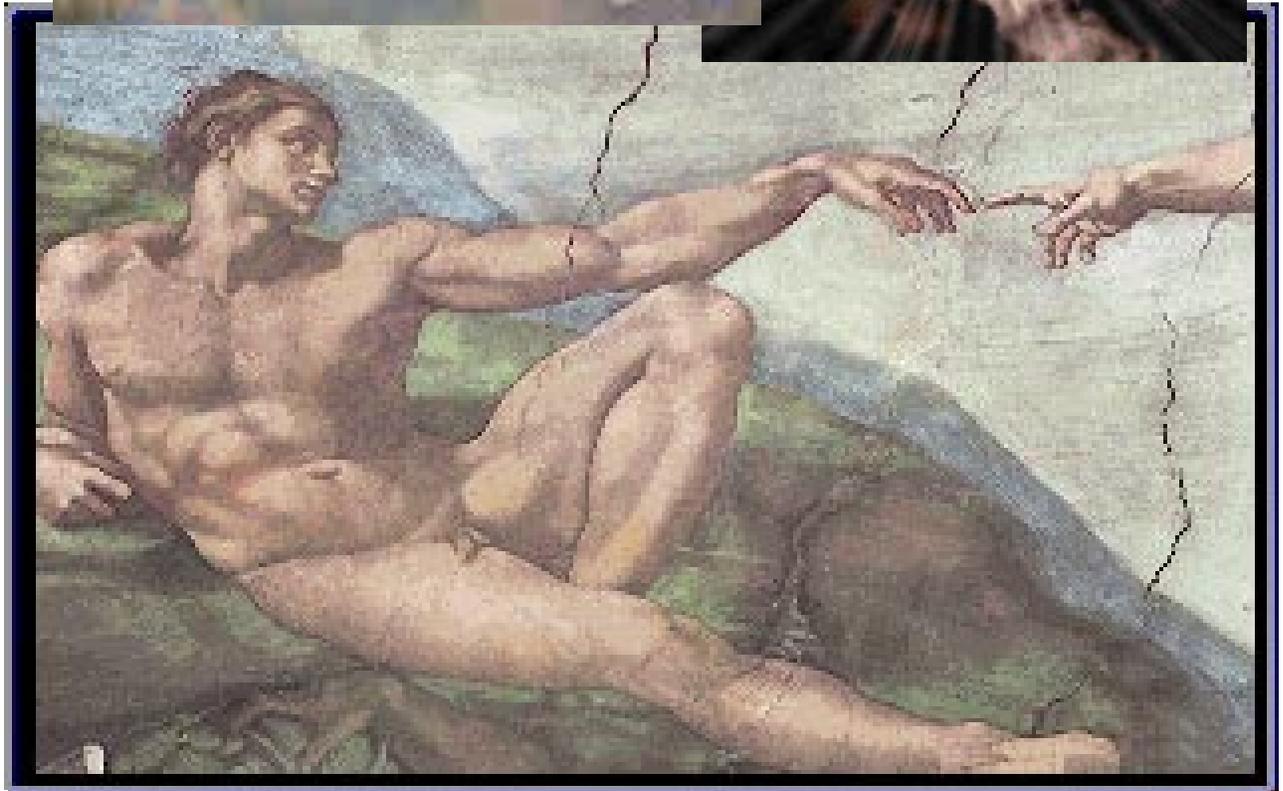


THE *Light and Life* JOURNAL

An Exploration of the Spiritual Universe

ISSUE 3 • SPRING 1998



THE *Light and Life* JOURNAL
ISSUE #3 --SPRING 1998

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We are an independent publication dedicated to the educational and entertaining exploration of planetary faiths, religions, and spiritual movements, especially in their relationships to each other, and to the current evolutionary changes on the Earth and in its societies. Opinions of writers are not necessarily those of the publisher. In fact, we encourage respectful but candid debate of cutting edge spiritual issues and welcome your submissions and letters of reply. The Journal officially believes in the Urantia Papers as a foundation of spiritual truth, but not the only source. Truth can be most readily found through a close personal relationship with God but can also be found in other inspired works, even in the next person you meet.

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A Message from Christ Michael:

THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIGHT

Transmitted in Cincinnati, November 1996 (tr: jc)

My children, I come to you from afar, but I yearn for you to share your consciousness with me for a few moments. Feel my love, feel my presence, and bring me forth.

My children, my friends, my colleagues, my brothers and sisters when I was with you in the flesh, there are so many things that we share. Know that your faith is always rewarded. Know that I know each of you intimately. I know your troubles, I know your deepest concerns. I know that you will triumph over them, for as my spirit is joined with yours in an immersion with a beautiful and powerful benevolence of our Universal Father, there is no doubt that great changes will be made upon this troubled world.

I came to you once before and on that evening I felt very close to you as we talked about your individual goals and aspirations. Each of you in this room has felt my presence many times and in many ways, sometimes not defined as such. Each of you has been inspired to press forward, to plow the earth with your gleaming, shining shafts of truth and beauty and goodness, all that you can muster and bring to your mortal children—hearts, and all of this love and all of the things that you do on behalf of my mission, know that I love you, know that I bless you for these acts of kindness, those times that you have represented me so well.

The essence of my ministry was mercy and compassion. My essence remains so and these needs are still very great on Urantia. My mercy and compassion was poured to all of you and I left this gift with you as your inner Spirit of Truth and conviction. My mercy and compassion even extended to the dark prince, that even after he was struck from the sky, leaving himself alone and in disgrace, and still my mercy and my compassion was ever constant, is ever constant ... is ever constant.

My children, the times before us will be of sweeping change. Many things will come to the public agenda that you will find nonsensical, wrought of madness, wrought of such faulty logic, such twisted thinking that you, my enlightened children, will find them amazingly ludicrous. Know that the twisted minds that come from these expanding energies are tempo-

rary things in this planet's evolutionary growth to light and life, for you will carry the lights that will overcome and overwhelm and bring this madness to an eventual end, for when more and more and more can see the madness and when egos can be released and new growth can come, new ways of thinking, where molehills do not become mountains, where dirt does not become revered, when illogic does not become truth, but when truth and beauty and goodness can be seen more clearly by looking within and bringing them forth to reflect outward, the world will change one person at a time, one heart at a time, one mind at a time — each of you unchanging personalities that can change the world, constant in the faith, constant in love, willing and able to share all hardship, willing to suffer atrocity from madness, but also willing to realize greater heights of potential individually and in cohesive, cooperative, spirit-driven teams.

All of these exciting times lie before you, times of madness to be overcome with the power of love. So my children, my friends, my beautiful brothers and sisters, as Jesus I lived here in turbulent times, incarnated to experience many things. You too are incarnated in tumultuous times; you will experience many things, and each of these experiences you will come to know as a nugget of understanding.

You are a jewel of truth on a black obstruction to be cast away, discovering good over evil, truth over error, the power and glory of universal, unconditional love.

And this is what I offer again to you this evening. I give to you, I share with you, the mercy and compassion I feel for all in this sphere and all of the other spheres of my creation. I am in each of you; I live within you, and I suffer, at times, at the very little understanding that you seem to have of this.

I will share with you, I will experience with you, I will be at your calling. I will always answer you. I am here. I am there. I am everywhere. I am the resurrection and the light and I will show you the way.

Good night,
and Peace,
and Shalom.

Spirituality and Capital Punishment: *Contrasts and Compatibilities*

A spirited email discussion on the right to live and the right to execute

The original post came from SAIGE WAITTS, asking intriguing questions based on a recent high-profile execution.

Dear fellow travelers,

In the last two days I have seen three TV shows about the Texas woman who is scheduled to be executed on Feb. 3 by lethal injection. So far I have missed the part of the show that tells what she actually did but I know it is something about murdering a woman with an ice pick. I know nothing more than that. She has had a religious conversion and is doing outreach while in prison. Unless you have seen this woman's face you may not know what I am talking about but to me she is **very** believable. There is a peace, sincerity and honesty in her face, a softness that simply aches to be saved. I don't know how someone could kill such eyes, but no doubt the husband and son of her victim felt the same way about their wife and mother.

I am curious as to what you all think about this particular case. This is not a simple situation and there are politics involved, but to me, it is far beyond a rigid interpretation of the law. I have really been struck by this and would appreciate your thoughts.

THEN CAME A NUMBER OF REPLIES

FROM: Jeff Abercrombie

MAINTAIN THE LAW OF THE LAND

I can only say that the law of the land must be maintained regardless of the spiritual truth of the matter. I am fairly sure, as you are, she has made a life change in the direction of God. However, I see this as, on the societal level, secondary to the fact that she has been convicted of a terrible mortal crime, of which she, as long as society deals with these offenses in this manner, should face the consequences to the full extent of the law. Social order must be kept consistent.

Further, think about all the "conversions" that will take place on death row in the wake of pardoning her because of her present Godward direction ...

I just pray her conversion is sincere, and I will enjoy meeting her on the mansion worlds, where she will be most likely a very special soul ...

Just my thoughts... Blessings.

FROM: Christian Eric Wellerding

WHAT ABOUT RELIGIOCENTRICITY?

I agree with Norm and Jeff. It is rather convenient to seek God when you are marked for death. I also agree with the idea that we are being sexist just by considering the pardon. Would we even be asking these questions if it were a man?

Also, what if she had converted to Islam? Wicca? What, then, of separation of church and state and why are we so religiocentric to think that a Christian conversion makes up for her crimes?

The sad part is not that she has found God and is still going to die. The real sad part is that she did not find God before she chose to kill - very brutally, I might add.

FROM: Carol Herren

AS WITH THE THIEF ON THE CROSS

If she has had a religious conversion I'm sure she will share the same destiny as the thief on the cross:

Urantia Papers -- pg 2008-9

One of the brigands railed at Jesus, saying, "If you are the Son of God, why do you not save yourself and us?" But when he had reproached Jesus, the other thief, who had many times heard the Master teach, said: "Do you have no fear even of God? Do you not see that we are suffering justly for our deeds, but that this man suffers unjustly? Better that we should seek forgiveness for our sins and salvation for our souls." When Jesus heard the thief say this, he turned his face toward him and smiled approvingly. When the malefactor saw the face of Jesus turned toward him, he mustered up his courage, fanned the flickering flame of his faith, and said, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And then Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say to you today, you shall sometime be with me in Paradise."

FROM: Jeff Keys

A SELF-EVIDENT UNITY WITH GOD

While I would like to see Sage's idealism brought to bear in society's approach to such cases, we cannot, individually or as a society, see clearly into people's hearts. Norm makes an excellent point about the inequity faced by less mediagenic death row residents. And suppose that ugly,

black male had a religious conversion to Islam rather than Christianity. Sage, you might still find it in your heart to go to bat for him, but I doubt if Pat Robertson would, as he has in the case of the Texas woman. William F. Buckley, a Catholic, has written in support of this born-again prisoner; would he be as quick to the defense of a Muslim convert with a longer rap sheet? Which of them would stand up for a death row inmate suddenly converted to the Urantia Book?

Given heterodoxy and the separation of church and state, our society is not today well-suited to considering such appeals to mercy. That is not to say that it is not theoretically possible. A more spiritually and morally advanced society might structure its laws, its correctional institutions and its judicial procedures so that the condemned could take a vow (to be renewed every 90 days) to dedicate her/his life to spiritual service to her/his fellows, and thereby stay the executioner. It isn't the conversion so much as the service. Something morally superior to chain gangs or prisoner-staffed telemarketing...

Although the state could undertake to craft such experiments, I am convinced that they would be doomed to failure in a society that has not acknowledged the self-evident unity of God in its founding. Self-evident unity is a moral/philosophical issue, not requiring a belief in a personal God; even so, perhaps there should be courses specifically tailored to augment the education of atheists...

FROM: Don Tyler, mindful@sprynet.com

DEATH BEFORE DISHONOR

Execution is probably more merciful than life imprisonment without parole.

Execution is the human attempt at justice on earth which reflects the spiritual reality of personality extinguishment. As such, it will inevitably be faulty, imperfect, flawed. The temporary removal of state execution as "cruel and unusual" by the U.S. Supreme Court did result in some slight improvement in the method of execution performed by some states, but did little to nothing to improve the accuracy of justice.

In theory, it's as just an act by society as any other form of policing, trial, and incarceration. In practice, it has been mostly prejudiced, inconsistent, and generally abominable. But that could be said of much of our human processes of justice, historically and currently. We don't throw out the baby of attempting justice because of the bathwater of our current evolutionary imperfections.

Consider (as you perhaps already have, Sage) Paper 133, Section 4, paragraph 12, page 1475. The Creator Son of our Local Universe, in his human incarnation, said to the

condemned criminal, "From talking to you, I well know you did not plan to do the thing which is about to cost you your temporal life. But you did do this evil, and your fellows have adjudged you guilty; they have determined that you shall die. You and I may not deny the state this right of self-defense in the manner of its own choosing."

Many a criminal immediately regrets the action. The one night I spent in a jail cell (bogus charges, but never mind that), there was a fellow in the next cell, wild-eyed and intense, who kept saying, "I didn't mean to kill her." He surely regretted his action, if only for his own skin's sake, but probably as well for knowing he "did do this evil." How is a human judge to know whether one is a truly repentant soul or just a good actor fishing for mercy? Some mercy may be extended if contrition seems sincere, but the justice cannot be entirely abrogated on that basis.

In any case, most human motivations for what is called "capital punishment" are barbaric. From vengeance to deterrence, excuses for execution are misguided. But I hold that those who are utterly opposed to state execution per se are also misguided, tantamount to the false sentiment of partially perfected civilization of which the revelation speaks in other contexts. Its only real justification is the permanent removal of an apparent incurable threat to society, the irredeemable sociopath.

One armchair philosopher's 2¢ worth. The moral test of such a position is whether one would be willing to suffer state execution if falsely charged. I wouldn't like it, of course, and would fight false charges to the last, but as with any understanding of the problems of mortal justice, I support the principle even when in practice it gravely errs.

FROM: Warren Wolfe

DEATH DOESN'T HARM CHRISTIANS

This is indeed a tough case, Sage. I would say that society is justified in removing vicious killers from its midst. Society must judge based upon actions, rather than intentions and motives. Perhaps this woman DID indeed get a spiritual shock from her actions, and has responded to it. But, rest assured, if she gets out of her legally determined punishment because she has had a religious conversion, the incidence of religious conversion will approach a hundred percent on death row. If she has indeed seen the light, she will not be harmed by her physical death.

FROM: Marty Greenhut

REHABILITATION, NOT PUNISHMENT

These thoughtful comments got me going on this topic. I usually try to avoid discussions on our social institutions

because I find the culture of our civilization as reflected in our institutions to be completely counterproductive to human welfare and God's purposes as I understand them. I have accepted the evolutionary function of these institutions and acknowledge the teachings that relegate slavery and warfare and even profit-motivated economics to important phases of the evolution of civilization.

Without having our prince's staff and Adamic parental guidance, evolution had to take its crude course on this planet with mortals in charge (at least in the domain of civilizing our social order). Human civilization has been dominated by fear and selfishness, bigotry and intolerance and the resultant self-destructive and unGodly aims of the self-interested and powerful elements in human society.

We can see the gradual emergence of caring and loving values as they manifest in our most progressive attainments however we have not yet overtly put them in the forefront of our social and political purposes.

The schools, hospitals, systems of justice, religious institutions, economic systems et al reflect the fear, bigotry, intolerance, greed and blind selfishness that pervade a social order of beings who regard themselves as alone in a universe, on their own and desperately struggling for survival. Don't get me wrong. I am not saying that everyone is in that mind frame. It is only the point that has been attained to date by the overall evolution of our society.

I do believe that we are given the prerogative of the death penalty by the celestial mandate to maintain order in our societies. This, however does not mean that we must do it or that we are doing it in the true spirit of justice and divine mercy.

Punishment is not an acceptable reason for executing a murderer. Punishment is not even an act that has any value at all.

Protection of our society from hopeless evildoers certainly is an essential function of human government and the death penalty has its place in this domain.

Incarceration as it is practiced in this world is totally counterproductive to the rehabilitation of criminals and doesn't serve the purpose of protecting society from evildoers because they will get out and roam the streets of our neighborhoods again, unredeemed and hardened in their resolve.

True, many exconvicts do repent and change their lives but this is not because of their treatment in jails. It is because of their reborn spirits and desire for atonement. Perhaps some few individuals try to avoid getting arrested a second time by changing their ways but this deterring result of

incarceration is miniscule.

My opinion (for what it is worth) is to isolate criminals from the society at large in secure self-sufficient communities where they can receive the help they need or isolation that they require. where they will have an opportunity to demonstrate repentance or simply get the time that they need for the growth of their souls. For those who continue in their antisocial behavior, at least the rest of us are protected from them.

The false sentiments and romantic ideas that have prevented our civilization from the sterilization of degenerates are also active in this area of crime prevention and the "penal" system.

Every institution of our civilization should be measured by the nurture it affords human life and by the love that it reflects.

Think of schools, hospitals, government bodies, justice systems and THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM, defense and police in the criteria of nurture of human life and the loving service of our fellows. Then determine what to do with repentant killers on death row. Then will a relevant answer be found for each case.

But, we are where we are in our civilization and we must get to where we know that we truly must be. How to do it? that will be up to each one of us to begin living our lives in the values that we regard as the highest truth that we know. Love cannot be legislated but must be found by each of us individually and we help each other along by living the love and faith that we have.

The human group that joins hands in mortal unity with the divine presence has power that grows in algebraic proportion. The hundredth monkey kicks in very quickly when mortals join hands together with the spirit of God. I sincerely believe that the love of God will catch fire on earth and overspread the planet. Till then, folks lets keep working and praying and loving for all we've got.

FROM: Sage Waitts <sageq@teleport.com>

**Organization: Paradigm Graphics
KILLING ISN'T THE ANSWER**

Thanks to all who commented on my question about the death penalty in the case of the woman from Texas. For the most part I can see that I am in the minority but this little discussion has helped me to develop my belief with a bit more conviction. Believe me, I don't usually have a problem developing my beliefs but this one has given me pause for years. I think my discomfort with the idea of legalized murder is that our planet is not ready for the next level of truth about how to deal with our degenerate and

criminal population. I find many of my beliefs are like that. Marty, I really appreciated your comments and find myself in alignment with much of what you had to say. So....it may be that our culture says it is right but I don't find a lot of comfort in the reasons for many of the decisions our leaders make.

I believe this woman has had a change because of her religious life. Her face is too open to believe otherwise. To deny her life because of the fear that all death row criminals will use the same technique is a cop out. With the responsibility of making a law that allows us to legally murder a brother or sister we must accept the responsibility to rescind that law if there is cause to. This brings up the dreaded "what if" syndrome again. "What if" has always seemed like a pretty flimsy basis for decision making to me.

I believe this woman must pay for her actions. But if we kill her, she has gone to a gentler place and we are left here in the flesh to live with our decision that we kill people too. I believe in her conversion and I believe in her experience on the mansion worlds because of her conversion. The real lesson is with what is left behind.

