in a very large Cosmos. It is part of our ID! It also includes all the past residences, medical and dental records, account numbers at places where we do business, car license plate, professional and hobby licenses and numbers, special achievements and honor awards, and university degrees with all its documented accomplishments in higher education. It includes sporting achievements and records held. One's identity can include inventions and creative works, especially those that are given our name. It may

even include terrible acts that effected large numbers of people. Maybe a tattoo is part of you.

What is your cell telephone number? Does God know your very specific, explicit universe identity? Every telephone number is absolutely specific and unique and cannot be duplicated. The spiritually unique identity numbers become very large, too large for human comprehension when you consider all the people who lived and will yet live!

Our identity is precise and is known by a loving Universal Father parent God. His explicit, specific, and unique planned indwelling fragment further affirms our identity in a vast Cosmos of beings. As human mortals our identity is a person of *potential* eternal life until we are judged worthy of permanent status and then we are a person of certified eternity assurance, a unique one not duplicated in the Universe

Curiosity is the engine that drives a person into action to investigate what is true or what is observable.

2. What is your understanding of your identity?

3. Do you know all the possible ways you can be uniquely identified?

4. Identity implies recognition by other beings. What method or ways do we recognize others?

5. How do we, even persons who are deaf and blind, positively and confidently identify others?

6. How will we recognize others we formerly knew, with whom we enjoyed association, when we arrive in "heaven"? (Do you expect us to retain our human bodies including our facial features?)

7. People did not immediately recognize the resurrected Jesus without his human body, but they recognized him after he spoke. What did they see or hear that they once associated with their beloved former human Jesus in the flesh?

8. What would you like to know about identity?

9. When did you first know who you are?

10. Have you found yourself yet?

11. What will be your identity after you pass on from this earth?

12. What do you desire from your family and friends regarding your identity after you are gone?

13. What is the one thing that allows persons to recognize one another after leaving this earth? Think about this. It is personality, but we mortals do not know all the details of how personality is bestowed and developed. What is your understanding of personality?

Do you have more questions about your identity?

Question 2, WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

1. Have you ever deeply pondered why you are here on earth?

2. Why is there life and why do we call it a gift? What are the details of God's plan?

For many, life is a bummer, big time! So why does God allow many awful things to happen here? What can I do to help life become better for others and myself? Even if you feel loved, what should you do in response to love?

3. What must mankind do to achieve a world of “milk and honey”? Whose definition is this anyway?

4. What is the benefit of pain, suffering, destructive weather phenomena, and big and seemingly insurmountable problems to solve? Why can't God just wave his “magic wand” and just make everything instantly perfect? What if we gain a better character of personality if we must work to solve issues and conflicts? Is it blessed to find a peaceful solution and “just let it go” when we cannot offer a resolution for trouble?

5. Why does life have to “bug” me to get my attention?

6. Does the following make sense to you? One of the life purposes is to gain perfection education and to prepare us for continuing life. What we do not attain here we will attain and achieve in the afterlife. Life is given for purpose, to offer an opportunity to achieve a divine-like

Our role is to inspire curiosity in each other for the Father's way and Jesus' great model of relating to one another. We are to be spiritually attractive...

character that is to be used for service opportunities throughout eternity. In other words, the purpose of life is to *transform* us from mostly or purely human animal-like character to divine achievement and perfection. We

can't be as perfect as the Father is on His sphere, but we can be as perfect as is possible for human achievement while we are yet human mortals. What do you think--is this possible? Jesus achieved a high divine ideal of human living. So, why can't we if we try?

7. What is your understanding of life purpose?

Question 3. WHERE AM I GOING?

1. Have you ever asked, “What happens to me after I die,” but found your answer a bit empty?

The many religions have attempted to address this very personal concern about the afterlife. Hinduism provides for reincarnation. Christians offer very few details and simply pronounce we will be with Jesus. Are there golden streets in heaven?

2. Where is heaven?

3. What do I have to do to go there? Why do I have to go to heaven?

4. What is your personal definition of your destiny (call it heaven if you prefer)? Note that these questions do not ask you to respond according to how you think others might expect of you.

Human beings long ago discovered that we die and we cannot overcome this dilemma. Where am I going is probably one that God wants us to ponder deeply. It involves more than a location or address; it includes the

concepts we adopt, the results of philosophic assessment of life purposes and values.

5. Where are you going with your religion and personal development?

Jesus came to reveal a great personality; his and our Father and therefore he upgraded human concepts of a supreme being. The Father has lovingly issued his divine invitation/command, “Be you perfect even as I am perfect.” His reason is because He supremely *values* each of us. It is the perfecting process that is provided by God that is important for us to accept as we are perfected more and more on earth, moving ever closer to God. God is our ultimate destination. We ask where we are going because we discovered over time that we do not stay where we are. The mysteries of our Destination will be revealed in our progressive movement in eternity toward the Father. Will curiosity reveal something similar to this for you?

6. What is your understanding of where you are going?

7. If you could rate it on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the greatest, to what degree are you confident about where you are going?

8. Who is your pilot? Does this pilot come well trained and capable of gaining your absolute trust?

9. Are you willing to be led into all eternity?

Question 4. WHAT IS MY ROLE IN LIFE?

1. And considering the above, what can you do to make life better for fellow Urantians? What possible role could you have in a big world of too many people? Can you imagine a role for you in helping the Plan come to fruition? We each have our gifts, and it is said that few achieve their potential.