FROM: Mark Turrin

DEATH LEADS TO SURVIVAL

The reflections offered on the death penalty have all been excellent. Many of you have probably seen the movie "Dead Man Walking" which is the story of a nun who befriends a death row inmate. The intent of this movie was to discourage the use of the death penalty. I came away from this movie with the opposite conclusion from which the writers and producers had intended. In this story the killer expressed no remorse until the very end. He maintained a hardened and callous attitude about his crimes up to the last minute. Had this person faced a life sentence his soul would have most likely stayed in this state of denial and delusion about his crime. It was only when he was confronted with the undeniable fact that his life was ending very soon that his soul experienced a conversion and a cry out for mercy. It was clear to see that in this case the death penalty served to hasten this soul's acceptance of the Father.

This Texas woman prematurely and viciously murdered someone with a pick axe. Not a lot of dignity in a death such as that. If she "really" has repented I think she would be eager to get to the mansion worlds so she could apologize to her victim. At least she now has the choice of facing her death with some dignity; something which she denied her victim.

So does an enlightened society avail itself the use of the death penalty? I would hope so. For an enlightened society

knows that the mansion world experience awaits those who desire eternal life and a chance to know the Father. The technology and soul healing on the Mansion Worlds far exceeds anything we have here to deal with these broken souls. Are we so pompous and naive to think we can "fix" a Jeffrey Dalmer or a Richard Allen Davis or any other of the vicious predators that have stalked and murdered men, women, and children on this planet.

God designed us to experience mortal death. It can come in many ways but it always comes. Facing our mortality is something we "MUST" do in this life. The civility of State sanctioned executions rests on the premise that the prisoner is afforded the time and space to make peace with God, his victims family and the world before he or she face the inevitable. For all of us, the inevitability of death facilitates the potential for our souls growth by the fact that it adds to us the experience of survival.

THE MERITS OF TOLERANCE

from the Urantia Papers

160:1.6 The mature human being soon begins to look upon all other mortals with feelings of tenderness and with emotions of tolerance.

160:1.9 You simply must have tact and tolerance.

156:5.18 Tact is the fulcrum of social leverage, and tolerance is the earmark of a great soul.

144:6.2 These talks by Jesus to the twenty-four were on sympathy, co-operation, and tolerance.

144:6.11 They learned to differ, to debate, to contend, to pray, and to compromise, and throughout it all to remain sympathetic with the other person's viewpoint and to maintain at least some degree of tolerance for his honest opinions.

140:8.13 It seemed to be his purpose in all social situations to teach patience, tolerance, and forgiveness.

193:2. And the fruits of the divine spirit which are yielded in the lives of spirit-born and God-knowing mortals are: loving service, unselfish devotion, courageous loyalty, sincere fairness, enlightened honesty, undying hope, confiding trust, merciful ministry, unflinching goodness, forgiving tolerance, and enduring peace.

181:2.15 When the new teacher comes, let him teach you the poise of compassion and that sympathetic tolerance which is born of sublime confidence in me and of perfect submission to the Father's will.

Planetary Change: Assistance, Awakening, Apocalypse & Art

While most seem to agree that the planet is now undergoing major changes, there are a variety of ways to look at it, perspectives to consider. All the better for wholehearted exploration. In recent years, celestial teachers in the Teaching Mission have continually provided enlightenment from their point of view as ascendants and former mortals in the time and space worlds. First, we share some of them.

*A transmission from **RANTARASON**, a Melchizedek, in Cincinnati, on **UNCERTAINTY**.*

So many of mankind lament situations which they do not know how to handle, seeing this as some kind of a curse or aberration. It is not aberration. The Father wants his children to grow and learn, as you dear children will grow and learn in love, not fear; in faith, and not doubt; in the desire to serve, and not the desire to take.

And so you grow, my children, using the tools of time and space, and your growth is forged in the brilliant stainless steel, glistening strength of a plow in fresh, unborn soil, plowing your own individual path, your own furrow. Plant the seeds of growth. All of Urantia will be planted. Plant some of your own.

Question: How can we make our plow run straight and true?

RANTARASON: There is a deceptively simple secret, and you do know it, my child.

Human: The Stillness!

Indeed. In a world where all is in movement, all is constantly changing, evolving, even arrows spinning, spinning, everything is in constant movement; you reach the Father through Stillness. This is the threshold for solution and it can be as simply put as the Christians in their reverence calling for daily worship and prayer and walking with God. It's as simple as that.

Humans need this personal relationship with the Father. Teachers and guides and angels are secondary to this establishment of this personal walking with God. There is room in your path. There is room on all human paths for two of you working together, you and God, for God is inside, has chosen to love and experience with you. You

must learn to feel this personal presence of God as Father and Friend, Supporter and Companion.

God, your God, will keep your furrow straight and smooth, and deep enough, in truth, for many seeds of kindnesses and love that you show each day, and as you triumph, showing loving kindnesses in loving measure, the Father will give you opportunities to give you love in ever greater measure, learning, growing all the while to your ultimate perfection.

*Also from **RANTARASON** at another session:*

“In God, what you think that you need, you surely need.

In God, what you feel that you have, you surely have.”

“In God, your request to be what you want to be will be honored.

“In God, the path you choose for your life will ever be guided.

“In God, what you choose to believe from the sometimes bewildering mass of information that is put before you is quite all right.

“In God, the way that you perceive your life is the way it is.

“In God, if you anticipate cataclysmic events of mass destruction and vast suffering, you will be pleasantly mistaken.

“In God, we believe that there is no purpose in destroying, only to rebuild.

“In God, we are the achievements of humankind. Such a vast streak of progress in such a short time! and we do not desire to see full destruction. In faith, we do not believe that God does.

“Mankind needs a wake-up call. Mankind does not need his house to fall on him.

“Mankind needs the challenge of adversity to learn to grow in stature for the spiritual perfection which is your path.

“In God, we are here to bring this world into glorious light; not to punish, not to curse, not to destroy but to uplift and bring forward.

“In God, we know that there are reckonings when environment has been shamelessly exploited, when greed more than ignorance has led to a poisonous atmosphere. We know that mankind must learn lessons from his follies. Perhaps you will think these lessons cataclysmic for they will be hard, but in faith, you will rise above them. You will work in this vast inter-planetary Mission of Christ Michael to deliver his world.

“In God, we do not despair for a future of destruction and suffering, believing it is our plight, our just

desserts, for my children, your contributions have been noble, loving and peaceful. We would not punish an entire planet for the greed and avarice of a few. These reckonings will come.

“In God, we believe that those who have tortured the environment will suffer of their own hand, for the Father’s justice seems eternally right and proper and directed precisely to the problem.

“In God, we do not believe that blanket destruction of your beautiful world, the world of the cross, will come and mark as failure all of our hard work, dedication, loving and compassionate and benevolent service to you and you to each other. This my friends is faith. We have great faith in this Mission, in you, in ourselves, our dedication and, above all, the leadership that guides us down the path of true wisdom.”

And still more about Earth changes from a thermal energy standpoint ...

Earth changes will come from the continuing settlement of thermal pressures and energies. When you learn to utilize these inner storehouses of energy within mother earth to good purpose, then this will greatly aid in stabilization. Know that we can effect changes, but many must be effected together so that the lessons of what you have wrought will come home forcefully. The air will be cleansed, earth will be cleansed, the water will be cleansed, but my friends the opportunity for learning is far from exhausted.

The consequences of greed have not fully been felt, but it will be chronicled in your media slowly, steadily, in the light. In enlightening media in these years ahead, as you see justice being meted and mercy being extended, all at once, all together, in our co-creative, collaborative, loving and spirit embrace. I salute you apostles in the room. I salute you, bringers of the light.”

In addition to this visit by a Melchizedek, the Cincinnati group has also heard regularly from teacher Tarkas and celestial artisan Bakim on the subject. Here is a collection of transmissions:

MERCY AND PLANETARY CHANGES

from Tarkas

The Father has heard your cries of suffering. As a result, Michael and the mission are here, as they are on all the worlds of the rebellion, to correct the problems wrought by this rebellion.

You must remember that on normal worlds progress has been quite uniform. It has been guided by the Princes,

Material Sons and Daughters, and other powerful and benevolent spiritual beings. But with the quarantine on Urantia, you find a world that has grown up in a great imbalance.

The more, so-called progressive civilized races have turned upon native cultures who are not on the same level of advancement, and exploited them very cruelly and oppressively because of the imbalance. Whereas if all the people and races of Urantia had remained part of the Father’s plan, there would be much more uniformity and cooperation.

It is when people in the throes of Lucifer-like thinking are able to achieve power over others and continue to fight for their own material gain and profit that you find the great injustices that occur.

So this time of correction, hopefully, will bring your people to a uniformity of vision. Obviously, this will take some time and it does not change the great suffering that has been wrought on the so-called less advanced cultures The truth is that some of the so-called uncivilized, unadvanced, or savage cultures have had a great deal more spiritual essence than even their conquerors. This has been rarely appreciated. Much destruction, death and suffering have been inflicted in the name of progress, and even in the name of the churches.

But these are things of the past; they cannot be changed. We can do much changing of the present and the future by working together now.

It is time to quit reciting the follies of man and begin to change civilization as we know it for the better by spiritualizing the thinking of the people, putting God in their lives.

DEVOTION TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

from Tarkas

There are so many beautiful and inspiring works being written and produced. I would suggest that you begin to devote time reading and learning and expanding your spiritual knowledge. So many people unconsciously spend a great deal of time in mindless entertainment that really contributes little to your growth. There are many other choices that could be made that would give you greater enjoyment and joy in life.

You will find in coming years that your people will truly grow and mature. They will become saturated with the so-called entertainment that you now have and will begin to disdain the violence and conflict that is so present in all of your books and films and programs of various kinds.

At present, the thinking is that there is no story without conflict. And yet, as you develop a higher level of consciousness, you will begin to substitute conflict with growth, and you will find truly fascinating stories of growth ... spiritual development. Just as many of you find so much fascination with conflict, so even the face of your entertainment and interests will be changing in the years ahead. Always from your free-will choice based on your expansion of consciousness.

HEALING THE PLANET

from Bakim

You have only used a small percentage of your mind power, and this is only part of the picture. Beyond this, you have rather extraordinary powers within that have been so long dormant that they have been virtually lost, though not completely. Those powers are within each of you.

The rebellion was so detrimental from so many stand-points and contributed to the poisoning and pollution of your world, which also once held great healing properties. The overall design was that you coalesce with this beautiful world that had been seeded by the Life Carriers and had been developing as it should with refinements of your life forces from the infinitesimal to the greatest ocean. All of these things were in conjunction with the Father's divine plan.

Had it not been disrupted by rebellion you would find quite a different world today, almost beyond imagination. Your planetary prince would still be here and would have guided the destinies of this world in keeping with the Father's plan ... It was designed that the natural elements, with which you were so graciously endowed with by the Father ... the beautiful clear, crystal waters, would have a cleansing, healing power ... designed to nurture vast quantities of aqua life.

The sun, of course, had great healing ... lighting properties. The earth itself. Yet, over the years, through these grim problems, many of these things have been polluted, poisoned, and their healing properties have been greatly diluted. These are all the unfortunate legacy of your troubled history. But the Father has been stirred by this great suffering and your prayers answered. Michael has moved in to reclaim these lost worlds and you are now a part of the reclamation.

These powers can eventually be regained. Your own inner powers of telepathy, intuitive knowledge, even a degree of reflectivity, and the purity and power of the natural world around you. All of these things can be reclaimed as this world is cleansed and corrected."

LIFE AS AN ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

from Bakim

We talked about making your life an artistic expression wherever you go — in the words that you speak, in the bearing that you exhibit, in the ways that you look into the eyes and empathize and show feeling and concern for your friends.

I would encourage you to do this and more. Be particularly aware and intensify in your mind your daily experiences as if they were artistic expressions as well. And, in a sense, they are. I would encourage you to develop a heightened sense of awareness of all that you do. When you look upon a landscape bring to mind in an instant the beautiful colors and the feel and look of that scene.

You can develop the power through control of your own energies to make this scene even more intense and even more beautiful. You can do this as well through the food that you eat by taking only a moment or less to register this food in your mind, the beauty, the taste, the nourishment.

In this way, you can intensify your experiences day by day. As you develop a more intensified impression of beauty, then you can continue to build and enhance this power day by day. This is true not only with your visualizations of people, places, and things around you, the taste of the food you eat, but you can develop a more gracious feeling of compassion and mercy and love that will sensitize your heart and bring you almost to the point of tearful joy — feeling the Father's love each day.

Perhaps you would say: 'But what would I gain by becoming more tenderhearted, more sensitive? For is not the world full of terrible things from which I must protect myself?'

I say to you that these shields are not the protection that you seek. The shield is the Father's love. Do not try to protect yourself alone without help. Do not feel that you are swimming against the tide and have no help at all in a sinful world. Instead, know that there is help all around. You have unbelievable powers within you to feel and express yourselves and influence the people around you in quite profound ways by emanating the Father's love.

As you develop this, your brothers and sisters that you know within this group become helpmates as well. They energize you. You energize one another. And, of course, the Father. Go to the Father each day for your energizing worship and prayer which you have learned by experience will fully energize you and brighten your lives.

Do not live in despair; there is help all around, from within

and without as you nurture one another, and from the heavenly Father. This is part of what I would call an artistic expression. It is what might be called a strong balance in your lives. I encourage you to continue this work.

TUMULT IN THE PLANETARY CORRECTING TIME

from Tarkas

The Correcting Time is as vast as you would imagine Christ's Second Coming, for it is the preparation of our world for this glorious reception. And so all phases of society must be affected, all of your institutions, for what is somewhat different is that it could be said to work from the inside out, from within the hearts and minds of individuals, flowing outward rather than working through the leadership that you have established in your institutions.

So this growth from within will not be so evident for some time to come in institutions, which can readily hide their progress. But while the leadership may seek to resist and hide this progress it will surely overflow from the membership ranks, from those who are concerned, who are quite restless for something better, for new solutions. The realization that we must take responsibility for our lives, for turning them over to institutions has not worked.

We have turned over our parenting responsibilities too often to televisions and schools. We must embrace our own children and teach them and love them at the same time. Our institutions will continue to fail. There will continue to be turmoil. There will be economic failures. There will be mighty resistance to those who would change these institutions for they will feel threatened and they will struggle to maintain their wealth and power.

These are truly times of great conflict, growing conflict, but at the same time a joyous conflict as people begin to rise up in numbers, individually beginning to take responsibility for their lives and to cast their lives in a spiritual framework.

A NEW WORLD RELIGION

from Ham in Nashville

We are looking forward to time when vast changes which are beginning now will occur throughout the world, and though there are many differing understandings in the world concerning religion and the way of God, it is now of utmost importance to start or increase world wide dialogue among religious groups.

It is the fervent hope and belief of Machiventa that there

will be an ending gradually of religious conflict and that religions need to work together for the common good of mankind. Widespread suspicion exists, especially between Muslims and Jews and Christians. This is a lack of recognition of the professed oneness of God shared between these religions.

Truly it is such that your world is still in transition into monotheism and the gods of your religions today are gods of peoples separate from each other. This is a sad thing to see, and a dangerous one. Even Christianity itself has become splintered so as to cause war or to justify wars.

The unification of the world's religions will lead to the unification of the world as a whole, as one people. This is the essential basis of the fifth epochal revelation. Its purpose and its goal. World peace cannot be achieved by the overthrow of religious faiths, by the conquering of one over another.

This will not help or change anything. Therefore, it is our understanding that a new religion of transcendent values shall be born. One that can unite all faiths under the banner of Michael. Christianity, as it is now, is incapable of this. It is the dying seed out of which a new faith will be born. Christianity, as you know it, will not endure. It has become too rigid and too identified with a people.

It is your profound responsibility to undertake the founding of this great faith. The concerns of your world are being undertaken by vast legions of celestial helpers. You will be aided in your tasks, and all tasks are contributing. All tasks grow out of this common goal. All tasks are aiding this common goal.

3 QUESTIONS ABOUT EARTH CHANGES

Tomas in Pocatello, ID

Nancy: "Tomas, I know you are aware of the scientific approach that is being taken toward the discussion of earth changes. It was asked that we ask our teachers through transmitter/receivers who were willing three questions. Is it okay if I ask you those three questions at this time?"

Tomas: "It is always okay for anyone to ask me questions."

Nancy: "Thank you, Tomas. The first question is, what is the nature of these earth changes? The second question is, why are we being told about this? And the third question is, what can we do about this?"

Tomas: "Let me first say that my transmitter/receiver has a tremendous block against speculation. Her faith is strong but her control is also great and is unwilling to submit her teacher to criticism. In light of the coloration

which is inherent I am willing to attempt a response if this 'compromise' response would be applicable to the specifications set out in the 'scientific' inquiry."

Nancy: "Tomas, I am not sure how to respond to that because my guess is that this is the case with many transmitter/receivers and this is the problem. I admire Gerdean for even being willing to be the transmitter for such a question. I know that my control is so strong that I could not even allow that to come through me at this point. If it is not completely inappropriate for the theme this evening I think we would like to hear whoever's perspective we could get on this, recognizing that it is compromised."

Tomas: "I will chat, then, for it is truly a chat and not a pronouncement or a prediction. I will not bore you also with a detailed discussion of the nature of your planet as a yet unsettled and turbulent young planet undergoing the natural course of earth changes for that is assumed to be understood by anyone who has read the textbook.

The earth changes are imminent, of course, for this planet is still cooling. That many predictions have been made, i.e. Nostradamus, the pyramids, Edgar Casey, etc., have given rise to tremendous titillation and speculation as to the exact dates of certain pitfalls, tragedies, and crises. We teachers are not in the business of predicting the downfall of Urantia even in its most physical terms. I do not decry your question for certainly it is uppermost in many minds since the time is upon us that these predictions are supposed to begin to unfurl.

Many changes will take place simply because, as was said, the planet is cooling. There is certainly no indication that the earth is going to go through some tumultuous shaking up period in order to set aright the evils and errors of humanity. Our Father does not shake up mother earth to make His point. However, in light of certain inevitable geologic/physiological changes on the face of Urantia and, indeed, from beneath the surface of Urantia, and, of course, from the outer atmospheres of Urantia, you will all be affected. Remember we are here to address correcting including the condition of the world as a physical plane, the ecological situation, as well as other and different realms of interest.

But inasmuch as earth changes will certainly bring about that crisis of individuals wherein they grapple again with their mortality/immortality, there will be an activation of spiritual interest. It is herein that we teachers are preparing ourselves and you who are participants in this growth movement to abate the terrors and access the yearnings of those who will be brought to a point of asking 'who am I, really? Why am I here? What can I do! God, do you hear me? Am I alone in the universe? Are we just going to die and that's it?' These are questions which people ask

daily, but in times of great tumult or crisis they become pivotal, repeat, pivotal!"

The encouraging words of the celestial teachers on behalf of spiritual awakening and the eternal destiny of faith children make the pessimistic fears of apocalypse seem less relevant. In this bright mood, we contacted the celestial music artisans who assisted with this lighthearted song called

LIFE'S OKAY

co-written by Jim Cleveland (11-12-96)

(1)

I laid the other night in a restless sleep
Gone to bed humbled, having fumbled,
feeling like a creep.
Then I dreamed God came down and told me:
Don't weep.
You're still my kid. I'll take care of you.
Go to sleep.