Discovering the model Jesus set for us, we see that he valued every person he met. He loved his enemies although they apparently did not, in their earth life, realize the great divine value of his model. They were blinded, but we can open our mind's eye and see. Looking closely at his teachings we see that we are to value one another and help each other “qualify” for heaven and ultimately for meeting the Father on Paradise. Jesus did not set qualifying rules as do men with human nature with religious rules. He only asked us to believe, have faith, and love one another. His technique was to *attract* people to the Father. Our role is to inspire curiosity in each other for the Father's way and Jesus' great model of relating to one another. We are to be spiritually attractive with divine light shining forth in our lives. Such a life is devoid of boredom and is full of anticipatory expectation!

2. What is your understanding of your role here on earth? Divine ideals of human roles are not linked to race to qualify for salvation. Do you agree?

3. Are we expected to evangelize by coercion or intellectual force using cleverness and dramatic attention-gaining methods?

4. Why did a divine Son come to this earth? What does this do to you? Jesus pre-existed his human life and planned a spiritual mission of truth revelation about his and our Universal Father. Doing so, he envisioned people's roles to include service to one another, *ever teaching the best we know* and encouraging personal relations with the Father. For what other eternally valuable reason would Divinity expend so much energy and effort to teach human mortals about the Father? Our role is to accept the divine way and pass it down to succeeding generations to come.

5. Why must we grind away at life with so many problems? Is there value in solving problems and settling conflicts? Our role is to help each other find hope by teaching the best we know as we work together to solve small or even world-size problems. Our role is to help each other build character as we work together to solve problems. We learn what we can and we then teach others the best of what we acquire.

6. Does your concept include the idea or desire to leave this world a bit better than when you were born into it? Our role is to accept each other as we are spiritually and allow willing minds to relate at the highest concept levels we have attained. Our role is to listen for the will of each to seek for the better of choices. And to be there when the other's mind reaches for answers.

7. What is valuable regarding this statement: "Our role is to help each other make it to Paradise."

8. Can you find instruction in Jesus' teachings regarding your role on Earth?

SPONTANEITY, THE SOUL'S DELIGHT

1. What is your reaction to this statement: A new thought on a topic or subject for which you have no experience is a "heavenly hunch."

2. Have you ever been curious about so called heavenly hunches? What is an inspiration?

3. Always do everything with the same style and procedure to maintain stability and predictability for all of life's activities. Is there value or oppression in this statement?

4. How would you define spontaneity? A good definition is the manifestation of mind consideration and the Spirit's urging for a decision to will action. It is the process of suddenly acting on divine values learned and accepted upon meditative reflection. Yet, it is not unbridled impulsivity. Spontaneity is the manifestation of a part of Providence in service throughout the Universe of Universes, the portion found active in the mind of man.

5. What is the divine definition of purpose for life? What purpose do your best actions serve in the Plan of life? Reflect and act; throw away the mundane of all your habits and put on the power engine of curiosity.

Spontaneously throw off the fetters of fear and join a Universe of action. In his characteristic loving way, Jesus asked us to be brave and courageous. Don't be like the person with one talent and do nothing. Be spontaneous upon considering what could be the will of God.

6. Is there fun or delight in spontaneously doing something well, perhaps better than you may have imagined? Delight in knowing you do well for the Father. Delight your soul in loving your fellows and offering light for their souls. Delight your soul in throwing off couch potato idleness. Delight your soul in spontaneous expression of delight in finding goodness, God. Delight in your soul upon discovering your personal spiritual progress. There is no better model for you than growth found in the life of Michael on Urantia as he lived as Jesus of Nazareth. Your development is your unique experience in discovering more of God.

"Fear not!" Find the right balance of bravery, courage, desire, curiosity, fellowship, worship, psychological control and discover self-mastery of the highest attainable for human living. Accept the urge within to share and love.

7. What is your soul? Delight in knowing your soul carries your ID into eternal life. Spontaneously express your worship of the Father and your thanks for the energies of life. Be conscious of God every day. Wisely choose to have a dynamic and living relationship with the Father. Delight in discovering the Father in the Great Son we know who lived among us.

Delight and know we are his children. As Jesus told us, "Fear not!" Find the right balance of bravery, courage, desire, curiosity, fellowship, worship, psychological control and discover self-mastery of the highest attainable for human living. Accept the urge within to share and love.

Summary

Each and every mortal is loved and valued by God and each loyal Son of God, human or celestial, is dedicated to doing His will to execute a Great Plan for ascending us to Paradise. Be curious about that Plan and your role for its execution. There is honorable and dignified purpose for life and you get to participate now for its future completion. Just think of all the Urantia mortals who would benefit if all of us would become more curious about why we are here and what we could be doing! Let us all increase our curiosity to become more brave and courageous. My prayer is, "Father help us mortals recognize goodness and increase our desire to accept goodness. Give us power to go about doing good".

What "grabs" you now? □

¹ Concordex of *The Urantia Book*; Clyde Bedell, third edition 1986

The Lanonandek Dilemma

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THE LANONANDEKS OF NEBADON are part of Michael's innovative solution to a common local universe problem: How best to manage those first crucial steps his ascendant mortal children must take as they launch towards their finaliter destiny?

Michael's elder Melchizedek and Vorondadek sons form an ideal team for maintaining the integrity of Nebadon, but not so much for interacting with his ascending mortals. For this role he created his Lanonandek sons, whose nature allows them to **better understand, and draw near to** his ascending children. The result was a brilliance at managing mortal and morontia affairs, but there was a cost. As a "lower" order

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of sonship, their choices and plans are not constrained by that higher perspective which makes clear the true purposes of Nebadon. Michael can explain to them their context

and responsibilities, their seniors can confirm these truths, but a young Lanonandek, like the mortals for whom he cares, finds himself in a position that requires the exercise of faith.