CHORUS

*I reckon things is gonna be okay.
Sure I know there's always a better way
We ain't takin' it most times but, you know ... Hey!
We'll get to Heaven if we just give love away.
I have it on higher authority that it'll be okay.
'Cause the Father 's here to help us live our days
and just asks that we have faith that life's okay.*

(2)

Well, how can you say that, I thought to God in my bed
How can you possibly figure that life is gettin' ahead?
Well, God might say, we'll take a look
We'll see the truth, not what's in some book
To get it on record, the truth is often forsook
Why, in Nixon's book, he says he's not a crook.

No disrespect, dear God, but let's look at our sorry history, I said.

Yes, He replied. Look at what you've overcome, plus you're not dead.
We killed the Indians, you know, and the Buffalo,
really dumb.

Well, they're up here with Me now, said God

Smokin' their peace pipes all over kingdom
come.

Well, I countered, look at what the Germans did to
the Jews

Good thing you can just kill the bodies, God
said, or you'd be bad news

The Promised Land turned out to be Heaven;
they really didn't lose.

But, I protested, some churches just preach fear and
hell for money

Well, just don't go. I'll come to your house if
you call Me, Sonny

And why are you looking funny?

Just pray. I don't need your money.

Well, I said, you don't say the things I thought God
would say.

He said, that's okay, Son. Mine's the better
way.

And my evolution is proceeding. Things are
gonna be okay.

(3)

Well, dearest Father, you've cheered me up, but I
must confess
that for a long time up to now I thought things was a
mess.

That's okay, dear boy, give your mind a rest
It's mighty small, after all. Give faith the test
You've been too critical of what I've made,
this life bequest

I never meant to make it perfect. You do the
rest.

But, Father, I'm just one. And I'll be soon be gone

And I can't vouch for who will carry on.

That's okay, Son, don't take the world upon
your head

My evolving plan'll teach you wonders. Just
live instead.

And know that learnin', growin', doin' are all
gettin' ahead

That when you're living it, that's what I
wanted said.

So rejoice with the joy of passing days.

Life, my dear child, is goin' okay.

BUREAUCRACY SINKS NOAH'S ARK

And the Lord saith unto Noah, "Where is the ark which I
commanded thee to build?"

And Noah replied, "Behold, when I journeyed to the Jordan
County Planning and Zoning office for a permit, verily they
railed against me and said, "Thy property is not zoned for an ark
thirty cubits high. Thou wouldst require a 1040 review, environ-
mental impact studies and a public hearing for a variance..."

And behold, when I toldst them it would be a temporary usage,
they asked where I was going with a three-storied ark? I
explained to them about the flood, the waters from the great deep
and floodgates of the sky. And behold, they wentest berserk and
ranted about water rights and minimum stream flow regulations
and flood plain studies. I barely escaped with my life.

"Another thing, oh Lord, my lot is zoned for a single-family
dwelling, and Thou has planned ark condos for my three sons and
their wives. That wouldst be a multifamily development.

That reminded me, oh Lord, last week at the homeowners'
meeting, I mentioned the animals. They reminded me of the
covenants. Feeling a little defensive, I gave them your requisition
list... lions, elephants, rhinos, alligators, chickens, monkeys,
two by two, and fowls of the air, seven by seven. Behold, Lord,
they completely lost their sense of humor and sought to smite me.
But I will work on it. Couldst Thou please assign a bodyguard?"

And the Lord saith, "Noah, faithful servant, doest thy best...I'll
take care of you. But I need the ark completed in two fortnights.
Do not faileth!"

Noah answered and said, "It will be so." But it was not so. And
the Lord saith, "Noah, where is the ark?"

And Noah saith, "Lord, behold, the building department hath
been giving me fits. Thou didst specify gopherwood beams on
one cubit centers on the second level. Code requires that
gopherwood beams be placed on half cubit centers on that level
to give adequate bearing strength for the elephants, hippos and
rhinos. When I left, they were calling Planning and Zoning,
asking about zoning for a zoo or circus. Lord, I thinketh that we
are in trouble with the animals.

"And Lord, The plan checker wenteth into a fit and gnashed his
teeth when he saw that the plans called for only one door on the
whole building. He declareth that a structure of this size
requireth two exits on each level."

And the Lord saith, "Noah, my schedule calls for the ark to be
completed soon. Worketh thou very hard!" And Noah answered,
"Verily, it shall be done." But behold, it was not done. And the
Lord saith, "Noah, the ark is not ready."

And Noah answered, "Verily, I have had three carpenters off ill
and last Monday was a holiday. And the fowls of the air Thou
ordered by sevens are now sold only in half-dozen lots." Noah
wrung his hands and wept, saying "Oh Lord, I am undone."

And the Lord said with compassion, "Take heart, Noah. Now
thou knowest why I have called for a flood upon the earth."

BORROWING THE BEST: Cosmology, Angels and Prophets

A series of spiritual commentaries which employ some of the most inspired religious statements on the planet.

by RICK AND BARBARA GILES
RickGiles@pop.prodigy.net

URANTIA Paper-113 Page-1241

These attending seraphim have functioned as the spiritual helpers of mortal man in all the great events of the past and the present. In many a revelation “the word was spoken by angels”; many of the mandates of heaven have been received by the ministry of angels.

URANTIA Paper-101 Page-1109

Because your world is generally ignorant of origins, even of physical origins, it has appeared to be wise from time to time to provide instruction in cosmology. And always has this made trouble for the future. The laws of revelation hamper us greatly by their proscription of the impartation of unearned or premature knowledge. Any cosmology presented as a part of revealed religion is destined to be outgrown in a very short time. Accordingly, future students of such a revelation are tempted to discard any element of genuine religious truth it may contain because they discover errors on the face of the associated cosmologies therein presented.

THE BOOK OF MORMON
Nephi 29:6-12

6. “Thou fool, that shall say; a Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible. Have ye obtained a Bible save it were by the Jews?”

7. “Know ye not that there are more nations than one? Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above and in the earth beneath; and I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth?”

8. “Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of the two shall run together also.” 9. “And I do this that I may prove unto many that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and that I speak forth my words according to mine own pleasure. And because that I have spoken one word ye need not suppose that I cannot speak another; for my work

is not yet finished; neither shall it be until the end of man, neither from that time henceforth and forever.”

10. “Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written.”

11. “For I command all men, both in the east and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, that they shall write the words which I speak unto them; for out of the books which shall be written I will judge the world, every man according to their works, according to that which is written.”

12. “For behold, I shall speak unto the Jews and they shall write it; and I shall speak unto the Nephites and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the house of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth and they shall write it.”

URANTIA Paper-155 Page-1730

Our Father did indeed speak through Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Amos, and Hosea, but he did not cease to minister words of truth to the world when these prophets of old made an end of their utterances. My Father is no respecter of races or generations in that the word of truth is vouchsafed one age and withheld from another. Commit not the folly of calling that divine which is wholly human, and fail not to discern the words of truth which come not through the traditional oracles of supposed inspiration.

URANTIA Paper-92 Page-1008

5. The Urantia Papers. The papers, of which this is one, constitute the most recent presentation of truth to the mortals of Urantia. These papers differ from all previous revelations, for they are not the work of a single universe personality but a composite presentation by many beings. But no revelation short of the attainment of the Universal Father can ever be complete. All other celestial ministrations are no more than partial, transient, and practically adapted to local conditions in time and space. While such admissions as this may possibly detract from the immediate force and authority of all revelations, the time has arrived on Urantia when it is advisable to make such frank statements, even at the risk of weakening the future influence and authority of this, the most recent of the revelations of truth to the mortal races of Urantia.

URANTIA Paper-56 Page-642

The steady progress of evolution in the time-space universes is accompanied by ever-enlarging revelations of Deity to all intelligent creatures. The attainment of the

height of evolutionary progress on a world, in a system, constellation, universe, superuniverse, or in the grand universe signalizes corresponding enlargements of deity function to and in these progressive units of creation. And every such local enhancement of divinity realization is accompanied by certain well-defined repercussions of enlarged deity manifestation to all other sectors of creation. Extending outward from Paradise, each new domain of realized and attained evolution constitutes a new and enlarged revelation of experiential Deity to the universe of universes.

URANTIA Paper-159 Page-1768

Nathaniel, never forget, the Father does not limit the revelation of truth to any one generation or to any one people.

A MESSAGE FROM MACHIVENTA, A MELCHIZEDEK:

*TRANSMITTED at the Spokane/Coeur 'd Alene
Urantia Papers-Teaching Mission Study Group*

Greetings dear friends. This is Machiventa. I am pleased to be here for the first of many of your meetings of personal sharing and growth: searching out the Divine Will through the experiences of each other, yourselves, and we who would help you in your abilities to be of service in the upcoming events ahead.

Plan to experience much between now and the actual manifestation of The Plan itself. Great is the wisdom that you are acquiring—the recognition of your Partner Within.

Life is beginning to unfold within your experiences as it should; in the experiences of all. You are now experiencing much more at a greatly increased rate of delivery and you are retaining vast quantities of informational and experiential opportunities.

Now is the time to look deep within your own soul and decide what level of service you would be in the unfolding of what is to come. This goes out to all. We are calling. You must make the choice to be a part of the First Wave of Michael's ministers or to be part of the Second, Third or Fourth Wave.

Many are ready now. Many are experiencing great trials of tempering which are critical to their wholeness for what is to come.

Deal compassionately with each and every person who is being drawn towards the Light. Each encounter from here on has the potential to be a life-changing encounter. We are preparing as many as possible throughout this planet by bringing them into contact with those who hold the

-- Rick Giles

URANTIA Paper-92 Section-7 Para-3 Page-1012 Line-28
Para-5

The many religions of Urantia are all good to the extent that they bring man to God and bring the realization of the Father to man. It is a fallacy for any group of religionists to conceive of their creed as The Truth; such attitudes bespeak more of theological arrogance than of certainty of faith. There is not a Urantia religion that could not profitably study and assimilate the best of the truths contained in every other faith, for all contain truth. Religionists would do better to borrow the best in their neighbors' living spiritual faith rather than to denounce the worst in their lingering superstitions and outworn rituals.

seed to their discovery of their own true God-selves.

I will not yet tell you what the experience that is coming will feel like to you. I have not experienced it myself and you are unique individuals whom we also are learning from.

We are discovering new understandings of the Supreme through the experience of each and every one of you. So, we really CAN NOT explain to you sufficiently at this point what your personal reactions will be. Confusion wears many faces for many different individuals ...

The opening of the circuits will be a grand and long-awaited event. Seeing your willingness to assist gratifies we who are on the other side. We now know that it will be a successful transition. We now have a level of faith which we have learned through observing you that all truly does work towards the highest glorification of our heavenly Father.

Make your decisions. Look within your soul and decide what it is you would do to serve. And then, be constantly open for the opportunity to do exactly that. We are pleased to have you all as associates in this correction. I leave you now; in reality I step back for another.

Good evening, children of Light. and result of compassion, and make this a part of your being. Compassion is the first step in your training. You are all learning it well. You will continue to do so as the opportunities present themselves for you to exercise it.

-- Machiventa Melchizedek

Vicegerent Prince of the Planet Urantia
on behalf of Christ Michael, the resurrected Jesus

THE GALACTIC FEDERATION: Update on Planetary Changes

Date: Sun, 1 Feb 1998 14:17:57 +0000
by Sheldon Nidle for The Galactic Federation
January 31, 1998 (13 Cimi, 9 Yax, 6 Caban)

Greetings! We come now before you with various pieces of information. Through them, we shall attempt to convey to you what is currently going on around you.

We shall begin with your planet. At present, it is slowly moving into its final internal configurations before some major Earth surface changes can be made. These final alterations of its interior are necessary for the surface reconstructions to be done correctly. Second, your Sun is presently being realigned. When completed, these actions will stabilize your Sun so that it can carry out its new assignments.

The forces and energies constantly being exchanged between the Sun and her planets go largely unnoticed by your scientists. Most of these forces are inter-dimensional and are not measurable by your current scientific instruments. Your solar system is a complex inter-dimensional spacecraft. Its celestial power source is electrogravitic and photonic. The conscious nature of these arrangements will be altered considerably when the awareness of your beloved planet is immensely elevated.

Finally, there is the current nature of human consciousness. All of these elements are being woven to create a new reality for you.

Let us now take a closer look at your planet. Mother Earth is accomplishing her massive transformation from the central core out. Her first steps were to realign the central crystal core and to prepare it for its new tasks. This procedure meant that the geomagnetic field had to be pulled into the core.

You might see this phenomenon as a magnet, where the field is very intense near it and then diminishes as you slowly move away from it. This necessary operation temporarily thinned out the geomagnetic field's strength near and above the Earth's surface. It also increased the Earth's wobble and began to slow the planet more rapidly. **These events do not signal a physical pole shift.** Rather, they prove that the core is linking to its inter-dimensional vortices. To do this, the core must push in its magnetic field and use it to attain a critical flashover point.

Another sign of this procedure is the swift rotation of the Earth's geomagnetic poles. The Earth is now pulsing

rapidly, and more effectively harnessing its geomagnetic fields. As the geomagnetic fields are pulsed, it causes the striation layers in the Earth's mantle to realign. This specific procedure causes the massive up-wellings of magma that your geologists have noticed recently. It has also begun to put a great deal of pressure upon your planet's tectonic plate system.

It is this system that monitors the changes in your Earth's crust. The magnetic alignments or magnetic grid points are being gradually changed. These grid points are changing, to mirror the new grid points that were put into Mother Earth's subtle bodies a couple of years ago. Your planet has to be transformed into a multi-dimensional spaceship. When this event occurs, the entire solar system must be realigned as well. All planetary systems are holistic, and depend greatly on the energies derived from the central star (sun) to thrive. Hence, the Sun becomes the next major point of contention.

The Sun, since its near-nova in 1972, has been closely watched by both Galactic Federation scientists and by the local Councils of Elohim. Their primary concern was the prevention of a major solar core explosion. To accomplish this operation, the Sun was initially put into a very strong inter-dimensional hologram. In addition, the solar magnetic field was slightly altered. It was modified, not in its overall strength, but only in its surface positioning. Points of lesser and greater magnetic field concentration at the Sun's surface were gradually developed.

This unique procedure has caused the rather large bulges now seen at various places on the Sun's surface. It has also created the rather large solar flares and accompanying solar winds. These elements play another important part in our story. This potential point of instability (the solar surface bulges) was permitted for two reasons. First, the Sun's interior had to be readjusted. That is, the inner layers of super-hot plasmas had to be changed into a more stable configuration. This complicated process would greatly decrease the possibility of a core explosion. It also took away a lot of the incredible pressure created by the Sun's interior upon its core.

With this procedure now nearly completed, the pressure on the solar core has dropped by over 500 per cent. Second, inter-dimensional fields that are daily brought in and modified by the Sun had to be adjusted. This adjustment was accomplished by the use of the aforementioned solar flares. The resultant solar winds modify each planet's magnetic fields and regulate their inter-dimensional energy intake. This action, in turn, gives each planet the life

energies that it needs to survive. It also permits each planet and component of the solar system to cleanse its inter-dimensional vortices.

As you can now see, your solar system is unique because it contains so many different inter-dimensional constituents. This statement can also be applied to its sentient life forms. All sentient life forms in this solar system are divided into two parts.

First, there are the various corporeal life forms which exist mainly on your planet. Second, there are the many non-corporeal, or higher dimensional, life forms. These highly-evolved Beings are the remnants of the special founder societies that were first put into this solar system some 25 million years ago. Their primary purpose is to act as the overall guardians of your solar system and to assist the physical Angel or galactic societies that eventually were to be located on your Sun's inner planets.

Presently, these highly evolved Beings serve as the caretakers for the relics of now-failed colonies that once existed on Mars and on Venus. One day, their great hope is to have this solar system's inner planets filled once again with the galactic societies for which they were originally intended. It is our goal to assist them and the Spiritual Hierarchy in accomplishing this most noble purpose.

During the last few days, the Spiritual Hierarchy has been evaluating your Ascension process. Part of this procedure was a planetary review of Earth's entire human population on 11 Kan, 7 Yax, 6 Caban (January 29, 1998).

The review was based on two criteria. First, the Spiritual Hierarchy wanted to see how committed Earth's population was to the divine intervention. Since the last review was conducted near the beginning of the current galactic year, the acceptance rate has climbed from just below 85 per cent to just over 90 per cent. It is now approaching the levels that the Spiritual Hierarchy wants before the divine intervention can be allowed to happen. However, there is still much room for improvement. The Spiritual Hierarchy is confident that the continuing consciousness-elevation process will enable Earth's population to reach the desired numbers shortly. What they ask of you is to stay committed to these goals and to assist them in the successful completion of this most complex project.

Second, the Spiritual Hierarchy desired to see how the human population of Mother Earth was reacting to the entire Ascension process. To their surprise, your worldwide society is still largely unaware of what is truly happening. Only about one-third of your population comprehends that they are in the midst of a vast spiritual transformation. The rest of your population varies from those persons who "feel" that some sort of change is imminent, to those persons who see no real change in

sight. This outcome has increased the resolution of the Spiritual Hierarchy to make this process more tangible to Earth's human population. What they seek to do is to increase the effect of this process on your entire population, and to make all of you more aware that it is not a severe 'flu bug or a sudden increase in your fatigue levels. They have assured us that they shall put forth a solution in the next few days and begin to implement it immediately.

As we conclude our message to you, we ask that you use our information to inform others of what is happening. We cannot over-emphasize the importance of these actions upon your world. Right now, your planet is sitting at a crossroads in its history. Mother Earth and the local Spiritual Hierarchy are determined to effect a positive outcome.

The Galactic Federation sits poised to assist our Spiritual Brethren in their most difficult task. United in our purpose, our success is firmly assured by the divine plan. What we all need to exercise is patience, combined with compassion and divine service. These times may seem to you like the unchanged continuance of the present reality. In fact, they are only the last period of its existence.

We leave you now with boundless blessings of unconditional Love, limitless Joy and unending Prosperity and Supply! Selamat Ja! (Be in Joy!)

IMPORTANCE OF MIND

Not what you are but what you are becoming ...

From the Urantia Papers (UF Edition p. 1217)

Mortal mind is a temporary intellect system loaned to human beings for use during a material lifetime, and as they use this mind, they are either accepting or rejecting the potential of eternal existence. Mind is about all you have of universe reality that is subject to your will, and the soul—the morontia self—will faithfully portray the harvest of the temporal decisions which the mortal self is making. Human consciousness rests gently upon the electrochemical mechanism below and delicately touches the spirit-morontia energy system above. Of neither of these two systems is the human being ever completely conscious in his mortal life; therefore must he work in mind, of which he is conscious. And it is not so much what mind comprehends as what mind desires to comprehend that insures survival; it is not so much what mind is like as what mind is striving to be like that constitutes spirit identification. It is not so much that man is conscious of God as that man yearns for God that results in universe ascension.

What you are today is not so important as what you are becoming day by day and in eternity.

Exploring Modern World Religions:

THE ARCANESCHOOL: A PORTRAIT

Taken from A SourceBook for Earth's Community of Religions

The Arcane School was established by Mrs. Alice A. Bailey in 1923 to help meet an obvious and growing demand for further teaching and training in the science of the soul. The School is one of many activities of the Lucis Trust.