In such a far-flung universe of universes there is always great danger of succumbing to the error of the circumscribed viewpoint, to the evil inherent in a segmentalized conception of reality and divinity.

[215:1, a Divine Counselor]

The Universal Father has a plan for the evolutionary finite realms, and the Michaels are making it work. So any study of our Michael's Lanonandek Sons should consider the reason Michael made them:

Though the Eternal Son cannot personally participate in the bestowal of the Thought Adjusters, he did sit in council with the Universal Father in the eternal past, approving the plan and pledging endless co-operation, when the Father, in projecting the bestowal of the Thought Adjusters, proposed to the Son, "Let us make mortal man in our own image." And as the spirit fragment of the Father dwells within you, so does the spirit presence of the Son envelop you, while these two forever work as one for your spiritual advancement. [78:3]

Regarding the endowment of man with the divine Adjusters, the Father said: "Let us make mortal man in our own image." [110:7]



"Lanonandek" collage

From the Father's absolute frame, He may simply see the first circuit of reality—personality—blossom into a family of sons. However, on sub-absolute levels, this request of the Father eventuated a master universe, created the finite realms, and triggered the processes of evolution. Making a family of "associable absolutes" [1226:13] out of mortals is a job of work!

Against this backdrop of the Father's purpose, his Michael Sons appear as "templates of Sonship," personal ideals, perfect to help catalyse and realize the ascendant sons envisaged by the Father. On page 359, we read of Michael setting up Nebadon: the universe plan, Gabriel and the necessary administration. Then in paragraph 5, the main game is revealed:

And then, when such a universe has been so completely organized and so repletely manned, does the Creator Son enter into the Father's proposal to create mortal man in their divine image. [359:5]

At last the creation of the Lanonandeks makes sense: they are the final down-grasp of the Son/Spirit, the last link in the chain of divinity reaching down to those ascending, a necessary interface for fostering the ascent of the Father's finite children.

1. Lanonandek freedom.

Much of humanity's problem on this once ideal blue-green world can be traced to a series of poor choices by a few local universe Lanonandek Sons. In this brief study, we explore how it is possible for these divine Lanonandeks, "descending sons of god," to make such fundamentally wrong choices; and what benefits may arise from allowing them the freedom to do so.

The chief executive of a local system of inhabited worlds is a primary Lanonandek Son, the System Sovereign. In our local universe these sovereigns are intrusted with large executive responsibilities, unusual personal prerogatives. Not all universes, even in Orvonton, are so organized as to permit the System Sovereigns to exercise such unusually wide powers of personal discretion in the direction of system affairs.

[511:1, a Melchizedek, emphasis added]

As a “sevenfold Master Son” (hence a local expression of the Trinity Ultimate, p.1318), Michael knew his reserves of mercy and ministry would eventually become sufficient to help any member of his family recover from whatever excursions their free will may select. So when he chose to remove certain constraints usually imposed upon local universe children, it was not so much a risk, as a statement that he would meet all challenges arising from the free-will choosing of his sons. Some interesting repercussions of this freedom are to be found at the interface between the work of his Lanonandeks and the achievements of his mortals. These repercussions make Nebadon’s contribution to the Supreme unusual, and thus of special interest to those observing from Paradise.

*On Uversa it is the consensus that we have had so much administrative trouble in Nebadon because our Sons of the Lanonandek order have been created with such a large degree of **personal liberty in choosing and planning**. I do not make this observation by way of criticism. The Creator of our universe has full authority and power to do this. **It is the contention of our high rulers that, while such free-choosing Sons make excessive trouble in the earlier ages of the universe, when things are fully sifted and finally settled, the gains of higher loyalty and fuller volitional service on the part of these thoroughly tested Sons will far more than compensate for the confusion and tribulations of earlier times.***

[393:8, Chief of Archangels, emphasis added]

Nebadon’s Lanonandeks find themselves in a testing situation. They are entrusted with the new-born finite children of the Paradise Father, yet they are divorced from the perspective necessary to truly understand why the Father requested such children in the first place.

*They could have been made divinely perfect, but they were so created that they might **better understand, and draw near to**, the evolutionary creatures dwelling on the worlds of time and space.*

[393:7, Chief of Archangels, emphasis added]

What attributes allow a Lanonandek to “**better understand, and draw near to**” us evolutionary creatures? What characteristics might differentiate a primary Lanonandek from one of those utterly dependable Vorondadek Most Highs? How is it that no Vorondadek Son has ever wavered in loyalty to Michael, while some of his brightest Lanonandeks find themselves teetering on the brink of rebellious self assertion?

Being a later and lower—as concerns divinity levels—order of sonship creation, [Lanonandeks] were required to pass through certain courses of training on the Melchizedek worlds in preparation for subsequent service. They were the first students in the Melchizedek University and were classified and certified by their Melchizedek teachers and examiners according to ability, personality, and attainment.

[392:2, Chief of Archangels]

Whatever “tuning” was required in the creation of Lanonandeks, it resulted in a range of outcomes. That

some Lanonandeks were found to possess the capacity to manage a system of a thousand worlds, while some were deemed fit only for record-keeping, implies a deeply different mode of creation than that enjoyed by their Melchizedek and Vorondadek brothers. But recall that these Lanonandeks are the **final** link in the descent of the [Son/Spirit] as they outwork the plan of the Universal Father, to “**make man in our image**.” They form a *fractal interface* against the set of needs for perfecting the ascendant population of a local universe. A degree of organizational *artistry* rather than mechanical administrative *perfection* may have been essential.