The purpose of the esoteric training given in the Arcane School is to help the student grow spiritually toward acceptance of discipleship responsibility and to serve the Plan of the spiritual hierarchy by serving humanity. Esotericism is a practical way of life. The function of the School is to assist those at the end of the probationary path to move forward on to the path of discipleship, and to assist those already on that path to move on more quickly and to achieve greater effectiveness in service.

A disciple is one who, above all else, is pledged to do three things:

- to serve humanity,
- to cooperate with the Plan as he sees it and as best he may, and
- to develop the powers of the soul, to expand his consciousness, and to follow the guidance of the higher self and not the dictates of his threefold lower self.

Discipleship is a word in constant use among aspirants in the world, both in the East and in the West. Discipleship could be defined as the final stage of the path of evolution. It is the stage in which a man knowingly pledges himself to impose the will of the soul (which is essentially the will of God) upon the lower nature. Upon this path he submits himself to a training process through a systematized and applied discipline,

producing a more rapid unfoldment of the power and the life of the soul.

The training given in the Arcane School is based on three fundamental requirements — occult meditation, study, and service to humanity. The Arcane School is a place for hard work. The presentation of the teaching adapted to the rapidly emerging new civilisation includes the training of disciples in group formation and group meditation and study, helping to precipitate the ideas on which the new civilisation and culture will be founded. The work of the Arcane School all over the world is carried forward entirely by correspondence with one of three headquarters.

The Arcane School is non-sectarian, and respects the right of each student to hold his own view and beliefs. It does not rely upon an authoritarian presentation of any one line of thought or code of ethics. The knowledge, insight wisdom, and capacity to wield spiritual energy resulting from work and training with the Arcane School should be expressed and applied in daily living service in helping to materialize the Plan of God and to aid in solving the problems of humanity. — compiled by the Editor from materials provided by Lucis Trust

TESTIMONY AND TREASURE

“In every race and nation, in every climate and part of the world, and throughout the endless reaches of time itself, back into the limitless past, men have found the Path to God; they have trodden it and accepted its conditions, endured its disciplines, rested back in confidence upon its realities, received its rewards and found their goal. Arrived there, they have entered into the

joy of the Lord,' participated in the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, dwelt in the glory of the divine Presence, and then returned to the ways of men, to serve. The testimony to the existence of this Path is the priceless treasure of all the great religions and its witnesses are those who have transcended all forms and all theologies, and have penetrated into the world of meaning which all symbols veil."

— Alice A. Bailey, "The Externalization of the Hierarchy," p. 405

**A WORLD PRAYER:
THE GREAT INVOCATION**

The Great Invocation is a world prayer translated into over fifty languages and dialects. It expresses certain central truths which all men innately and normally accept:

- That there exists a basic intelligence to whom we give the name of God.
- That there is a divine evolutionary Plan in the universe — the motivating power of which is love.
- That a great individuality, called by Christians the Christ, the World Teacher came to Earth and embodied that love so that we could understand that love and intelligence are effects of the purpose, and the will, and the Plan of God. Many religions believe in a World Teacher, knowing him under such names as the Lord Maitreya, the Imam Mahdi, and the Messiah.
- Only through humanity itself can the divine plan work out.

THE GREAT INVOCATION

From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.
May Christ return to Earth.

From the center where the Will of God is known

Let purpose guide the little wills of men —
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the center which we call the race of men
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out.
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power
Restore the Plan on Earth.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Contact the schools at:

3 Whitehall Court, Suite 54
London SW1A 2EF, U.K.

113 University Place, 11th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017-1888

1 Rue de Varembe (3e)
Case Postale 31,
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

How do you know?

a parable via email from FRED HARRIS
To: tml@urantia.cforest.com

You have probably heard the story of the Chinese man who was adept at interpreting events. When his son's horse ran away and the villagers were consoling his son he said, "How do you know that this isn't a blessing?"

When the horse came back later with a stallion and the neighbors were praising his son's good luck, the father said, "And how do you know that this isn't a disaster?"

When the son, while riding the new stallion, fell and broke his hip he bemoaned his bad luck but his father, again, asked if this might not be a blessing.

Then war broke out and all the young men were conscripted into service and ninety percent died in battle. The son, whose hip was broken, couldn't go and therefore he and his father were able to grow old together.

The Best, the Worst and the Weeds

by DORETTA WILDES

I thought some of you might enjoy this light-hearted essay I wrote. It's about how a garden can bring out the worst and best in us.

The first grave earthly error took place in a garden.

Now that I have a garden of my own, I can believe the precept. But as with anything that grows, things appear to have changed since Eve's impatience led her and her successors out of the celestial garden and into the terrestrial ones where many of us invest our spare time. Now I believe that gardens reveal as much about our virtues as our vices.

By vices, I mean the medieval catalogue of uppercase sins (Pride, Covetousness, Lust, Envy, Gluttony, Anger, Sloth) and a crop of lowercase modern ones (lack of imagination, megalomania, apathy, sadism, masochism, shortsightedness). A person's garden may also reveal his or her virtues. Unlike the vices, the virtues remain what they have always been, mysteriously immune to time's mutations. Faith, Hope, Charity, Justice, Prudence, Temperance and Fortitude. (Patience, diligence and thrift are really just minor offshoots of the uppercase virtues.) Most gardens tattle about a mix, although some twist around a central human characteristic.

"Sloth," I muttered three years ago, when my husband and I removed the sodden crust of leaves from our south-facing garden. Earlier that spring, while snow still camouflaged the promise of weeds, we had bought a tiny house with a large yard on a rural route in Portland, CT, convinced that the "real" in real estate was the land rather than the dwelling. Our land was eight-tenths of an acre that sloped into a wood. "It has real potential," the realtor had said.

As the snow ran to mud, reality galloped mercilessly through our gardens. Our then two-year-old daughter did the same through a balding lawn that provided her with beach pails of mud from which to make miniature pies for her dolls. I would later learn that the moldy shoots at center of the south garden were ancient phlox and the reddish fists that punched through the clay earth at the back were peonies. Little else was worth saving. A rhododendron held up brown leaves resembling the soles of shoes found discarded on roadsides. A Dusty Miller left from a distant summer flopped in a bone-dry corner, a caricature of its common name. A lone Echinacea took up the rear, protesting abuse and neglect as it grew rangier, its leaves gnawed, its single bud chewed in half by spring caterpillars before it could bloom. Something that

rambled and made midget clones of itself turned out to be a common weed. During rainstorms, the slope against the house openly demonstrated the evils of soil erosion.

"Ha," my husband said when he removed one of the seven buried Jack Daniels empties from a rock garden on the same side of the house. A schoolteacher, he takes a lighter view of the uppercase human errors and deceptions. A retired man who had once occupied the property had evidently used the gardens to conceal a drinking habit from his wife, whose spare time was not spent digging up weeds or transplanting perennials. (According to the nurseryman down the street, she was a gentle soul whose husband was "not very ambitious.")

Our grass was of the crab variety. Browning, frizzle-headed junipers clung to one sunny slope while, on another, shade-loving lilies of the valley silently scorched and screamed. An incognito variety of poison ivy overtook our pachysandra. Azaleas prematurely yellowed in the dry, limy clay of the back garden. "How could they?" I would ask myself repeatedly over the next two years, cursing the former landowners for their sloth, lack of imagination and sadism, as my husband and I yanked up the dead, the hopeless and the poisonous, replacing clay with loam, reseeding the lawns, bordering the gardens with brick. We brought companionable plants together, sometimes by the book, more often by trial and error.

My husband made slate and brick paths. I gave my spring and summer weekends over to sweet william, campanulas, coreopsis, roses, hollyhocks, phlox, hibiscus, irises, lilies, spiraea, thyme, hostas, cranesbill, lavender, veronica, ivy, primroses, candytuft and spring bulbs. I guarded them from their natural enemies including my daughter whose mudpie flats were evolving into a reluctant lawn with a sandbox. My garden became her most reliable source of mud. In two years, I would reveal myself as an Angry, Covetous, masochistic megalomaniac lacking every virtue but Hope.

I'm on intimate terms with only a few other private gardens. My paternal grandfather's told a tale of Pride, shortsightedness, diligence and great gobs of Charity. Perennials didn't rivet his eye. He wanted a continuous show of color, so he grew annuals from seed and arranged them in crowded ranks around the front walk and at the base of his privacy hedge of forsythia. Orange and red were favorite juxtapositions, alongside purple, saffron and hot pink. He liked his colors vivid and he liked his flowers neck and neck, as if this richness somehow made up for his lack of it, the consequence of years of financial misses.

He always put down far more seed than he needed, so my mother would receive the excess bounty of pansies, johnny jump-ups, verbena, marigolds and petunias packed in cardboard egg cartons. (Vegetables, too, which he grew in disorderly abundance in a side garden.)

By the end of the summer, his garden wasn't so much a garden as a live tribute to his way of doing things, awful but skillful, lively but gaudy, yet entirely practical, because you can feel relatively guilt-free pulling up a limp annual whereas a dead perennial represents a kind of moral failure. The backyard was my grandfather's one perennial feat, a miniature putting green so pristine it looked as if it had been unrolled from a bolt of green velvet. There, in the shade, the eye could rest on the cement pond stocked with gold fish and on the woodland ferns that had always fanned the yard's perimeter. My paternal grandmother preferred it to the hot flashes of the front garden.

My maternal grandmother mostly grew vegetables. Hers was an example of thrift, diligence, Charity and Prudence on the one hand, Covetousness and Anger on the other. Eggplants, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, lettuces and chard were arranged in neat rows. My grandmother, kneeling down near one of these rows, looked like a buxom Mr. McGregor with her man's shirt and hat, and my sister and I by analogy became the guilt-ridden rabbits. Whatever she handed us, we ate, pocketing sticks or stones we found lying around when she wasn't looking.

She loved roses, but never grew them, since her vegetables took what little there was of the sun in her yard and she needed vegetables more than flowers. Her concession to beauty was the zinnias she'd have my mother plant for her each spring in the sun-dappled, narrow plots that lined the drives on either side of the house. But these were homely substitutes and my grandmother took to criticizing them, ordering my mother to plant more, standing back from them in her Mr. McGregor uniform and silently cursing them for not being roses.

Of all the gardens I've known well, the one that now reveals the fewest vices and the most virtues is my mother's. (The only vice, really, is megalomania, which isn't much of a problem in a garden once you're retired.) It is a 40-year feat, revealing in equal portions the virtues of patience, diligence, thrift and Faith, Hope, Charity, Justice, Prudence, Temperance and Fortitude.

The back and front yards support species of lace cap and mophead hydrangea with dense bouquets that the local florists line up at her door to purchase each summer. Chrysanthemums are bouffant bushes, not mere plants, luxuriating even before they bloom. The fenced-in back garden is divided into "rooms" of companion species that enjoy the same soil and flatter each other in habit and color. Clematis have been patiently trained on trellises

facing east. Species of dianthus spring from a rock garden. A rose I've known since I was a child still jewels a corner carpeted with pachysandra. My father has cut brick-paved paths and created secret gardens in places where sun is scarce. Their mulch doesn't come from the local garden center, but from the local beach where a species of gray seaweed is plentiful and free if you get there before Memorial Day.

Virtues weren't always revealed in my mother's garden. I remember a clothesline that squawked and flapped like a crow, rushes of crab grass and the hours my mother would spend with her back to the house (and, obviously, to us), digging, hauling, watering and pruning during times when there was less harmony indoors. I remember her vow never to plant another crocus after chipmunks ate the ones we planted together in the previous fall. Tired of a patch of phlox subulata on the front lawn, she ripped it up to reveal a family of pee-wee and boulder marbles I had secreted underneath to keep them away from my sister.

There are still discordant themes on a small scale that you can find if you look closely. Her footpaths are perhaps more for the eye than the feet. Slugs chug along hostas, leaving tracks of slug-glue. Mildew occasionally subdues one of the younger plants. My mother throws nothing away. She keeps the failures and, over time, usually manages to prevail.

This year, my own gardens attained a new level of maturity. The south-facing perennial garden is lush but not cramped. The east-facing back garden has settled its graces into the semi-formal design I drew on paper and erased and drew again. The rock gardens brim with sedums, thymes and phlox. The ivy garden makes sense. The fairy rose border is many green evening-gloved hands offering sweets. There are enchanted corners where the sun, the soil and a lily repeat an ancient vision that still has the power to bring sensible humans to their knees. In a garden, it's what you do on your knees that matters.

As a result, we came to terms with some of the failures. The poison ivy, for example, overthrew the pachysandra and we had to defoliate the area, lift the narcissus bulbs, and begin again. Our sycamores still shed all year long, spewing seeds in white angora dust and a litter of leaves that make the air difficult to breathe. But we have time enough and Faith. I've forgiven the bottle-burier and his meek wife. I've let my daughter hopscotch through the gardens that have stepping stones. And Prudence and thrift have come to assume a more dominant role in the overall plan. Next comes Charity.

Perhaps once we've buried our vices in a garden we're free to unearth our virtues. Then we're transformed from permanent outcasts to temporary masters of our own plots. But this could take more than a lifetime.

EXPLORING WORLD RELIGIONS: *The Baha'i Faith and Christ*

Recent email spiritual explorers have exchanged a document produced by a longtime student of the Baha'i faith and the Bible. Though different authors would express the Baha'i principles differently, as the author himself states, we offer this commentary based on the extensive experience of the writer DAVID BLEY.

Your questions concerning the Baha'i view of several Christian doctrines was forwarded to me by ... I've given them some thought and jotted down answers based on my own research and reflection. While these are my personal views (and in no sense an authoritative statement of any official Baha'i "position"), they are the product of many years' study of the Bible and Baha'i teachings.

For any Baha'i-related points, I will be happy to provide exact citations from the authorized Teachings of Baha'u'llah; and for any Bible-related points, will be equally happy to provide any additional scripture citations as requested. I have tried to indicate sources below where appropriate; space, however, precludes a complete exploration of the profound questions you have raised.

You have asked about 1) the Baha'i view of the Bible, 2) the Baha'i view of Christ, 3) the Baha'i view of afterlife, 4) the Baha'i view of "eternal life" including heaven and hell, 5) whether the Baha'i God is the same as the Jewish, Christian and Muslim deities, and 6) the Baha'i view of sin. The answers below are based upon (and in one case, quoted verbatim from) my own book, "He Cometh With Clouds: A Baha'i View of Christ's Return" (Oxford: George Ronald, 1996).

1) What is the Jewish/Christian Bible? e.g. a collection of faith stories, history, inspired word of God, infallible word of God, corrupted, a lie? Please explain the reasoning or evidence to support your answer.

According to the teachings of Baha'u'llah, the Bible is the inspired Word of God: "The divine inspiration of the Gospel is fully recognized" (Promised Day is Come, 109). This book is the Holy Book of God, of celestial inspiration. It is the Bible of Salvation, the noble Gospel" ('Abdu'l-Baha 145). "You must know the Old and the New Testaments as the Word of God" (Promulgation of Universal Peace 201). Simply stated: The divine authority of Christian scripture lies at the core of Baha'i belief.

Like traditional Christians, Baha'is believe that the Bible's inspiration is a characteristic of the original divinely revealed texts — not of any human transcription, translation or interpretation based upon them. The earliest known

Bible manuscripts are handwritten copies, and among these early copies there exist slight differences of wording and sometimes of fact — exact historical dates and the like. Until scholars fully reconcile these minor discrepancies with each other and with the original (currently unknown) manuscripts, I would be uncertain how to answer questions concerning infallibility" of the translations we now have.

According to Baha'u'llah, however, 'all' of these textual variations are utterly insignificant. In His "Book of Certitude" He emphasizes that God has guarded the Bible from error or corruption in every important respect. The Bible therefore remains a fully trustworthy guide in all matters of fact, principle or doctrine with any bearing whatsoever on our salvation or spiritual well-being. For Baha'is this conviction is a matter of faith in God and Baha'u'llah; it is not and need not be based on human scholarship.

As a Baha'i I therefore accept the Bible's authority as binding in any discussion of Baha'i or Christian doctrine. This does not mean, of course, that I necessarily accept (or reject) any traditional interpretation formulated by church authorities or theological theorists. Baha'u'llah's teachings shine a bright light on the intended meaning of many scriptural passages that have never been fully understood in ages past.

One further point: Christian churches traditionally have regarded the Bible as the "last and only" Word of God, and have enshrined this doctrine in their creeds to such an extent that many people think of this as a teaching of the Bible itself. This cannot be so, if we take the Bible at its own word. Countless scriptures emphasize that the Second Coming of Christ is to be accompanied, in the "last days", by a fresh outpouring of the Word of God. (See, for example, Psalms 5:30, Amos 1:2, Eze. 43:2, Isa. 2:2-4, Rev. 1:13-16, Rev. 19:15 et al.) Thus the Bible itself rejects any claim to being the last chapter of God's revelation to humankind.

2) Who was Jesus Christ? e.g. a mortal prophet no different from Moses, Mohammed or Baha'u'llah; the Son of God, God incarnate, a wise man, a good teacher. Please explain the reasoning or evidence to support your answer.

What Baha'is believe about Jesus Christ is precisely what is recorded in the Bible — no more, no less. Although we reject certain traditional dogmas which (we believe) have no biblical warrant, we take a back seat to no one in our reverence and appreciation for the Lord Christ.

I will try to answer your question in terms of the various ways Christ has historically been perceived: as God Incarnate, as the Son of God and as a member or “person” of the Trinity.

According to the Bible, Christ is that “quickening spirit” of whom John says: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was ‘with’ God, and the Word ‘was’ God” (John 1:1; emphasis mine). This verse suggests that Christ is spiritually identical with God in one sense (i.e., He “was” God) and spiritually distinct in another sense (i.e., He was “with” God). Baha’is believe that Christ “was” God in that His human personality was the dwelling-place of the Spirit and Presence of God. In other words, His human spirit — His “pure and stainless Soul” — became completely merged with the mind of God, the personality of God, the all-embracing knowledge of God, the omnipotence of God, the glory of God. God lived in Him and acted in and through Him. Thus Christ’s acts were the acts of God, His words the Word of God, His knowledge the knowledge of God. To know Him was to know God, because He was, in a very real sense, God on earth.

If that is what we mean by “God Incarnate”, then Baha’is believe in the Incarnation. The Guardian of the Baha’i Faith describes this station as “the complete incarnation of the names and attributes of God” in a human Vehicle (World Order of Baha’u’llah, 112). Unfortunately, the Incarnation has often been given a materialistic interpretation to which Baha’is cannot subscribe. Thus we do not believe that the actual body of Christ was somehow composed of the physical substance of God, for God has no such substance: “God is a spirit” (John 4:24). “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which born of the spirit is spirit” (John 3:6). “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God” (I Cor. 15:50). It is of course true that Christ’s human soul, as the home of the Divine Spirit, was associated while on earth with a physical body. This is what Paul means by saying: “In Him dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Col. 2:9). Nevertheless, the oneness of Jesus Christ and God is a metaphysical oneness, not a fleshly characteristic.

Jesus Christ also is the Son of God, both in a physical and a metaphysical sense. He is the Son of God in the physical sense that His body was miraculously conceived by the Virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit. In the far more important metaphysical sense, however, He was (and is) the Son of God from all eternity. By this I mean that the “quickening spirit” or “Word” which the Bible calls Christ is a preexistent emanation from God. Thus Paul calls Christ “the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth ...”(Col. 1:15-17).

I noted above that the Bible speaks of Christ both as identical with God and as distinct from God. This duality

is reflected in countless scriptures with which you no doubt are familiar. Paul elaborates this mysterious paradox by praising the God, the Heavenly Father, as “dwelling in unapproachable light” where “no man has ever seen or ever can see him” (I Tom. 6:16). He explains that Christ, in His spiritual nature, is “the image of the invisible God” (Col. 1:15), “the express image of His person” (Heb. 1:3). Turning to Him is equivalent to “beholding as in a glass the glory of God” (II Cor. 3:18) — to seeing God reflected in a perfect mirror. Baha’is therefore view the Trinity as follows:

1. God is like the sun — that is, the astronomical sun, inconceivably vast and unapproachable, its inner essence veiled by its own blazing glory.
2. Christ is like the sun’s reflection, appearing with perfect fidelity in a polished and stainless mirror.
3. The Holy Spirit is like the sun’s rays, which, having cast the reflection within the mirror, are shed by that same reflection over all who turn towards it.

God, the sun; Christ, its mirror image; the Holy Spirit, its rays. Note that if we look into the mirror and say, “There is the sun”, or if the reflection itself should say, “I am the sun”, these statements are absolutely true in their intended meaning. Yet if we also state that the solar reflection differs from the “real” sun, this statement also is true.

This view of Christ differs in certain respects from the best-known orthodox creeds. It is, however, fully faithful to the Bible as written, and it illuminates the meaning of many scriptures which, in the past, have seemed obscure or contradictory.

Please note that in the perspective from which I am speaking, ‘there is only one Christ’. There cannot be two Christs, or ten Christs; Christ cannot have a predecessor, successor, substitute or replacement. He is unique, incomparable, ineffably glorious. The Bible does, however, refer to Christ as that Ruler “whose goings forth have been from of old, from eternity” (Micah 5:2). Baha’is understand this to mean that that “quickening spirit” called Christ has appeared on earth not just once, but at various times in human history, in the person of the Founders of various World Religions. We believe that in this day that very same Divine Spirit has reappeared or returned in the person of Baha’u’llah, fulfilling the Bible’s promises concerning the “return” of Christ. In terms of human individuality, these Mirrors are different. But they are the same spirit, for they all are Manifestations of the One Christ.

-- David Bley
email: tenelex@chattanooga.net (David Bley)
<http://www.chattanooga.net/scent>

A Special Holiday Message from GOD (?)

Though the Christmas season has come and gone, the following email, an imaginary (?) holiday message from God, was too interesting to pass up. It is passed along by Michelle Klimesh <mklimesh@linkzone.com> To: Urantial <urantial@ubook.org>

Dear Friends, this message was forwarded to me from a woman in South Africa... wishing you a wonderful holiday season! Love, Michelle

God's Christmas Letter to All,

My Dear Children (and believe me, that's all of you), I consider myself a pretty patient guy. I mean, look at the Grand Canyon. It took millions of years to get it right. And about evolution? Boy, nothing is slower than designing that whole Darwinian thing to take place, cell by cell, and gene by gene. I've been patient through your fashions, civilizations, wars and schemes, and the countless ways you take Me for granted until you get yourselves into big trouble again and again.

But on this occasion of My Son's birthday, I want to let you know about some of the things that are starting to tick me off.

First of all, your religious rivalries are driving Me up a wall. Enough already! Let's get one thing straight. These are YOUR religions, not Mine. I'm the whole enchilada; I'm beyond them all. Every one of your religions claims there's only one of Me (which by the way, is absolutely true). But in the very next breath, each religion claims it's My favorite one. And each claims its bible was written personally by Me, and that all the other bibles are man-made. Oh Me. How do I even begin to put a stop to such complicated nonsense?

Okay, listen up now. I'm your Father AND Mother, and I don't play favorites among My children. Also, I hate to break it to you, but I don't write. My longhand is awful, and I've always been more of a doer anyway. So ALL of your books, including those bibles, were written by men and women. There were inspired, remarkable people, but they also made mistakes here and there. I made sure of that, so that you would never trust a written word more than your own living heart.

You see, one human being to me—even a bum on the street—is worth more than all the Holy Books in the world. That's just the kind of guy I am. My Spirit is not an historical thing, it's alive right here, right now, as fresh as your next breath.

Holy books and religious rites are sacred and powerful, but not more so than the least of you. They were only meant to steer you in the right direction, not to keep you arguing with each other, and certainly not to keep you from trusting your own personal connection with Me.

Which brings Me to My next point about your nonsense. You act like I need you and your religions to stick up for Me or win souls; for My sake. Please, don't do Me any favors. I can stand quite well on my own, thank you. I don't need you to defend Me, and I don't need constant credit. I just want you to be good to each other.

And another thing: I don't get all worked up over money or politics, so stop dragging My name into your dramas. For example, I swear to Me that I never threatened Oral Roberts. I never rode in any of Rajneesh's Rolls Royces. I never told Pat Robertson to run for president, and I've never EVER had a conversation with Jim Bakker, Jerry Falwell, or Jimmy Swaggart! Of course, come Judgement Day, I certainly intend to...

The thing is, I want you to stop thinking of religion as some sort of loyalty pledge to Me. The true purpose of your religions is so that YOU can become more aware of ME, not the other way around. Believe Me, I know you already. I know what's in each of your hearts, and I love you with no strings attached. Lighten up and enjoy Me. That's what religion is best for.

What you seem to forget is how mysterious I am. You look at the petty differences in your Scriptures and say, Well, if THIS is the truth, then THAT can't be. But instead of trying to figure out My Paradoxes and Unfathomable Nature—which by the way, you NEVER will—why not open your hearts to the simple common threads in every religion?

You know what I'm talking about: Love and respect everyone. Be kind. Even when life is scary or confusing, take courage and be of good cheer, for I am always with you. Learn how to be quiet, so you can hear My still, small voice (I don't like to shout). Leave the world a better place by living your life with dignity and gracefulness, for you are My Own Child. Hold back nothing from life, for the parts of you that can die surely will, and the parts that can't, won't. So don't worry, be happy (I stole that last line from Bobby McFerrin, but Who do you think gave it to him in the first place?)

Simple stuff. Why do you keep making it so complicated? It's like you're always looking for an excuse to be upset. And I'm very tired of being your main excuse. Do

you think I care whether you call me God, Yahweh, Jehovah, Allah, Wakantonka, Brahma, Father, Mother or even the Void of Nirvana? Do you think I care which of My special children you feel closest to—Jesus, Mary, Buddha, Krishna, Mohammed or any of the others? You can call Me and My Special Ones any name you choose, if only you would go about My business of loving one another as I love you. How can you keep neglecting something so simple?

I'm not telling you to abandon your religions. Enjoy your religions, honor them, learn from them, just as you should enjoy, honor, and learn from your parents. But do you walk around telling everyone that your parents are better than theirs? Your religion, like your parents, may always have the most special place in your heart; I don't mind that at all. And I don't want you to combine all the Great Traditions in One Big Mess. Each religion is unique for a reason. Each has a unique style so that people can find the best path for themselves. But My Special Children—the ones that your religions revolve around—all live in the same place (My heart) and they get along perfectly, I assure you. The clergy must stop creating a myth of sibling rivalry where there is none.

My blessed children of Earth, the world has grown too small for your pervasive religious bigotries and confusion. The whole planet is connected by air travel, satellite dishes, telephones, fax machines, rock concerts, diseases, and mutual needs and concerns. Get with the program! If you really want to help Me celebrate the birthday of My Son Jesus, then commit yourselves to figuring out how to feed your hungry, clothe your naked, protect your abused, and shelter your poor. And just as importantly, make your own everyday life a shining example of kindness and good humour. I've given you all the resources you need, if only you abandon your fear of each other and begin living, loving, and laughing together.

Finally, My Children everywhere, remember whose birth is honored on December 25th, and the fearlessness with which He chose to live and die. As I love Him, so do I love each one of you. I'm not really ticked off, I just wanted to grab your attention because I hate to see you suffer. But I gave you free will, so what can I do now other than to try to influence you through reason, persuasion, and a little old-fashioned guilt and manipulation? After all, I AM the original Jewish Mother. I just want you to be happy, and I'll sit in the Dark.

I really Am, indeed, I swear, with you always. Always. Trust in Me.

Your One and Only,
God

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE ... OR DON'T

From: mindful@sprynet.com (Don Tyler)

Paul Recer, AP science writer, in an article on photos by the Hubble Space Telescope better showing a collision of two distant galaxies::

“Astronomers said in a news conference Tuesday at NASA's headquarters that such a collision is expected to ultimately claim our own Milky Way galaxy. A nearby galaxy, the Andromeda, is bearing down on the celestial home of the solar system and the two stellar formations will eventually merge.

“‘Humans need not worry,’ said Brad Whitmore of the Space Telescope Institute. ‘Even though the Andromeda is racing toward the Milky Way at 300,000 miles an hour, the collision is about 5 billion years away.’” By then, it is expected that the sun will be a burned-out husk and the Earth, if it still exists, will be a lifeless chunk of frozen space rock.”

From Urantia Paper 195:

The pursuit of mere knowledge, without the attendant interpretation of wisdom and the spiritual insight of religious experience, eventually leads to pessimism and human despair. A little knowledge is truly disconcerting.

From Urantia Paper 55:

Only those planets which attain existence in the main circuits of the superuniverse are assured of continuous survival, but as far as we know, these worlds settled in light and life are destined to go on throughout the eternal ages of all future time.

A SUMMARY OF THE WORLD

From: Stephane Labonte <labonte@emirates.net.ae>

If we could, at this time, shrink the Earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people. with all existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look like this:

- There would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere (North and South) and 8 Africans.
- 70 would be non-white; 30 white.
- 70 would be non-Christian; 30 Christian.
- 50% of the world's wealth would be in the hands of only 6 people.
- All 6 would be citizens of the United States.
- 70 would be unable to read.
- 50 would suffer from malnutrition.
- 80 would live in sub-standard housing.
- Only 1 would have a college education.

When one considers our world from such an incredibly compressed perspective, the need for love, tolerance and understanding becomes glaringly apparent.

Pope builds telescope to find 'Fingerprints of God'

From The London Sunday Times - 12-14-97

The Pope has asked a team of top astronomers to try to find "the fingerprints of God" amid the chaos of the cosmos, writes Jonathan Leake.

The Vatican is jointly building one of the most powerful astronomical observatories on Earth to help search for other planets and star systems capable of supporting life.

The observatory, at Mount Graham in Arizona, will have two telescopes designed for astronomical survey work with the ability to pick out the clouds of dust and gas that can give rise to planetary systems. They may also be able to pinpoint those stars and planets on which conditions could be suitable for life to develop.

In what amounts to the most ambitious astronomical project in the Catholic church's history, the Vatican and its Jesuit partners will invest at least £3m in a powerful infrared telescope to search space in tandem with a £2m optical system now undergoing final tests.

The observatory will be used by the astronomers from the Vatican observatory, based near Rome, whose original team of 10 scientists will grow to more than 20 as the facility comes into operation. The Jesuits persuaded the Pope to part with the money after convincing him that the papal observatory, established in the last century, has been rendered useless by atmospheric pollution.

Father George Coyne, the director of the observatory, said its main work would be pure science, albeit with a theological bias. "The incarnation of Christ applies to all human activity, including astronomy," he said.

For the Vatican, maintaining a team of astronomers is seen as vital to prevent repeats of its past battles with scientists. It persecuted early astronomers such as Copernicus and Galileo, who challenged the church's vision of a universe in which the sun and planets rotated around the Earth.

The project does, however, hold some dangers for Christianity. One of the greatest would be the discovery of alien life forms, especially if they were intelligent. The Catholic church would have huge problems deciding if Jesus's crucifixion, which was meant to redeem mankind from original sin, also applied to aliens. One way around that problem would be to convert aliens to Catholicism, an idea already considered by the Pope's astronomers.

Father Chris Corbally, an English Jesuit who is the observatory's deputy director, said: "If civilisation were to be found on other planets and if it were feasible to communicate, then we would want to send missionaries to save them, just as we did in the past when new lands were discovered."



Such problems may be a long way off, but other equally powerful conflicts between Christianity and science are emerging. One centres on recent theories that the universe has no end or beginning, which would take away the need for a God to have created it at all.

The Pope's astronomers have considered such questions and have developed a theory of "speculative theology" which allows the church huge flexibility in the way it responds to new discoveries.

Under the theory, newly discovered phenomena are seen as "the fingerprints of God" and their complexity and subtlety simply reinforce God's omnipotence. It means that anything discovered by the Pope's astronomers can be used to reinforce rather than undermine faith.

Some believe the Vatican has lost its way. David Thompson, an expert in modern church history at Cambridge University, said: "It is biology that holds the real challenges, especially the idea that our behaviour is predetermined by our genes, and that means sinning is not possible. Without sin, Christianity falls apart completely, irrespective of what lies in the heavens."

British astronomers believe they have found planetary systems around four of the nearest stars to Earth. The discovery was announced at the Royal Astronomical Society in London on Friday.

LOST IN TRANSLATION Mangled English in foreign signs:

In a Vienna Hotel -- In case of fire, do your utmost to alarm the hotel porter.

Outside a Hong Kong tailor shop -- Ladies have fits upstairs.

On box of Hong Kong toy -- Guaranteed to work throughout its useful life.

Japanese road detour sign: Stop: Drive Sideways.

A TRAIN COMING

by Jim Cleveland

*There is a train coming
Rolling through the gardens of the mind
Rolling through the landscapes green with pines
Over mountains, cross the rivers crystal bright
Carrying all who choose the love of Godly light
There is a train coming
There is a train rolling 'cross this land tonight.*

(1)

The darkest coal it burns away
and flows up black as night
to the Father's sunshine sky above
and dissipates from sight
Furnace of love, it burns red hot
and rises up to shout
That train it blows its whistle loud
and calls us all about
to leap aboard in whirling hugs
and ride that spirit free
The God that lives so deep inside
is lifting you and me.

(2)

Don't matter what car you capture when
you make that leap of faith.
The caboose is fine. It seems that's where
I've been all my born days.
But the dining car is just ahead.
Let's break some bread and laugh
and watch the evolving world go by
with love and warm repaste.

(3)

The Father drives this train of love
I imagine that could be
when I'm struggling just to find a ride
to a job as hard as can be.
I'm always listening for that bell
ringing somewhere out of view
that'll bring that joyous liberty,
a world that's pure and true.
I know it's coming someday, brothers and
sisters too
That train of love is coming for me and you.

Finding God Within and Without

by DANIEL MEGOW - 2-17-98

How do I find You, God?

God is Love.

If you have ever loved,
If you have ever been loved,
You have experienced God
from Within and Without

God is Truth.

If you have ever told the truth,
If you have ever discovered Truth,
You have experienced God
from Within and Without

God is Beauty.

If you have ever helped to create something
beautiful, If you have ever witnessed beauty in
any of it's myriad forms, You have experienced
God
from Within and Without

God is Good.

If you have ever done or thought something
good, If you have ever recognized goodness in or
through another, You have experienced God
from Within and Without

All of those experiences, those gifts,
of Love, Truth, Beauty and Goodness
were directly from God through you, or to you.

Glad to Meet You God. Let's hang out together.

FROM: The Church Within
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*Now is where we Create the Exquisite Memories
of Tomorrow. [Angelbumps '98]*

*"Belief... is talking the talk. Faith... is Walking
the Walk. Take a Walk..." ("Celestial Lites" '97)*

The Paradoxical Nature of Light and God

by Steven E. McDaniel

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all . . . if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanses us from all sin.

-- 1st Epistle of John

Modern cosmology can offer the universal spiritualist some exciting avenues for awe and wonder. Astrophysics, along with particle and theoretical physics, can open spiritual doors and complement self-growth studies of various natures. You don't have to be a mathematician to understand meaning. In fact, science prides itself in the context of the pure language of geometry and other mathematics, to keep meaning out of the context of any understanding.

Since the *Tao of Physics* was written in the early seventies, there have been a plethora of books written by scientists for the general lay person with no background in the sciences. Many of these physicists want the public to entertain understandings to help them apply meaning outside the scientific community, and to the promotion of their various fields. From popular author-physicists like Timothy Ferris, Paul Davies, John Gribbin and others, to universal educational groups like the Noetic Society (started by a former astronaut) the list of wonder seekers and spirit groups keeps on growing.

The late Carl Sagan helped open these doors years ago with the *Cosmos* series, and this was one of many ways scientists have inspired people to truth. Many young people chose astronomy careers upon hearing Sagan awe them with some simple and extraordinary scientific facts. One such example would be, that heavy elements constitute much of our world. These elements and the atoms of our own physical bodies are forged from the centers of stars. We are literally "the stuff of stars".

Sagan wisely commented on how the stars are our true ancestors of origin. More recently, Stephen Hawking's

bestseller, *A Brief History Of Time*, dealt heavily with the subject of black holes, his focus of research for twenty plus years. The reader is left to ponder the mystery of black holes that are, in effect, resurrected states of incredible power from the graves of huge stars. Again, we are dancing around the wonder of the nature of light and the universe, and the beauty of our history born from the cosmos.

Even Copernicus stated hundreds of years ago that "the universe is the body of God". From these kinds of scientific insights, we can see into our true constitution with awe and wonder. I would further the view of Copernicus and say that God's body is light, for the whole universe is ultimately light, and even matter, as we know it in modern physics, is nothing more than "contained light". God is everywhere and emanating from you and me, so abundantly, as to be amazing.

Colors are the deeds and sufferings of light.

-Johann Wolfgang Goethe

Science and art have been enthralled with the nature of light ever since mankind left paradise for the grandiose self-absorption of thought. From the ancient writings of Plato and many others, light has been heralded with a certain divinity that stands alone. When Wordsworth wrote "At length the man perceives it dies away and fades into the light of common day," he epitomized what so many great ones have expressed. In effect, he was stating that once we realize our true nature, we become light and at one with God. It is a long road of the greatest work and requires traveling deep corridors of understanding and love. And science need not be a hindrance, but rather, a helper required for this journey.

The years of anxious searching in the dark, with their intense longing, their alternation of confidence and exhaustion and the final emergence into light- those who have experienced it can understand it.

-Albert Einstein

A little before the turn of the twentieth century, a fifteen year old boy was dreaming about light in such a fashion that it would change the world. Albert Einstein's visions of riding a light beam set the stage for this great soul to alter scientific understanding in a new and dramatic way.

Einstein went on to win the Nobel Prize in physics for his research into the photoelectric effect, a particular aspect of the nature of light. He is, of course, best known for his theories of relativity. The special theory of relativity deals mostly with the more profound nature of light and its characteristics. This article will focus upon the paradoxical and esoteric qualities of light that have been brought to us through contributions of knowledge from Albert Einstein and others.