It is not possible, as it is with evolutionary beings, for these Sons to progress from one group to another. When subjected to the Melchizedek training, when once tested and classified, they serve continuously in the rank assigned. Neither do these Sons engage in reproduction; their number in the universe is stationary.

[392:7, Chief of Archangels]

Given that these Sons are bound to their local universe, at least for the duration of the Grand Universe age, their continued contentment and reliability would require a belief in, and support of, their father Michael’s mission.

*Since Lanonandeks are a somewhat lower order of sonship than the Melchizedeks and the Vorondadeks, they are of even greater service in the subordinate units of the universe, for they are **capable of drawing nearer** the lower creatures of the intelligent races. They also stand in greater danger of going astray, of departing from the acceptable technique of universe government. But these Lanonandeks, especially the primary order, are the most able and versatile of all local universe administrators. In executive ability they are excelled only by Gabriel and his unrevealed associates.*

[392:15, Chief of Archangels, emphasis added]

The local systems are neither blessed with nor constrained by the Paradise perspective: all higher and larger universe administrative groupings enjoy the presence of at least one Trinity observer, one of the “Stationary Sons of the Trinity” (p.114). But at the cutting edge of the experiential realm, the Lanonandeks meet the Father’s ascending family constrained only by their inherent capacities and their loyalty to their creator parent (of Paradise origin) Michael.

The System Sovereigns are true to their names; they are well-nigh sovereign in the local affairs of the inhabited worlds. They are almost paternal in their direction of the Planetary Princes, the Material Sons, and the ministering spirits. The personal grasp of the sovereign is all but complete. These rulers are not supervised by Trinity observers from the central universe. They are the executive division of the local universe, and as custodians of the enforcement of legislative mandates and as

How is it that no Vorondadek Son has ever wavered in loyalty to Michael, while some of his brightest Lanonandeks find themselves teetering on the brink of rebellious self assertion?

executives for the application of judicial verdicts, they present the one place in all universe administration where personal disloyalty to the will of the Michael Son could most easily and readily intrench itself and seek to assert itself.

[393:5, Chief of Archangels, emphasis added]

Since all the Lanonandeks are thoroughly trained and assessed by the Melchizedeks, we can be sure that before any responsibility is handed out, the **capacity** of each of these sons is sufficient for the task assigned.

Not only ascendant mortals are prone to succumb to a “circumscribed viewpoint.” To varying degree, all personalities originating in space and time, including the Lanonandeks of Nebadon, face a similar problem.

So it must be in the matter of **loyalty** that chinks and cracks appear. *The Urantia Book* gives three examples of Lanonandeks choosing awry. First, Caligastia: While he was perfectly able to fulfil his duties, it was a matter of

choice to undo 300,000 years of wise and patient work with our ancestors, causing the complete collapse of a tried and proven scheme for planetary mortal evolution. How could he come to **choose** such a path?

It was one of the most profoundly shocking episodes of this rebellion for me to learn of the callous perfidy of one of my own order of sonship, Caligastia, who, in deliberation and with malice aforethought, systematically perverted the instruction and poisoned the teaching provided in all the Urantia planetary schools in operation at that time. The wreck of these schools was speedy and complete.

[576:2, a Secondary Lanonandek]

A second example involved Michael’s second bestowal, as the Lanonandek System Sovereign of System 11 in Constellation 37. Lutentia, the previous sovereign, **chose** to rebel against Michael, and then to *continue in rejection of the Paradise rule* [1311:5]. What schemes or delusions arose in Lutentia’s mind?

And third, Lucifer. How could the wonderful and brilliant Lucifer **choose** to claim that *the Universal Father did not really exist* [603:3]? Furthermore, once he removed the author of reality from his narrow finite view, Lucifer quite logically had to *[protest] against the agelong program for preparing the mortals of space for some unknown destiny, this preparation for some destiny of pure fiction* [604:1] If there is no Universal Father, then (quite logically) this mythical “father” could never have issued a proposal to **“make mortal man in our image”**:

1. *The Plan of Progressive Attainment. This is the Universal Father’s plan of evolutionary ascension, a program unreservedly accepted by the Eternal Son when he concurred in the Father’s proposal, “Let us make mortal creatures in our own image.” This provision for upstepping the creatures of time involves the Father’s bestowal of the Thought Adjusters and the endowing of material creatures with the prerogatives of personality.* [85:5]

Lucifer lost sight of the purpose of this brief age of transition, this embryonic age that sets the stage for

ultimate unfoldings. With no grand vision to drive him forward in collaboration with Michael, what alternatives might have arisen in this precocious but confused local universe mind? Once he no longer believed in the Universal Father, what strange ideas might have arisen in the mind of Lucifer about the fabled “Adjusters,” that perfect priceless core said to light so many of the ascending mortals launched from Satania? If these “mystery monitors” were just another part of some universe-wide scam, what then to make of the **finaliters**?

With derision he pointed out that the finaliters had encountered a destiny no more glorious than to be returned to humble spheres similar to those of their origin. He intimated that they had been debauched by overmuch discipline and prolonged training, and that they were in reality traitors to their mortal fellows since they were now co-operating with the scheme of enslaving all creation to the fictions of a mythical eternal destiny for ascending mortals.

[604:1, Manovandek Melchizedek]

Lucifer strode more and more deeply into his increasingly polished delusion. And with no **personal experience** of the vast reality beyond his local stamping ground, the ideas and ideals that once must have motivated his work became, to his mind, increasingly cruel fictions.