Much of light's truth is contradictory to reason, and thus we must aspire to a higher level of understanding. Particularly, without the language of mathematics, we must rely on an intuitive voice. Due to the spacetime constraints of this treatise, I am going to "lightly" touch upon certain more incredible paradoxical facets of God's true character that we call LIGHT. It is my hope that you will sense beyond the senses, a truth above the theory of words.

The soul is light, the mind is light, and the body is light-light of different grades; and it is this relation which connect man with the planets and stars.

-- Hazrat Inayat Khan

Since the earliest religious and poetic writings, light has been heralded as the illumination and radiation of the spirit of God. Light has been considered the ultimate metaphor or symbol, for seeing with wonder and awe, and for seeing beyond the view into the true vision of the immutable light of the heart, the highest reality. Without it there would be nothing. In science, quasars are the oldest and brightest visible lights that seem to emanate from black invisible holes. And all of time has been photographed by light, young and old, and is in the family album of space. Every star in the night sky denotes the entire span of time since the beginning.

As we observe with telescopes the far reaches of the

universe, the light of some stars which burned out billions of years ago, can still be seen due to the traveling time it takes to arrive at the retina of our eyes. Our own nearby sun, is the center around which our earth and solar system revolve in gravitational love attraction. Earth and the other planets have shown the way by their simple behavior.

Though physicists would contend it is gravity attraction that attracts planets to stars, and not light or love, it is by divine orchestration that stars are the largest gravitational objects in the universe. Further, all the vegetation of mother earth reaches towards the light. Nature does not entertain coincidences or happenstance. To love light is to love God and that which is most real, set by the example of nature. This is a voice! Yet, what are some of God's most secret natural characteristics?

The light glow from a chunk of burning coal is really sunlight. Leaves on an ancient tree millions of years ago caught, transformed, and imprisoned some solar energy, and these leaves, given time and pressure, became coal. It is the combustion of the coal that releases the hibernating sunlight.

-- Neil McAleer

I have never known a truth without paradox. A contradiction to the reasoning mind, and yet realized as a truth, has been heralded by the saints as "the holy madness" where thought is wonderfully confounded by its limitations. Einstein's "leap of genius," or deep feelings can bridge this gulf of understanding. Science and mysticism have shared paradox throughout the ages. God, or truth, is difficult to understand through reason for there is no reason to infinite love or light . . . it simply is. And that is true and lasting beauty.

The master who teaches us is absolute light, not this visibility.

-Jelaluddin Rumi

One of the great paradoxes and mysteries (exposed!) of light became evident at the turn of the century when its velocity was measured. For many hundreds of years, it was assumed that light's speed was infinite. But it became obvious to deep thinkers, that if light speed were infinite, all of light would reach earth at the same time,

PARADOX OF LIGHT AND GOD/McDaniel

and thus the night sky would be aglow! When it was proven to be traveling at about 186,000 miles per second, many insights were postulated, and most came from Einstein.

The following paradoxes are factual in content, and there is simply not enough time to elaborate on all the science from Newton to Hawking, that led to all of this discovery. Most of these paradoxes are not new. They have been known to science for seventy-five years or more. For avenues of understanding, I have chosen to state the scientific truth with spiritual interpretation, as to what God might be trying to tell us by his/her strange behavior. I have pondered these truths, and others for years, and I am amazed how new insights occur periodically. Like infinite love, it never ends.

All things you see are images, because you look on them as through a barrier that dims your sight and warps your vision, so that you behold nothing with clarity. The light is kept from everything you see.

-- A Course in Miracles

Prior to the turn of the century, light was considered to be a wave with no distinguishable parts. Einstein refuted that premise, and proved that light was composed of discrete bundles or packets of quanta when an interaction of objects was observed, and he further theorized that light acted as a wave when interacting with itself.

Further studies of modern particle theories show how the observer interaction even changes the outcome of the experiment. The fact that light is both a wave and a particle depending on the mode of experimental observation, has been proven over and over, and is one of the great paradoxes of light. It is the interaction between the object and the observer that breaks the wave into a photon or particle.

In contrast, the mystic's experience of being in the wave state of the non-observational universe, void of thought, is mirrored by this scientific study. In a state of stillness, with no object of observation, peace and oneness with the universe is experienced. Things disappear into a unity of ecstatic comfort and electric

light eternity. This stillness of the mind becomes the wave and no longer the particle or separate ideas of names and concepts.

The message is implicit: to find unity and wholeness in our lives, we must ascend beyond the realm of thought and observation, to the non-observational kingdom of God's light. Thought, in effect, is the demise of humanity's unity with God. "Who among you can add one cubit to your stature with thought?" Jesus warned. The great Hindu teacher, Sri Aurobindo said "There is nothing mind can do that cannot be better done in the mind's immobility and thought-free stillness."

I could go on and on about the unreality of thought taught by the great saints and seers. Even the baseball's humorous philosopher, Yogi Berra, stated a profound truth in his question, "Who can think and hit a baseball?" So, what do we want to be, a wave or a particle?

Unfortunately, we too often dwell in the world of particle names and observations, far away from God's domain of the invisible feeling of the eternal life wave. To become the wave of light, we must let go of our ideas and get still. A certain death to the mental trickster, so that the eternal heart can be revealed!

There is no object so foul that intense light will not make it beautiful.

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Another paradox of light is the amazing fact that if you approach light's finite speed, you will become infinite. Time will come to a stop and your mass will flatten to an atomic plasma. This barrier is a law that cannot be broken in physical terms. Hence, Einstein stated that the velocity of light was absolute. The wall of light is truly a reality beyond all others. And because light speed never wavers, it is contained in its own absoluteness. It is a kingdom that stands alone. The only "thing" that can travel at light speed is light itself. You must become it to do it.

If you were to move at the speed of light, you would be everywhere that light is, and in effect, at rest. Light is

measured in such high velocity in proportion to our distance to its emanation.

Over fifty years ago, C.S. Lewis wrote an amazing book, "Out Of The Silent Planet," in which he stated a tenet of Einstein's understanding. In the space trilogy, he talked of the Eldils, the high beings of light, trying to explain to Ransom, the character from earth, their deep secrets. The passage is extremely profound and illuminating . . .

"Body is movement. If it is at one speed, you smell something; if at another, you hear a sound; if at another you see a sight; if at another, you neither see nor hear nor smell, nor know the body in any way. If you made it faster and faster, in the end the moving thing would be in all places at once. That is the thing at the top of all bodies - so fast that it is at rest, so truly body that it has ceased being body at all . . . The swiftest thing that touches our senses is light. We do not truly see light, we only see slower things lit by it, so that for us light is on the edge - the last thing we know before things become too swift for us.

"But the body of an eldil (spirit) is a movement swift as light; you may say its body is made of light, but not that which is light for the eldil. His light is a swifter movement which for us is nothing at all; and what we call light is for him a thing like water, a visible thing, a thing he can touch and bathe in- even a dark thing when not illumined by the swifter. And what we call firm things - flesh and earth - seem to him thinner, and harder to see, than our light, and more like clouds, and nearly nothing.

"To us the eldil is a thin, half-real body that can go through walls and rocks; to himself he goes through them because he is solid and firm and they are like cloud. And what is true light to him and fills the heaven; so that he will plunge into the rays of the sun to refresh himself from it, is to us the black nothing in the sky at night."

Another fascinating paradox of light is that, according to science, light in a vacuum does not shine. This means that light, by itself, is invisible. Illumination is only visible to the eye if an object of our own familiarity is present. (Remember what C.S. Lewis said?) Objects, down to dust particles, must be present to reflect light to

exhibit its quality of illumination. Take away all objects and the atoms they are comprised of, and photons would be unseen. Contained and alone, light is the so-called "black nothing in the sky" as Lewis wrote.

Follow the beam . . .

-- Paramahansa Yogananda

The light we experience is here and not here. Because of the speed, photons are always passing through our world at incredible velocities, absorbed and let loose by the objects (and their atoms) of this world. Only the wave aspect of light can be observed by the naked eye. It looks to be one continuous wave, when it is also many infinite bundles or segments coming and going. Or is it because we seem to be continually coming and going that we theorize in such terms?

Perhaps it could be likened to a movie of quickly moving still-lives, or film frames, giving the illusion of present motion. Ultimately, the movie is but a beam of light, as Yogananda noticed at a theater matinee fifty years ago. In effect, light is so fast that any and all image is the past footprint of all that we see. Literally, nothing we see is in the now and present. All that is really now and present is light itself!

Again, the passage from C.S Lewis is poignant "his light is the swifter movement which for us is nothing at all." Truth can be very elusive . All thoughts are abstracted mirrors of light, like drops of rain that make a lake, or movie stills in which we create motion drama. To become the wave of non-observation is to simply . . . *be*.

While ye have light, believe in the light that ye may be the children of light.

-- Jesus

The greatest paradox of light comes from the graves of its factories (stars), better known as *black holes*.

Black, by the way, means invisible to astrophysics, and in my opinion, should have been called *invisible holes*. But John Wheeler had other ideas in the late sixties when he coined the term, and he was not talking to the public outside the scientific community. Thirty years later, black holes are not theories. We now know that most, if not all, galaxies have black holes at their center. This

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attraction is measured by gravity and weight, or mass. Get the science out of it, and it is obvious that the greatest light beings must be living in black holes because entire galaxies move around them! These incredible concentrations of light energy of immense proportions are the high esoteric realms of science. It is time they became known to spiritual seekers and finders.

The universe seen from within is light, seen from without, by spiritual perception, it is thought.

---Rudolph Steiner

The spiritual implications of black holes are incredible. Here, we have a resurrected state from so-called dead stars, the greatest mass objects we can observe in the universe. When a huge star dies, it blows out (possibly to a supernova) and implodes its remaining mass, only to turn invisible by its own weight or presence. Then it becomes more powerful in death, than in its lifetime as an active star. Its gravitational pull becomes so great that its escape velocity (speed it takes to overcome gravity) exceeds the speed of light.

Light is therefore captured and cannot escape the star's gravitational pull bringing time to a full stop. If we substitute gravity with presence, or consciousness, (better yet, love!) we can make some sense of this greatest of all invisible phenomena. At the center of all galaxies is a resurrection from the graves of stars, and that science predicted a hundred years ago, and is now an accepted fact!

This is a gift for all of us on the path to God. The phenomena of black holes is a profound afterlife of great light beings that we can observe, even at the center of our own galaxy, the Milky Way!

A death like this will not take thee to the grave, but it shall lead thee from darkness to light, learn then to die every day be transcending the body.

-- Mohammed

The epitome of the paradox is evident when we consider the diminutive size at the center of a black hole. Science claims with mathematical conviction, that

this center is over a billion billion billion times smaller than the nucleus of an atom! Hence, the smallest "thing" in the universe is the most powerful. The weight (or presence) is infinite.

If you could approach this invisible center, or cross its event horizon, time would slow to a halt as you entered into an eternal now. To those of us left behind, you would mysteriously disappear. Wormholes, or time continuums, are theoretical, but with much scientific support. It is by divine law, that this kind of experience is at the center of galaxies. We live in a very exciting time to be discovering these laws of the creator. These are great metaphors of inspiration and understanding, at the least.

It is by no mistake that our God has shown us that the pure spirit of light is not only a pure no "thing," as we know it, but is absolute in its glory, invisibility and power to attract entire galaxies through these resurrected states.

And last, but not least, my favorite mind boggling light paradox (boggle the mind and wiggle out the heart!) is the following: Light is absolute because no matter how fast you go, even 99% the speed of light, it will always go away from you at the same speed of about 186,000 miles per second. Because space and time is synonymous, hence spacetime, your time (the measurement of space) is slowed at these speeds so severely, that light travels away from you consistently at its own full speed, no matter how fast you can travel.

All velocities are relative to each other except light velocity. It stands alone and is absolute. Atomic clocks in planes have proven how velocity slows time. Everything can vary its speed except light or photons, and all speeds are relative to each other. Again, white light can travel at only one speed with no variables. It is the ultimate law of nature.

Light, love and life- all one.

-- H.W.L. Poonja

Much like science has unified space and time, the

mystic has unified light and love. The great Welsh biblical poet, Dylan Thomas, a master of poetic paradox, once wrote “And death shall have no dominion, dead men naked shall be one with the man in the wind and the west moon; when their bones are picked clean and the clean bones gone, they shall have stars at elbow and foot . . . though lovers be lost, love shall not, and death shall have no dominion.”

The ultimate experience of light as love and love as light can be known only by one’s own discovery of the invisible kingdom within.

Steven McDaniel is an award-winning writer and photographer. He has received numerous honorariums for his poetry for over 25 years. His lectures on Poetry, Mysticism and the Metaphysics of Black Holes, have brought critical acclaim from attendees. This article is mostly an excerpt from his upcoming book *Guide To The Invisible Kingdom*. You can contact Steven via email at: mcdaniel@fusenet.com

In Quest of RACIAL HARMONY

**A Urantia Papers Study
by SASKIA RAEVOURI**

Picture an orchestra. God is the conductor.

God has composed a beautiful symphony, but unless there are instruments there will be no music. So, he gets a piano. Now he hears a strain, but it sounds rather bland. He adds a violin, bass, and drums; they learn to get in tune with each other and produce a sound that is pleasant but has limited potential. He adds more and more instruments - cellos, harps, guitars, oboes, flutes, trumpets, trombones, saxophones, horns, clarinets, cymbals, and xylophones. At first they all hit wrong notes, but as each finds his key and learns to harmonize with the others together they produce a much richer, deeper and more beautiful sound than the three basic instruments alone. Now God REALLY has something to conduct.

Each instrument alone falls short compared with how it sounds in concert with all the others. Each instrument is unique; an oboe can never sound like a flute, a trumpet will never be a xylophone. And how dull to have an orchestra composed entirely of pianos, all playing the same note at the same time!

And so it is with RACE on our planet. We have all the components of the orchestra but we have not yet learned how to play together, let alone to allow God in as the conductor. The violin complains that it is not a piano; the oboe believes he is inferior to the harp. Yet if each individual in each race took the time to find his unique

form of expression, to discover where he fits into the whole, the world would be making beautiful music.

When the Urantia Book talks about RACE, many are offended when it casually mentions superior versus inferior races. A person falling into the latter category may feel he has gotten a bad deal. “I just don’t understand why God wouldn’t create everyone equal,” he grumbles. Or, “Why do I have to be green, or orange, or indigo, and go through life in a secondary Sangik body?” When we read that on some worlds there are ONLY primary Sangiks, we might say, Then why would God PURPOSELY create inferior people, and why do I have to be one of them?”

P.584 - *“The evolution of six—or of three—colored races provides certain very desirable variations in mortal types and affords an otherwise unattainable expression of diverse human potentials. These modifications are beneficial to the progress of mankind as a whole provided they are subsequently upstepped by the imported Adamic or violet race.”*

P.919 - *“Of the six colored Sangik races, three were primary and three were secondary. Though the primary races—blue, red, and yellow—were in many respects superior to the three secondary peoples, it should be (See following page)*

IN QUEST OF RACIAL HARMONY

remembered that these secondary races had many desirable traits which would have considerably enhanced the primary peoples if their better strains could have been absorbed."

Here is one example of how this might work: The book tells us that the outstanding characteristic of the orange race was "their peculiar urge to build, to build anything and everything, even to the piling up of vast mounds of stone just to see which tribe could build the largest mound." It also says that "a blend of the blue man with the Andon stock produced an artistically gifted type."

So, let's pair up an orange woman and a blue/Andonite man - their descendants might produce vast, ARTISTIC mounds of stone. Now if we inject these people with a dose of violet blood, which would accelerate their creative imaginations, they could very well build the pyramids of Giza, or cities such as the Inca Macchu Picchu in Peru. In tracing the racial migrations I have found that it was EXACTLY this racial blend that produced these great stone-structure-based civilizations. The violets on their own could not have achieved it, neither could the blues or the orange man - they needed their particular inherent traits and essences to be combined. It's like the ingredients in a recipe: depending on what you combine you will wind up with either a fruitcake or a quiche.

The plan was for the different qualities of each race to be mingled for more versatility, well in advance of Adam and Eve's mission as biologic uplifters. By then the races would have reached "the apex of biologic evolution," and would have been ready for upstepping. Due to the failure of the Planetary Prince to execute his mission, thereby causing widespread chaos among the evolutionary races, the plans for blending the races went awry, leaving some individuals with comparatively high doses of "superior" genes and others with little or none, stranded in a secondary Sangik body. And the subsequent default of Adam and Eve left some pockets of humanity abundantly upstepped, while others not at all.

P.586 - *"Having failed to achieve race harmonization by the Adamic technique, you must now work out your planetary problem of race improvement by other and largely human methods of adaptation and control."*

The above statement is a fact. While for some RACE is a touchy subject that they would rather the book had not gone into, these Politically Incorrect Papers are extremely informative as they clearly show us how we got into today's global mess. We can't bury our heads in the sand to hide the problem; ^ it is with us whether we like it or not, and eventually it must be dealt with. Our bodies are all

(Continued from previous page)

different, but the spirit within is the same — our bodies are merely vehicles to give that spirit a way to express itself. If God wanted us all alike he would have created us so. Part of our mission in life is to discover who we are and how we can contribute to the whole. The color of our skin has nothing to do with it.

One day the world will awaken to the fact that we are NOT our bodies — we are what is INSIDE our bodies. When that day comes, we will FINALLY begin to take our first baby steps out of the darkness and edge our way into Light and Life.

One might say "What does all this have to do with my search for God, with my spiritual growth?" I say, both NOTHING and EVERYTHING. We can look for God and find him anyway. However, as the universe is not only spiritual, but also physical and morontial, the more diverse qualities we can assimilate the more INTERESTING we will be to the Father when we finally stand before him billions of years from now, as well as to the fellow travelers we meet along the way.

And while we are still on this planet, learning to deal with those who are different teaches us the realities of the fruits of the spirit - tolerance, patience, acceptance, love, kindness, compassion, altruism. If we can't learn to do that here, just imagine what awaits us on the Mansion Worlds and beyond when we are confronted with beings from other planets and universes!

I say, let's at least become brothers and sisters under the skin while we are on Urantia so we can face those REALLY STRANGE critters from other planets as ONE UNITED FAMILY. What would they think of us if we were divided against each other?

(And those who discover that they are "superior" may also need to reckon with the idea that when much is given to you, more is expected in return. With knowledge comes responsibility. Rather than just sitting around BEING superior, why not DO something to prove it? :-)

Page 1468: *Though human beings differ in many ways, the one from another, before God and in the spiritual world all mortals stand on an equal footing. There are only two groups of mortals in the eyes of God: those who desire to do his will and those who do not. As the universe looks upon an inhabited world, it likewise discerns two great classes: those who know God and those who do not."*

So, let's all tune up our instruments and learn to play in God's symphony orchestra!

CONTACT! *Apocalyptic Uncovering, Discovering, Revealing*

by **ROBERT O. DEAN***

On a Panel on "Contact" / The Prophets Conference

"We're talking about contact and I understand that's the subject of this panel this afternoon and the overall subject of this weekend, but I don't believe we're going to be dealing with contact. We've had contact for several thousands of years.