*Beyond the Supreme, concepts are increasingly names; less and less are they true designations of reality; more and more do they become **the creature’s projection** of finite understanding toward the superfinite.*

[1262:1, a Mighty Messenger]

When the Mighty Messenger who wrote the above paragraph used the term “creature,” he may have had in mind not only ascendant mortals. It would appear that Lanonandeks too are prone to project their partial glimpse of finite reality onto the inscrutable canvas of eternity.

2. Synchronising local with transcendent frames

In such a far-flung universe of universes there is always great danger of succumbing to the error of the circumscribed viewpoint, to the evil inherent in a segmentalized conception of reality and divinity.

[215:1, a Divine Counselor]

Not only ascendant mortals are prone to succumb to a “circumscribed viewpoint.” To varying degree, all personalities originating in space and time, including the Lanonandeks of Nebadon, face a similar problem. The Mighty Messenger who wrote paper 115, “The Supreme Being,” alerts us to the necessity for, and the difficulties arising from, the **“partial, incomplete, and evolving”** frames of reference employed by all sub-absolute personalities at work in the grand and local universes:

Partial, incomplete, and evolving intellects would be helpless in the master universe, would be unable to form the first rational thought pattern, were it not for the innate

ability of all mind, high or low, to form a universe frame in which to think. 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. And while such universe frames for creature thought are indispensable to rational intellectual operations, they are, without exception, erroneous to a greater or lesser degree.

[1260:2, a Mighty Messenger]

If the Lanonandek “frame for thought” focuses their efforts on the perfection of their system, rather than the requirements of Michael’s mission, or the desires of the Paradise Trinity, then the opportunity to choose a less-than-perfect path must arise.

Volition on any level short of the absolute encounters limitations which are constitutive in the very personality exercising the power of choice.

[1300:1, a Mighty Messenger]

What urges and motivations are “**constitutive in the very personality of**” Lanonandeks?

*Volition, the act of choosing, must function within the universe frame **which has actualized in response to higher and prior choosing.***

[1300:3, a Mighty Messenger]

For a Lanonandek, what might be the accumulating result of a career of such “higher prior choice”? To what degree can these specialist local administrators lift themselves beyond their local specializations into the higher and larger universe frame of their creator/father Michael? While the Michaels guarantee the success of the evolutionary adventure, it is the union of all local universe Lanonandeks that forms the cutting edge of God the Sevenfold at work in the finite creation.

Trinity Teacher Sons—the Daynals

The business of creature ascent, of lifting the Father’s mortal children from their finite birthplace to an absolute paradise frame, is so complex and ambitious a task that three orders of Paradise Sons have been entrusted with the responsibility to make it work: the Michaels, the Avonals, and the Daynals.

The Daynal order of sonship is not an organic part of the local or superuniverse administrations. Its members are neither creators nor retrievers, neither judges nor rulers. They are not so much concerned with universe administration as with moral enlightenment and spiritual development. They are the universal educators, being dedicated to the spiritual awakening and moral guidance of all realms. Their ministry is intimately inter-related with that of the personalities of the Infinite Spirit and is closely associated with the Paradise ascension of creature beings. [230:5]

Our Michael and his fellow Paradise Creator Sons are part of the paradise technique to synchronize mortal ascension with the inevitabilities and patterns of eternity. These Michaels come from an absolute Paradise context,

and form a living bridge from that absolute realm into the membranes of finite creation. But their families of local universe children are all born on the shallow side of this [absonite?] gulf. The need to bridge this deep divide, to synchronize the finite with the transcendent, is a cost of the evolutionary exercise. The Daynals are another part of the Paradise technique to bridge this deep divide.

In a local universe of freewill finite persons, with mind systems ranging from the biochemical-adjutant rent-a-mind of material mortals to the near paradisaical mind of Gabriel, the Daynals find much opportunity to help align finite motivations with eternal realities:

The Paradise Spiritual Sons [Daynals] are unique Trinity-origin beings and the only Trinity creatures to be so completely associated with the conduct of the dual-origin universes. [231:1]

... but they are not wholly occupied with the spiritual and intellectual advancement of mortal creatures; they are equally concerned with the instruction of seraphic beings and other natives of the local creations. [231:2]

While the ascenders for whom Lanonandeks care are rapidly bumped beyond their initial finite frame, the Lanonandeks themselves apparently are bound into their local frame for the duration of the Grand Universe age. **It may thus be among the brilliant but time-bound Lanonandeks that the Daynals find their most effective, and crucial, opportunity to serve.**

...Lanonandeks apparently are bound into their local frame for the duration of the Grand Universe age.

In all universes all the Sons of God are beholden to these ever-faithful and universally efficient Trinity Teacher Sons. They are the exalted teachers of all spirit personalities, even the tried and true teachers of the Sons of God themselves. [231:4]

While the Melchizedeks and Vorondadeks are born into a high estate, Michael’s Lanonandeks may be destined to lift themselves beyond their initial limitations. By means of a career of right and free-will choosing, by aligning themselves with the purposes of Michael and amplifying his [evolutionary effect], such final freewill synchronization of all Nebadon’s Lanonandeks with Michael’s local “frame for thought” may be the final piece in the evolutionary puzzle, the necessary precursor to the settling of Nebadon in light and life.

3. Faith, choice and eternity

Lanonandeks possess a supreme brilliance of mind, but are constrained by the bounds of finite knowledge and their own narrow, personal experience. On the other hand, we mortals begin with little more than a freedom to choose, a capacity for faith, and a private window that opens beyond the finite:

*The Thought Adjuster is the **cosmic window** through which the finite creature may faith-glimpse the certainties and divinities of limitless Deity, the Universal Father.*

[1129:1, a Melchizedek of Nebadon]

Do Lanonandeks have such a “cosmic window”? Can they access some equivalent of our faith-glimpse of divine purpose? If not, how do they assess their own purpose and destiny?

In such a far-flung universe of universes there is always great danger of succumbing to the error of the circumscribed viewpoint, to the evil inherent in a segmentalized conception of reality and divinity.

[215:1, a Divine Counselor]

Faith may be “the supreme assertion” (p.51) not only of *human* thought. Faith appears to be part of the Supreme’s technique for orienting finite mind in the vastness of absolute eternity. (Hence the unusual value of agondonters?)

If Lucifer declined to use the technique of faith to accommodate mysteries beyond his grasp, he must at some point have hit a wall beyond which his logic and brilliance could not reach.

The vast gulf between the experience of the truth of God and ignorance as to the fact of God can be bridged only by living faith. Reason alone cannot achieve harmony between infinite truth and universal fact.

[1125:1]

If Lucifer declined to use the technique of faith to accommodate mysteries beyond his grasp, he must at some point have hit a wall beyond which his logic and brilliance could not reach. Pride makes it difficult to recover gracefully from such a failure. For Lucifer, the easier next step was to **believe** in his smaller polished delusion rather than accept his (self-perceived) inadequacies.

Belief is always limiting and binding; faith is expanding and releasing. Belief fixates, faith liberates. [1114:6]

Given that all non-absolute creatures (including Lanonandeks) find themselves in that “troublesome predicament” where they ever know less than they can believe, faith may be an essential ingredient in the making of all children of the Supreme.

Belief has attained the level of faith when it motivates life and shapes the mode of living. The acceptance of a teaching as true is not faith; that is mere belief. Neither is certainty nor conviction faith. A state of mind attains to faith levels only when it actually dominates the mode of living.

[1114:5, a Melchizedek of Nebadon]

Lucifer and his fellow Lanonandeks are equipped with broad and intimate understanding of those things entrusted to their care. But when they consider the motivations and eternal purposes of the infinite absolute I AM, it seems that they—not unlike morals—must exercise faith:

*Faith most willingly carries reason along as far as reason can go and then goes on with wisdom to the full philosophic limit; and then it dares to launch out upon the limitless and never-ending universe journey in the sole company of **TRUTH**.*

[1141:5, a Melchizedek of Nebadon] □

Adapted from a workshop at the 2006 UAI Conference in Sydney, Australia, *The Rewards of Isolation*.

Appreciating our afflictions

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Canada

WHEN I WAS ASKED TO PREPARE a speech for this conference, I had a choice of many subjects to choose from. In respecting a life decision of mine, I had to prepare a speech that would depict something that really happened in my life and would be representative of the topic of this conference. This is why I choose this subject and the way to present it; in this way I will do my utmost to share the teachings of *The Urantia Book* in a living way.

It is not always easy to share with one or many persons some afflictions that have made life miserable and at the same time were instrumental to promote spiritual growth within oneself. Most of the times, what brought those afflictions in our life is part of our own doing; so I ask of you to be tolerant of my human nature in sharing with you this affliction that shaped and changed my life. There is still much emotion attached to this part of my life as it is still unfolding; the decisions that I took are still affecting and shaping my daily life.

Many things I have read in *The Urantia Book* have helped me make better decisions, but those hard-to-make decisions are taken alone with God in the privacy of our mind. Only He alone knows exactly the depth of our sincerity when our soul cries out to Him for help; only He knows exactly the nature and source of our afflictions and the decisions that would make those afflictions become a blessing. It is in our mind that those prayed-for solutions will find their way through the ministry of the Indwelling Spirit and the help of the Spirit of Truth.

Being an individual that likes to be his own boss, I took the opportunity early in life to start my own business. To be the owner of a business gives us the opportunity to make countless decisions and enjoy the responsibilities that come with them. This in turn can be a source of many conflicts and tremendous stress whether they are business, social or moral in nature. I had to live through many of those, so in times of uncertainties, I found help for better solutions to those life problems in prayers and the knowledge I had of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

The knowledge of those teachings did not make things any easier; to know something intellectually and

"Afflictions" painting



to live it are two very different things, easier said than done most of us would say. I was soon to find out how true that could be. Being a very sensitive person and a perfectionist, coupled with a born tendency to worry too much, I was very often putting a lot of pressure on myself to become a better human being. It was through a series of conflicts and stressful situations in my personal and business life that I have acquired through the years an affliction that could have destroyed me at a time when I least expected it.

There are many types of afflictions and some might be easier to accept than others; there are the physical ones, the mental ones and the spiritual ones. No matter what type of afflictions we experience, they all hurt, some more than others. When they happen to any of us, they can produce a lot of pain, sorrow, anguish, anger, hate, resentment, self-pity, depression and even physical death; but they can also be used as a lever to increase our faith, our humility, our strength and spiritual stamina. They can make us better than before, more tolerant and helpful to our brothers and sisters. They can break us or make us; it all depends on our faith and the attitude we have when we face those difficult situations in our lives.

There are, in every affliction, the seeds of many opportunities; the attitude that we have towards them and the way we nurture those seeds will demonstrate the nature of our inner self and the strength of our faith. In time of afflictions, there were always some passages from *The Urantia Book* that served as a beacon for the Spirit of Truth to guide me on the higher path. One of them is: *The greatest affliction of the cosmos is never to have been afflicted. Mortals only learn wisdom by experiencing tribulation* [556:14]. This phrase brought courage and comfort to my mind and helped me find the right attitude in the face of conflict.