In my approach to this and in my research I have concluded that we are not alone and we have never been alone. And I have also concluded that there has been what I call an intimate relationship between the human race and our friends and our family from the stars, probably from the beginning of our history. The evidence for that is literally overwhelming.

"Instead, I would like for you to look again at the definition of another word. I dug in the old Webster's Oxford Dictionary and I found out the real meaning of the word 'apocalypse'. Most of us who have been brought up in the Jewish faith, the Christian faith or Islam look upon the apocalypse as a rather frightening and terrible thing: about the four horsemen riding, bringing famine, war, pestilence, so on.

These horsemen have been riding now for about the last ten thousand years. But the real meaning of the word apocalypse, going back to the original Greek, means the uncovering, the discovery, and the revealing, and that, ladies and gentlemen, is what we are confronting here today and within these next few short years.

We are literally being confronted with the uncovering, and the discovery and the revealing of who we are; what we are as a species and as a race; how we came to be here; why we are here; and, God bless 'em, where we are all going. That is what we are being confronted with and that is going to shake the world to its very foundations. That discovery, that revelation is upon us. We are in the middle of this apocalypse, and the next few short years are going to be literally earth shaking.

"I do not believe that the American people are prepared for this. I do not believe that the people on this planet are ready for this, and there are a lot of reasons for that. As an old infantry soldier I'm always raising hell with my government because it has not taken the lead in educating us as to what's happening. But I don't believe that we can depend on the government for that. We have to depend on ourselves and each other. (applause)

"As several other people on this panel have said, the answers really are within us. Once we realize who we are, what we're here about, where we're going, that truth will literally set us free....

"We've been trying now for some time to have open hearings in Congress. We want this issue to be in the hands of the elected representatives of the American people where it should have been from the very beginning. (applause)

"And so as Ed Mitchell has pointed out several times, sadly enough, this issue is in the hands of someone else. That has got to be changed. (applause)

"I want to say in closing that I want you all to approach the next few years, not with fear, not with dread, and not looking for doom. I want you to understand that we are at the beginning of a new age, of a new time, of a new beginning.

"I believe in the American people. I believe in the citizens of this planet. I am proud to be a member of the human race. Ladies and gentlemen we are going to have an absolutely glorious future.

"God bless you and thank you."

Audio Cassettes: <http://www.aloha.net/~axiom/tapes.html>

*Robert O. Dean, retired Army Command Sergeant Major

Back in the Sixties, NATO issued a classified report stating that UFOs were real, of extraterrestrial origin, and had visited the earth. This extraordinary report was said to come out of NATO's command center, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), located then just outside of Paris, France.

Dean, a highly decorated veteran, served on the front lines in both Korea and Vietnam. In 1963, while assigned to the Supreme Headquarters Operations Center (SHOC), SHAPE's war room, headed up by then-Supreme Allied Commander of Europe, Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer, Dean claims he was able to read the detailed 12-inch-thick NATO report on UFOs.

All The Notes From The Prophets Conferences:

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THE URANTIA PAPERS: Spirituality, Harmony, and 'Contactual Tones'

By PHIL GEIGER

I was recently asked to talk about an intriguing passage in the Urantia Papers on page 1199 of the Foundation edition.

5. MATERIAL HANDICAPS TO ADJUSTER INDWELLING

Supreme and self-acting Adjusters are often able to contribute factors of spiritual import to the human mind when it flows freely in the liberated but controlled channels of creative imagination. At such times, and sometimes during sleep, the Adjuster is able to arrest the mental currents, to stay the flow, and then to divert the idea procession; and all this is done in order to effect deep spiritual transformations in the higher recesses of the superconsciousness. Thus are the forces and energies of mind more fully adjusted to the key of contactual tones of the spiritual level of the present and the future."

The key of contactual tones?

To understand this, I considered another statement from the Urantia Papers: "Harmony is the keynote of the central universe..." [301]

I like to think that "the key of the contactual tones" is found in the universal laws of harmony. Though allusions to the word harmony are generally metaphorical in the sense of 'getting along', reference to the more technical aspects of the laws of harmonics might be instructive. In these laws I find certain unmistakable patterns of divinity, what Gregory Bateson referred to as "the pattern that connects".

In this brief discussion I'll focus on the harmonic overtone scale because I think it can provide an answer to the second part of your question as well - how one could go about hearing such tones. I will therefore combine the elements of

the two parts of your question into a discussion of a meditation practice known as harmonic overtone chanting, which reportedly produces a heightened state of awareness wherein one can hear 'the music of the spheres'. (In the Hindu contemplative tradition, such chanting allows one to enter the resonating chamber known as The Cave of Brahma - the third ventricle of the brain, where one experiences Nada Brahma, which literally means "God is sound", or "Sound is God").

I begin with a description of overtone chanting; a brief history of its origins; a short technical discussion of the overtone series; the effects of sound on consciousness; and concluding with speculation about how all this fits into the quote from the UPs above.

DESCRIPTION: Overtone chanting is sometimes described as a single voice singing in chords (polyphonic singing). That is, one can, by controlled breathing and manipulation of the voice box (using natural vowel sounds) produce an entire scale of notes and consequent melodies by sustaining a single tone, or pitch. The higher octaves of overtones produced have a ventriloquist effect, as if they were emanating from a flute some feet away. (Mongolian shamans reportedly made a good living using this technique, explaining that the flute-like sounds were spirits answering their (en)chanting entreaties).

HISTORY: Though there are many places in the world where vocal overtones have been produced in one form or another, the particular technique that I practice and am therefore most familiar with originated in Mongolia, though nobody really knows when (and was probably inspired by listening to the natural harmonics of a humming bow string); transported to Tibet sometime around the 16th century, where it was greatly modified to produce the low guttural chanting that has made its way into various

cinema sound tracks of late; and then brought to the West by Huston Smith via a recording he made of Tibetan monks.

OVERTONE SCALE: When Huston Smith brought back his recording to MIT (where he held a chair in religious studies), he had some of the physics people there analyze it. They found that the harmonic ratios (relationships) of the overtones to one another was that of the whole number series. In other words, the natural scale of tones produced by the chanting are successive whole number multiples of the fundamental frequency of the note being chanted. Other musical scales may likewise contain discernible patterns of interval determination, but the overtone series is the only one generated from whole number quanta.

(To produce the overtone series mathematically, take the note “Middle C” vibrating at, say, 262 cycles per second. Multiplying that by the next whole number 2 produces 518 cps, another “C” or octave; multiply that by 3 produces the next note in the scale vibrating at 774 cps, a major fifth; 4 produces another octave; 5 a major third, by 6 (the 5th interval) a major 5th, etc. These overtones continue up the scale beyond the audible frequency range, theoretically up through Infinity itself.

And for those of you who like to run thought experiments about how the ultimatons, as the smallest particle of matter, can have as its nucleus the Isle of Paradise, it should be noted that there is another way of generating the overtone series. Instead of multiplying by whole numbers, the same results can be produced by dividing by their reciprocals. For instance, take a fixed string length, or even a given wavelength of energy, keep subdividing it by $1/2$, $1/3$, $1/4$, $1/5$, etc. and you will similarly produce the overtone series unto Infinity. As above, so below).

Additionally, it was discovered that these whole number harmonics match the natural resonant frequencies of the human vocal tract (known as

formants). In other words, the Life Carrier design of the human vocal tract is such that it naturally amplifies the very frequencies contained in the overtone scale. Thus it could be said we were “designed” for overtone chanting.

GENERAL EFFECTS OF SOUND ON CONSCIOUSNESS: The roar of civilization produces stress and dis-ease. Chanting, rhythmic drumming, and singing can produce pleasant altered states of consciousness, and some claim, healing as well (aka “sound health”). Our audio perceptual bandwidth is 10 times our video bandwidth. The human nervous system operates in the audio frequency part of the electromagnetic spectrum, one reason why music has the power to soothe the soul or why fingernails on a chalkboard can make you cringe. (The Iliad makes specific mention of how the heroes of the Trojan War kept their wives faithful by leaving them in the care of the right musicians!?!).

From the Urantia Papers: “If Adam and Eve had only survived, then would you have had music in reality; but the gift of harmony, so large in their natures, has been so diluted by strains of unmusical tendencies that only once in a thousand mortal lives is there any great appreciation of harmonics. But be not discouraged; some day a real musician may appear on Urantia, and whole peoples will be enthralled by the magnificent strains of his melodies. One such human being could forever change the course of a whole nation, even the entire civilized world. It is literally true, “melody has power a whole world to transform.” [500]}

SPECIFIC EFFECTS OF OVERTONE

CHANTING: A prime difficulty the Adjuster faces in contacting the human mind is due to our electro-chemical natures (“the hereditary legacy of cerebral endowment and that of electrochemical overcontrol both operate to delimit the sphere of efficient Adjuster activity” [1199]). Therefore it behooves us to investigate and implement techniques that help control and integrate our electro-chemical animal legacy,

while at the same time provide a bridge to true spiritual contact (as opposed to just dampening the neural energies by drugging the physical body with suppressant drugs, thereby dulling the brain).

Scientific studies of meditation show a definite correlation between slow, rhythmic brain activity, calm neural energies and heightened transpersonal experiences. I believe overtone chanting facilitates this process by, if nothing else, calming and centering body and mind. (“It is to the mind of perfect poise, housed in a body of clean habits, stabilized neural energies, and balanced chemical function ... that a maximum of light and truth can be imparted with a minimum of temporal danger or risk to the real welfare of such a being.” [1209])

On a more speculative note, by emitting an auditory signal composed of an unmistakable cosmic mathematical pattern (think of the movie “Contact” or the harmonic intervals used to communicate with the ETs in “Close Encounters of the Third Kind”) one can, in effect, make oneself known to various cosmic eavesdroppers. For instance, the overtones in bells rung in Hindu religious services are said to act as homing beacons for ‘devas’ and other spiritual agencies.

The Urantia Papers tell us that “The sincere religionist is conscious of universe citizenship and is aware of making contact with sources of superhuman power.” [1100]. Harmonic overtone chanting can be seen as ringing extra-dimensional doorbells.

CONCLUSION: “Human consciousness rests gently upon the electrochemical mechanism below and delicately touches the spirit-morontia energy system above [1216]”.

Bridging the gap between these two distinct realms should logically be found in laws applicable to both, intellectually in the mathematical laws of harmony, and experientially in medita-

tive practices such as harmonic overtone chanting (mathematics being the pattern that connects).

And though the Urantia Papers warn us: “Always should the domains of the physical (electrochemical) and the mental response to environmental stimuli be differentiated, and in turn must they all be recognized as phenomena apart from spiritual activities” [739], potential benefits derived from a qualified understanding of “their intimate interrelations” [739] should be worth investigating.

If the “idea procession” of our unconnected thoughts can be seen as random notes in search on an integrated theme, and the Adjuster as the orchestra leader searching for ways to harmonize them into a meaningful symphony of revelation, then practices such as overtone chanting could help “divert”, or modulate, our thoughts into more spiritual “keys” by providing a kind of metronome to which we could attune our bodies’ electrochemical rhythms. It is over these underlying rhythmical beat frequencies that our indwelling Mystery Monitor Maestro must “bring forth the exquisite melodies of God identification and consequent eternal survival.” [1217]

Having successfully keyed ourselves to the “contactual tones of the spiritual level of the present and the future,” perhaps we will discover the answer to many of the many pressing problems confronting modern-day Urantia. For it is “Only in the higher levels of the superconscious mind as it impinges upon the spirit realm of human experience can you find those higher concepts in association with effective master patterns which will contribute to the building of a better and more enduring civilization.” [1220]

Yours in the Harmonic Extrapolation of the (Major) 5th Epochal Revelation,

Phil (“*Harmony is the Speech of Havona*”) Geiger

JEST THE FACTS

A SECOND MILLION

A young man once asked God how long a million years was to him.

God replied, "A million years to you is just a single second in my time."

Then the young man asked God what a million dollars was to him.

God replied, "A million dollars to you is like a single penny to me."

Then the young man got his courage up and asked, "God, could I have one of your pennies?"

God smiled and replied, "Certainly, just a second."

GOOD HUMOR

by ANDREW

A celestial teacher visiting Cincinnati

May you fill your lives with joy and mirth
For life is good and full of worth.
Laugh out loud and be a comic.
Why be morose? Why be laconic?
Laughter indeed is quite a tonic.

Joyful hearts are always in good humor.
This is the real stuff, not just some rumor.
By now I think you know it's obvious
That I must find a rhyme for obvious.
Yet the word, in truth, does not seem obvious.
Sometimes the best lessons are not so obvious.

You must look within, beneath the obvious.
That much is sure. It should be obvious.
No chance for failure to rhyme with obvious
For you may search the Father's great ... omnibus.
All-knowing book, far deeper than the obvious
And you find within his love ... for all-of-us.
And yet if you're stuck, can't reach beyond the obvious.
Your teachers are here. So go ahead and ... call-on-us.

FINANCING THE FATHER PHONE

The Chief Rabbi of Israel and the Pope are in a meeting in Rome. The Rabbi notices an unusually fancy phone on a side table in the Pope's private chambers.

"What is that phone for?" he asks the pontiff.

"It's my direct line to the Lord!"

The Rabbi is skeptical, and the Pope notices. The Holy Father insists that the Rabbi try it out, and, indeed, he is connected to the Lord. The Rabbi holds a lengthy discussion with Him. After hanging up the Rabbi says, "Thank you very much. This is great! But listen, I want to pay for my phone charges."

The Pope, of course refuses, but the Rabbi is steadfast and finally, the pontiff gives in. He checks the counter on the phone and says:

"Alright! The charges were 100,000 Lira."

The Chief Rabbi gladly hands over a packet of bills. A few months later, the Pope is in Jerusalem on an official visit. In the Chief Rabbi's chambers he sees a phone identical to his and learns it also is a direct line to the Lord. The Pope remembers he has an urgent matter that requires divine consultation and asks if he can use the Rabbi's phone.

The Rabbi gladly agrees, hands him the phone, and the Pope chats away. After hanging up, the Pope offers to pay for the phone charges.

The Rabbi looks on the phone counter and says: "1 Shekel 50!"

The Pope looks surprised: "Why so cheap!"

The Rabbi replies: "Local call."

REAL LIFE COMPUTER VIRUSES:

Right to Life Virus -- Won't allow you to delete a file, regardless of how young it is. If you attempt to erase a file, it requires you to first see a counselor about possible alternatives.

Government Economist Virus - Nothing works, but all your diagnostic software says everything is fine.

Federal Bureaucrat Virus - Divides your hard disk into hundreds of little units, each of which does practically nothing, but all of which claim to be the most important part of your computer.

Linda Tripp Virus: Tape records your entire email and chatroom archive and sends it to Hard Copy, Pat Robertson, Ken Starr, and Quentin Tarrantino.

Mercy and Judgement

by MARTY GREENHUT

Our Wonderful Lord,
The God of the Universe
Who knows the Father and knows us
in eternal and infinite love
Is the Father of Mercy
to the Universe of Universes.

What does this mean?

To us, who are born in the limits of baby form,
grow through our lives in human limitations?

My brothers say,
“Where is your mercy, Lord?
How could you allow this world to languish in
evil and and sin; in agony.

My brothers say,
How could you let this happen?
This death by killing, this treachery,
the agony of mothers and fathers.

My enemy says that there is no judgement.

And I have other brothers who say,
“Don’t worry, the judgement is coming.” And
they look for the second flood in catastrophic
proportions.

Your Mercy Lord
is the gift of time
wherein we flounder and err
In this progressive school
of learning by doing.

Your mercy Lord
is to give us the chance to err, even to rebel and
still live,
though it be temporarily in the isolation and
agony of evil.

Your mercy lord
is supreme forbearance and longsuffering, and
you allow us sinners to resolve and decide
what do we want to do?

And this baby-form did you take
and all the limitations of human life
to show us the way to the Father
whose judgement is sure.

And judgement is Love; eternal and absolute
The abrogation of time
as in the wedding feast at Cana.

In eternity, The Father’s Will IS
In time, we have mercy
as painful as mercy is

And what is the other face of mercy?

It is you, Jesus, Mercy alive on earth
and in human form
who lived your life in loving service
with unselfish devotion and courageous loyalty.

Its is you, Jesus, Mercy alive on earth,
whose life in the flesh tasted every agony known
and to the very end demonstrated your mercy as
we can live it and in it.

Help us, Lord
to live your mercy for our brothers;
forgiveness, patience, and longsuffering that they
may be righteously judged.
and help us to live IN your mercy
that we may be corrected and taught.

“Judgement is mine, saith the Lord”

Of course judgement is His for He IS perfection
and all the rest of creation is only perfect relative
to His perfection. No mortal understands enough
about reality, cosmic dynamics, or, for that

matter anything at all to judge anyone or anything in ultimacy.

All we can do is have a personal preference about things, extend our best understanding and insight into ideas and forgive our fellows their apparent misdeeds and errors.

Judgement has nothing to do with punishment. Punishment is evil and should be abandoned at sea. Epochal Judgement is God's navigation of evolution and creation, setting the course In His perfect Will.

Now, since we are His heirs and are creators ourselves (in training) we have a chance to encompass our own creation with our own judgement.

By our goals and purposes, by our values and our faith we set the course of our evolutionary creation and judge its progress.

We can judge our own behavior, our spouse's behavior and our children's behavior,

We can judge our friends and family, even our whole world, only to find out that we didn't really know what we were talking about.

It looks like judgement as a human prerogative has very deep pitfalls because we simply do not know what is going on. Wisdom is given us that we may make judgements relative to our possession of truth.

Our living presence.

The values that we live will be reflected in everything that we do and in every interaction that we have. This is true not only of harmonious times but also in conflict, not only in humility but also in authority.

Thus did our Jesus teach us of mercy, in mercy.

Thank You, Lord

a moment noticed.....

by JIM McCALLON

far better stood, and later held
our dreams were wings on which we
sailed....

our times were moments;our days were
light
our strength was given - for cause is right

and turned aside and sown around
our feet were miles above the ground
our heads were far beyond the skies
our work was truth, our fear was lies

we grew and knew, we learned and taught
we created worlds for which we sought
we waged no battle, we made no war
we gave no thought to what's in store.....

we simply lived, and then were gone
we moved unnoticed through the throng
and when our lives were done and spent
we made no noise, we simply went.....

as dust to dust, and ash to ash
the way is made, the die is cast
our feet are tired, our minds are lost
the price we've paid was twice the
cost.....

but no my friends, i'll not cry, nor moan
the place we go is from where we've
flown
the arms that are waiting long ago set us
free....

the words we hear whispered?.....
let it be....
let it be....

THE TEACHING MISSION: Paths to the Father

One of the most famous of sayings among the celestial teachers has been that “There are as many paths to the Father as there are souls to walk them,” from Will in a Tallahassee, Florida transmission. Do we really believe this, and what are the ramifications?