But the passage of *The Urantia Book* that really uplifted my mind and increased my faith in times of affliction was this one: *"To a God-knowing kingdom believer, what does it matter if all things earthly crash?" Temporal securities are vulnerable, but spiritual sureties are impregnable. When the flood tides of human adversity, selfishness, cruelty, hate, malice, and jealousy beat about the*

mortal soul, you may rest in the assurance that there is one inner bastion, the citadel of the spirit, which is absolutely unassailable; at least this is true of every human being who has dedicated the keeping of his soul to the indwelling spirit of the eternal God [1096:4].

About ten years ago, I was about to make a decision that would bring a lot of stress and anguish in my inner life; as we say in my part of the world, I was going to meet my Waterloo. Through a business transaction involving a 10-year lease which I had to forfeit, the owner of the building that I was renting initiated a legal action against my company and me personally. He petitioned the court that I pay his company the sum of \$200,000. At that time I did not have that money and to make matters worse, my bank account was \$70,000 in the red. I still remember how I felt that day when the clerk from the court brought me the subpoena.

This situation with the court and the lawyers lasted eight years and cost me tens of thousand of dollars; but more than that, it brought in my life a mental affliction that nearly destroyed my mental stability. When the case was resolved to my advantage, I did not feel a release like I had anticipated, but on the contrary, I still felt deep inside of me the residues of that stressful situation. If I had lost that case, everything that I had worked for in twenty years of my life could have been lost. All the employees, nearly 30 of them, that were working for me would have lost their jobs. All the planning I had done to become independent in order to devote my life to the mission of *The Urantia Book* would have been jeopardized. All those possibilities and more kept me awake many nights as I turned to prayers and meditation to find peace of mind.

I learned many things during those long years, but the ordeal was not yet over, as I was about to find out. In September of the year 2002, the court case was resolved and during that same period, my wife and I organised a series of spiritual workshops to which many people had already made their reservation to attend. To make the

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situation more stressful, due to a strike of the airline, the person facilitating those workshops arrived three days late, so he was not there for the first day of the event. Those workshops lasted nearly three weeks and at the end of all of this, I was tired and depleted of physical energies. It is on a Thursday night, the last week of September, when everything was over, that a strange feeling started to rise in my mind. As I was sitting there on a couch participating in a discussion with a few friends, my material vision suddenly altered and became blurred; at the same time I felt a strange feeling coming over in my mind, similar to the effect that a shot of adrenaline would do. In that moment, I instantly recalled two previous occasions from many years ago when I had felt this strange sensation; this in itself scared me deeply because I thought I was losing my mind. I then started praying that this strange feeling would go away.

It took about 15 minutes for the strangeness to pass but it kept me worried for the rest of the night. Only one person noted that something was happening, but I reassured her that everything was fine. Two days later on Saturday, coming back from the airport where we had taken our friend for his trip back home, we stopped

I realized in the depth of my despair how fragile we are and how everything we have planned and lived for can be taken away so easily and suddenly.

at a restaurant to have a very late supper. Just as we were starting to eat, that strange feeling came over my mind again. At that time I did not know what it was, but I thought again that truly I was losing my mind and just thinking about it made it worse. So we left the restaurant and went home. This was one of the longest nights of my life, as I lay there in bed awake all night with that strangeness in my mind and the thought that I might be losing my sanity; I prayed till daylight shone through the window.

I got up, took a shower and started breakfast; just as I put the first spoon of cereal in my mouth, I was again struck by that strange feeling and lost all appetite. I got dressed and went for a walk; it is during that morning stroll on a deserted road in the country that I broke down in tears and cried out to God for help to understand what was happening to my mind. It is there that I realized in the depth of my despair how fragile we are and how everything we have planned and lived for can be taken away so easily and suddenly. It is there in my despair that I let go of everything and asked God to take over. Then one thought came to my mind—I had to call a friend who was a psychiatrist. So I walked home and gave a call to that friend and told her of my feelings. You might wonder what it is I mean by strangeness in my mind; it is very hard to explain because it does not have any related experience that we can compare it to. It is like a feeling of something going dark in our mind, a feeling of losing grip with reality and being afraid of losing control of our thoughts and actions, at the same time we might experience the same physical symptoms as having a heart attack.

After my conversation with this friend, she told me that I was probably having a severe case of panic attack related to the many stressful factors in my life. She recommended that I see a doctor so I could get the proper medication that would alleviate my affliction temporarily. So I prayed some more and went to the clinic; as I got there around two o'clock, I found out that I was the last patient of the day. In fact, someone tried to get an appointment 15 seconds after I got there and was refused. The doctor that I saw knew my psychiatrist friend personally and had been studying this kind of medical problem for the last fifteen years. So he understood my situation quite well and told me not to worry too much about it, prescribed the proper medication, and sent me home after making sure we would meet again in three weeks.

As I left, I felt much relieved and reflected on the probabilities that I got to be the last patient of the day, that this doctor knew my friend, and was also very knowledgeable about this kind of affliction. Today, I know that most doctors in my country know very little about this medical condition and would often treat it as a heart attack because of its physical symptoms. I knew then that God was watching over me and thanked him for it. I was going to find a lot more about His caring before all this was over. I got home, took my medication and felt better but not cured; I was still having panic attacks but not as severe, so I decided to do some research to find ways to naturally cure myself. Because my situation had many possible causes, one of which was the stress that I had accumulated in the previous years of my life, I felt a strong urge to register for a meditation course.

So I sent my application by email and waited for an answer; one week passed and I got a call from a lady making the registration for the meditation course. She told me that one person had cancelled her registration for the next course and asked if I would be free to take her place. There is usually a long waiting list to participate in one of those courses, and again I was the last candidate. At the end of November I started a ten day course in Vipassana meditation; everyday we got up at four in the morning and meditated for ten hours, and for ten days we were not allowed to talk to anyone except to the teacher when required, and all the meals were vegetarian.

At noon the first day, I felt so bad and disoriented. It was like my mind would explode from too much pressure, so I decided to quit and go home. I went to see the teacher and told him how I felt and that I had made a mistake in taking that course, but in answer to my statement he started to smile at me and said, "It works and it is normal that you should feel like that; your mind is getting cleaned by the meditation. Do not worry," he told me, "you might even feel worse as the week progresses; do not be alarmed. Come and see me again if you need to. I will help you." I left him feeling better and resolute to go through the whole course. As the next three days went by, I felt a lot worse and everyday I went to talk to the teacher about my feelings.

On the third day, at the worst of my condition, the teacher told me during my noon visit with him that twenty years earlier he had come to a meditation center with the same affliction that I had. He told me he understood very well my condition and explained that as the days would go by, the meditation technique would help clean my mind of many harmful stresses that were lodged in my body. I would probably feel a lot more pain by the time the whole process would be over but I would be a lot better for it. True enough, I felt a lot more pain, physical and mental, but at the end of the ten days, I was feeling a lot different than when I went in.

Again I prayed and reflected on a few facts: What would be the probabilities for me to have a place at that meditation course with a teacher that had acquired the same affliction as I did through nearly the same situation that I had experienced? He had also been the owner of a business and had had many problems with his landlord till he went bankrupt. We were of the same age with a strong desire to help the world become a better place. I know now that God had answered my prayers in putting the right people on the road that I was traveling. I learned many useful things about the mind during that meditation course, but most importantly I learned how powerful love and prayers can be as effective tools to help us grow and get healthier.

During that same period of time, I had received a call from Cathy Jones and the way the discussion was going, I knew she wanted to ask me something important, but before she did so, I told her that my present condition did not permit me to engage in any long term responsibilities. So she did not ask anything. A few months later, I got a call from Tonia Baney; at that time I was in a very different state of mind and after a few days of prayers and meditation, I accepted to serve as president of UAI. It took a while before I felt really well; I still had some panic attacks from time-to-time, but they had shrunk in intensity and finally disappeared altogether. Today, I am free from medication and still practice meditation. I have changed many things in my life and I look upon that period as a blessing; it taught me a lot about myself and my mind.

From the doctor's early recommendations, I joined a group of people that share similar afflictions. We meet once a week, and very early I became a group facilitator and found new ways to help and bring relief to peoples afflicted with mental health problems. I also made new friends, and with the help of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, I can sow spiritual seeds in the hearts of my suffering brothers and sisters. Like Jesus has asked his disciples, I minister to the sick. My life has acquired enhanced and expanded spiritual meanings, and when I travel, I always look for the needy that I can help.

Now remember at the beginning of this story I told you that this affliction could have destroyed me and that instead of doing so, it made me stronger and better. How was it, that it was so? First let me tell you that this kind of affliction, if not treated early, can lead to severe depression and suicide; it can provoke in the mind many

different phobias and the one that I was creating was the fear of losing my mind. Some might wonder how is it that someone that knows the teachings of *The Urantia Book* can acquire such an affliction and believe that it could destroy his life. I was asking myself the same questions, and I would like to share with you the answers that I found. I do not want to make a medical case with this story of mine; I simply want to use it as a backdrop on which to portray how the mind can choose many different paths and how through prayers, meditation and worship we can acquire the wisdom and guidance that will help us make the right decision at the right time.

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How all this happened and how it benefited me is quite a story in itself. I found that through many years of my life, I had entertained negative thoughts that had influenced my attitude towards life. I did not treat my body well; I worked crazy hours and drank too much coffee. I often believed in the wrong things. I worried too much for no reason and let my mind wander in incredible scenarios. I did not always let God rule my inner life; I wanted to control everything. I wanted perfection here and now; I was forgetting our imperfect nature and I manifested impatience. I sometimes postponed important decisions indefinitely, and I let my anxieties take control of my mind.

There is probably a lot more that I could say about those negative tendencies, but they surely set me on a course of suffering and despair to finally bring me face to face with myself so I could find the proper solutions to regain my health. With prayers, meditation and the help of friends, whom God has surely put on my path to help me, I became a lot more confident in the life ahead, and this benefited my relationship with my Thought Adjuster. I received many blessings from this affliction, and I would like to share some of them with you.

I found that belief and faith are very different things and I learned that the things in which we have deep faith will strongly influence every aspect of our life. I learned that prayers are listened to and answered if sincere, honest and done in humility; I learned to pray for my enemies. I learned that the power of mind is very real and nearly limitless and learned new ways to formulate and express my thoughts. I also learned to rely more on my friends and share my inner life with them.

I have truly found that afflictions can be a blessing and that they can be even more so, if we are conscious of this fact when we are in the middle of one. In this way we can seek counsel, wisdom and solace from our inner Spirit through prayers, meditation and worship. I remember the days when reading the life of Jesus and praying for the day when I truly could look at afflictions as a challenge and a blessing. I am happy to say that this day for me has come and passed. □



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