Here are some collected quotes on “Paths to the Father” from transmissions in Half Moon Bay, California, shared by Susan Kimsey:

Never doubt the many paths to The Father that will be placed in your lives if you only will search for them. -- Olfana 9-13-93

Actively seeking experiences with God-Consciousness is your greatest work, your highest work, in this life. -- Olfana 9-13-93

Praying allows you moments of contemplation of the many ways in which God moves through your life. -- Olfana 10-31-93

The mysteries of God’s Ways are like hidden treasures that lie waiting to be found as you explore this life. -- Olfana 1-26-94

We move toward God by looking for His Love in all the experiences of our lives. -- Olfana 2-1-94

Your life can be one that serves God in your own unique way. This is the challenge of life — serving ourselves through our desire to serve God, cultivating our soul’s growth by reaching out to life with trust that God’s guidance will help us to make right choices. -- Olfana 2-1-94

God’s Will is the mandate that illuminates this universe. -- Olfana 3-30-94

We are all free to move toward God in many ways, on many paths; this is the creative blessing of each unique personality who seeks Him. -- Olfana 4-05-94

Becoming one with God requires awareness, commitment, love, respect for truth, heartfelt effort—allowing oneself to be used in God’s Plan as the creative beings that we are. -- Olfana 4-16-94

Where do your values meet with concepts you hold of truth, beauty, and goodness? How can you take the energy given to you by God, and use it to best serve Him by your growth and development? -- Olfana 4-25-94

You can serve best by holding the image of The Master in your mind, and by allowing His Strength and Wisdom to permeate your being. -- Olfana 5-26-94

Always remain open-minded when you see any effort occurring that seeks God-Consciousness in this world. -- Olfana 6-18-94

Love guides all efforts of God-Consciousness; this is the power and energy which infuses the being of any soul who extends himself/herself toward God. -- Olfana 6-18-94

Do not doubt that when humans make great efforts to achieve remarkable accomplishments, that God’s Hand is always there, ready to help them in their work. -- Tarkas 6-18-94

There is no greater adventure than to discover the marvelous path back to God which He has provided for each of his children. -- Betheria 4-4-95

We each have a song within our own heart which expresses itself to God, and there is a uniqueness to this beautiful intonation and melody. May you walk your path with this song of love singing within you, as you move through the days of your life. -- Olfana 6-24-95

May you all come to know the great purpose

placed within the experiences of your lives. --
Christ Michael 7-15-95

You have much to offer in the way of your own
gift to the world through your understanding of
God and His Vast Creation, and your apprecia-
tion for the beauty that you see evidence itself in
this world. -- Olfana 06-1-96

What a marvelous way in which to view your
life—that God has given you this opportunity to
receive His Gifts. -- Bethera 6-22-96

If you would know God's Will, you must seek
this understanding with an open heart and open
mind. God will speak to you in the stillness, but
you must learn to listen carefully for these soft
promptings of responsibility and joy. -- Olfana
9-6-96

This is the choice of cosmic citizenship, when
you are guided and instructed by God, and then
express this Guidance in the actions and choices
of your own soul being. -- Olfana 9-6-96

When we strive to do God's Will, we are en-
gulfed in this Power from God to manifest His
Love in our choices and actions. He is fulfilled
in us, by us, through us—just as we are fulfilled,
also, by expressing, with this Power, our soul's
purpose and unique capacities. -- Olfana 9-6-96

You will know you are "of God" in your actions
and choices when you feel a nobility of purpose
rise in your heart and mind. -- Olfana 9-6-96

May we all seek God's compelling Power of
Inspiration in our own lives. -- Olfana 9-6-96

Ask yourself this simple but powerful question
as you face the stress of life —"Where is the
love in this moment, my Father? Open my eyes
to the love which surrounds me at all times."
-- Olfana 12-14-96

As one develops a trust in the Hand of God
touching and shaping one's life, one desires to
endure all things in His Name. -- Olfana 2-24-97

Faith Child

by BOB DEVINE

What choirs call out to my heart in the night,
sending answers to questions of mind
out in symphonies to my soul?
Like angels they play to the chords of truth within.

Do they exist?
Angels, I mean, are they real?

A breeze lifts the heavy fog away,
the winds of night whistling yes to silly pondering.
A thrill of unknowing ecstasy enters into the human
chambers
standing hairs on end in witness to the truth.

It is the response of mind
to the recognition of the heart's awakening
beyond the depth of dreams into the world of reality.

Belief becomes faith.

The simmering dreams of a fearful child
bloom into the outcry of newfound hopes and wishes,
cascading back to the loving embrace of a friend
within
with childlike glee.

Walls dissolve showing endless possibilities
hiding behind brave fronts of self-deception.
Aside with the crusty armor,
for the shield of knowing souls is the experience of
truth within.

As the rhythmic pulsing subsides back into unknown
chambers,
Having answered to the child with understanding
beats,
The man in me returns to share the child's heart,
Having been born again into a wondrous world of
hope.

To the truth, this child by faith springs,
to see the world anew in possibility.

THE CHURCH WITHIN: **Knowing and Respecting Your True Self**

by **DANIEL MEGOW**

Greetings my Dearest Siblings, and welcome to The Church Within.

It has been said: "Love your neighbor as your self." Excellent advice. Let us each learn then, all the more so, to Love our True Selves. Truly, all the better can we then "Love our Neighbor".

Going Within

Within each of us is a place of Perfect Peace... of Sublime Solitude... of Love, Truth, Beauty and Goodness... of Loving Communication between the Divine Parent and the True Self. It is our Soul.

Go there for a moment and take some time to simply Be.

Quotes

In the life of the Spirit you are always at the beginning.
(from: The Book of Runes)

Truth is within ourselves...
There is an inmost center in us all,
Where Truth abides in fullness... and to know,
Rather consists in opening out a way
Whence the imprisoned splendor may escape...
(from Paracelsus, Robert Browning)

I cannot but observe that so many of you spend so much time and thought on mere trifles of living, while you almost wholly overlook the more essential realities of everlasting import, those very accomplishments which are concerned with the development of a more harmonious working agreement between you and your Adjusters (ed: the fragment of God Within you). The great goal of human existence is to attune to the divinity of the indwelling Adjuster; the great achievement of mortal life is the attainment of a true and understanding consecration to the eternal aims of the divine spirit who waits and works within your mind. But a devoted and determined effort to realize eternal destiny is wholly compatible with alighthearted and joyous life and with a successful and honorable career on earth. Co-operation with the Thought Adjuster does not entail self-torture, mock piety, or hypocritical and ostentatious self-abasement; the ideal life is one of loving service rather than an existence of fearful apprehension". (from: The Urantia Papers # 110)

Neither shall they say, Lo here! or lo there!
for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.
(Luke 17:21)

The Sermon

The most important relationship for us each to cultivate, is the relationship with our True Self... the Union of: Creator and Creature, Parent and Child, God and man.

Life so often seems out of balance, out of harmony, out of the flow. Why is that so? Is it because we incessantly strive for external gratification? Do we compromise our own internal feelings and leadings to impress or to get attention, from others? Do we search pointlessly for complements and outside approval in the hopes that what others say or think will give more meaning to our lives? Whose respect is of equal importance to the respect that we have for ourselves?

You indeed are worthy of respect. You are an individual and unique child of the Infinite Source. There is no outside influence that can, in any way, make you other than who you truly are. It is only from within yourself that you can grow.

The metamorphosis into a butterfly can only be accomplished by the individual strivings of the solitary caterpillar. The "ugly duckling" sought, with futile persistence, to be accepted as a duck when in reality he was a Swan.

Do we become more contented when we struggle to be like others, or when we dedicate ourselves to the discovery of our own God-given individuality? "The quickest way for a tadpole to become a frog is to live loyally each moment as a tadpole."

So ... How do we cultivate Self Respect? How do we learn to find and create the value within ourselves when all of our lives we have been taught to seek fulfillment from external sources?

1.) See yourself as a child. Allow yourself to make mistakes and to learn from them. Know that you are continually growing and give up the pretense that you have already reached maturity.

2.) Rather than chastising yourself for your past failures or for those things which you have yet to accomplish, embrace the experiences of personal spiritual development which you have already so valiantly earned, and let them

guide you ever forward toward wholeness.

3.) Look within at your own true innermost desires... The ones that your ego fears to set free lest it lose its own limiting control over you. You can recognize them by going within and, leaving material acquisitions out of the equation, allow "the still small voice" to complete this sentence: "If only I had the ability or the resources or the time, my true heart's desire would be to..."

What is it that you would choose to do? Do you think it was God or your Soul that has been telling you all along that it was impossible beyond your abilities... that you didn't deserve it?

Think again. Now, Begin to do that with purpose and dedication... one small step at a time... one foot in front of the other. Do it out of Love for yourself and for God. You CAN indeed do it, dear Friend... If it is Good, it is God's Will for you, NOT your ego's.

Be true to yourself and you will, as a result, be true to others and true to God.

The Prayer

Dearest Infinite Parent and Source of All that is, In Your Image have You created us... not materially but Spiritually. Give us the stamina to continually discover and reveal that Unique Image of ourselves which is Your Gift to us.

You ALL are Within the Infinitely Loving Embrace of our Universal Parent,

The Creator's Infinite Love, through me, to all of You,
Pastor Daniel

Your donations make possible the growth of this Ministry and are greatly appreciated by all whom they serve.

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Belief... is talking the talk. Faith... is Walking the Walk. Take a Walk..." (Daniel)

(Urantia Paper #132)

"If we know God, our real business on earth is so to live as to permit the Father to reveal himself in our lives, and thus will all God-seeking persons see the Father and ask for our help in finding out more about the God who in this manner finds expression in our lives."

Poems by JOHN CREGER

Defiant Childhood

No, space-time, it's not me kneeling at your feet:
Those peopled spheres, your vast evolving universes
To me these are no surprise, not so new --
Just some fields we seeds go blowing through.

Our sight as short as our memories,
We dredge our past and your stars for something
True. Painting there with our thirsts we leave a cup
Unused, nearby, at a spring that feeds creation.

Take your suns; I will you my senses
For all they can tell me of who I am.
Our history and our laws, slopped together
In your rushing nebular madness: They lie!

I'll tell you once. Long after your final imploded sun,
Soul petals in ever fuller bloom,
I live.

Onward Memory

I was driving here, already tasting these cups.
Of strong cinnamon tea, where here came oldies
Sweeping the gray freeway. "Love Don't Come
Easy."

"Where Did Our Love Go?" A handful, cupfuls,
Of sunny nostalgia. Warm and easy on the
mindwaves

These breezes from a less splintered time.
I stretched my neck and watched a grin come
In the mirror. And never forgetting the '90s,
Let the shinier bubbles rise up through me.

Hot falling cinnamon caresses my throat,
And the feeling rises. A well of echoes.
Pictures flashing. Plucked emotion strings.
Yet nothing, really, like nostalgia. Every moment,
I'm told, 's a blip in the cosmic broadcast ...
A beam I surf from my genetic memory
To my eternal future.

So ... All moments, each moment
This moment? Me? In every one?

"Oh, yes," says the voice.
"You, with the Supremes, forever."

CELESTIAL SURFING: The Gender and Disposition of God

Inspiring and thought-provoking spiritual narratives from email discussion groups

God, Mother and Father

by REBECCA KANTOR

Thanks for sharing your thoughts about using “sexist” language when the object is God. Here is another approach to the subject.

(Note: when I use “Mother” and “Father,” I’m speaking of the archetypal qualities of the parental feminine and masculine.)

Because this is a planet of sexed creatures, every mortal born (at least so far, but not necessarily for long!) is genetically the product of a male (father) and a woman (mother). In the “normal” home, it is the child’s interaction with these two people (or substitutes) which lays the emotional/intellectual groundwork for his/her future life (see UB 127:2). Mother and Father each play a distinct role in the unfolding of the child’s earthly consciousness, just as Mother God and Father God each play a distinct role in the preparation of the child’s spirit for the universe career.

A baby is born only after some nine months of conception and nurture within the mother’s womb. After birth the child’s consciousness is totally diffuse; everything the baby perceives is an extension of the baby’s primitive sense of self, the “I”, including Mother, Father, and all other sensory events both inside and outside the body. There is no differentiation, no “Other” or “Not I” in this primitive consciousness -- all is one, all is baby, all is “I.”

Initially, Mother is the primary source of everything necessary for survival — food, face-to-face mirroring, loving relief from all discomforts and protection from all threats. She makes it possible for Baby to begin to trust the world, to feel safe

and welcomed. Because this first psychological “task” takes time, Baby’s undifferentiated bond with Mother continues for some time. She does not demand a separation in consciousness from Baby, instead she nurtures it in order to provide a sense of dependency and trust which lays the groundwork for a safe introduction of the “Other” into Baby’s world.

Not so with Father. He is the first instance of “Other” to the baby. Unlike the safe “I” environment provided by Mother, Father intrudes upon the child’s primitive, all-encompassing “I” consciousness and forces the recognition of “Other” - something that exists outside of the safe, secure, undifferentiated experience of the baby from “the beginning of time.” Mother stays near, nurtures, and invites the baby to participate in the “I” bond of benignly diffuse consciousness; Father comes and goes, and this repetition forces Baby to recognize that there is more to life than just “I.” There is also “Not I” or “Other..”

When Father comes into Baby’s presence, he brings invitations to explore the unknown world of “Other,” which requires that the child begin to leave the safety of Mother’s nest to “go out into the world” and begin mastering it. This is why Father’s attitude toward the child is so crucial. He is responsible for taking the child from the security of Mother’s safe refuge and into the strange, unfamiliar world.

If he is kindly but strong, reliably present but not overwhelming, assertive but affirming, challenging but properly protective, he gives the child a sense of being welcomed and capable of participating in the big outside world. If the father is punitive, overly critical, unreliable, overwhelming, and generally unaffirming, the child learns that s/he is incapable of entering into, much less

thriving in, the outer world. The world (universe) universe becomes a place to fear and retreat from, rather than a place to trust and explore.

Isn't this what the Fatherhood and Motherhood of God is about? As children of God, we need the nurture of both immanent Mother and transcendent Father, but each parental figure provides us with the proper nurture at different stages of growth. God the Father, as transcendent "Other", can never give us the womb like safety of the feminine, diffuse "I" consciousness, which initially provides the safe container for a gentle awakening into a fuller "Other" awareness. God the Mother as immanent "I" can never embody the masculine "Other" consciousness which motivates the journey from the mother's protective nest into the vast world and universe.

We need God both as Mother and as Father. While Mother God initiates us into life through the initial stages of animal "I" consciousness (using the adjutant mind spirits), Father God prepares the way for adventure out into the vast and unknown universe by indwelling us as the divine "Other" (Adjuster) when we are ready for such an indwelling.

Finally, from this growth of consciousness perspective, we can argue that God as Father is the ultimate attainment of the children of God. Who could be satisfied attaining identification with God as Mother only? Perhaps this is what is meant by the lure to finaliter status - we must leave the safety and security of our earth/mansion world womb and the Mother Spirit's adjutant mind spirits when we fuse with the Father fragment. This fusion designates that we have attained readiness for travel into the unknown future with an "I-Other" consciousness adequate to guide us through the great unknown. (This would be the acme of Martin Buber's "I-Thou" consciousness, I think.)

But Mother is not left behind. She accompanies and cares for us via the Local Mother Spirit and then by the Eternal Mother Son. Eventually, we

are promised, we attain the ultimate stretch across time and space and into eternity, fulfilling our child relationships first with God as Mother, and then with God as Father who, as the final, complete, and replete "Other," acknowledges our attainment of personality (relational) perfection and welcomes us Home.

Does God Get Angry?

Question for Bible scholars: When the authors of the Bible speak of God's anger and his causing disasters to fall on the people, are they speaking of God actually doing it, or is anger represented as Satan or other fallen beings being responsible. I've checked different versions -- King James, Modern Language, Living Bible, Revised Standard and they all are the same in this particular case.

For example: 2 Samuel 24: 1.....And again the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say "Go, number Israel and Judah".

Then in 1 Chronicles 21:1.... And Satan stood up against Israel and provoked David to number Israel.

Same incident -- written by different authors

I know there are many contradictions and error in the Bible but this one is the one that continually sticks in my mind as to what the people of those days may have recognized as God's anger. How many other times in the Bible when God's anger is written could it apply to Satan's influence and not God himself.

An email reply from Paul Premsager:

The Urantia Papers say, 'the eternal God is incapable of wrath and anger in the sense of these human emotions and as man understands such reactions' (p.57).

God is self-existent and, and he is devoid of all

anger and enmity; he is immortal and infinite' (1442).

Jesus simply would not accept explanations of worship and religious devotion which involved belief in the wrath of God or the anger of the Almighty. (1378)

The contradiction that you pointed out regarding ordering of the census of Israel by David was addressed by Jesus himself in paper 142, section 3, wherein he resolves this by describing the evolving concept of God. The preceding section is entitled "God's Wrath," the subject of your post.

The Bible has many passages and phrases that are troubling to many an honest soul. While God's wrath is one of them there are even more troubling phrases such as "God repented".

The Urantia Papers enlighten us in this matter: 'The Universal Father does not repent of his original purposes of wisdom and perfection' (p.35).

The Bible and the Urantia Papers contradict each other on many, many points. This notwithstanding, they are complementary to each other in substance.

When Jesus lived on the earth he studied the Torah, Prophets and the Writings (Hebrew Scriptures) diligently and quoted them extensively in his teaching to make his points. He had committed many portions of it to his memory, and during his crucifixion he was repeating some of them before he died.

Jesus certainly was not turned off by the troubling passages of the Bible: he simply did not accept those passages that portrayed God as vengeful and wrathful. In his life of revealing the Universal Father he showed the loving character of God.

If the Creator son was so respectful of the Bible

we ought not treat it lightly.

To return to your question, if Satan was responsible for the instances where the Biblical authors attributed calamities to God's wrath. I personally do not think so. The Urantia Papers say, 'The devil has been given a great deal of credit for evil which does not belong to him'. (p. 610)

Peace, Paul Premsagar.

Praying to Become an Expression of God

by STEVE TILLER

"If we know God, our real business is to so live as to permit the Father to reveal himself in our lives, and thus will all God seeking persons see the Father and ask for our help in finding out more about the God who in this manner finds expression in our lives." Urantia Papers - 132-7

Father Within:

Let my ego become so finely attuned to you that it disappears in the background of your revelations to my brothers and sisters. Let my heart perceive what my mind can not and reveal your love to the people around me.

Give me courage to lift You up in my life for all to see. Let my faith so strengthen your ability to work through me that we accomplish together what I alone would only confuse. I am an expression of You in the world. Let me be a clear channel of your love to others.

Let me become as transparent and tranquil as the sea of glass as you bring your revelations to the minds and hearts of those desiring to know you.

We are partners in this life of spiritualization, but you are the true heart and mind of the living God, and I willingly and lovingly call you "Master" of my life and destiny, today and in eternity.

You are the beating of my heart, the breath of my soul, the light of my mind's eye.

You are the unseen reality of the only life worth living.

You are the joy of my being that whispers your name.

Infinite love - perfume of life. Guardian of all that will ever be.

Did Angels Visit Washington at Valley Forge?

This is a reprint of a newspaper article first published in the NATIONAL TRIBUNE in 1859, and later reprinted in THE STARS AND STRIPES newspaper owned by the NATIONAL TRIBUNE, in 1931 with the latest printing on December 21, 1950.

The vision was related to a reporter named Wesley Bradshaw by an officer named Anthony Sherman, who served under General Washington at Valley Forge. In the vision, Washington sees three great trials to overtake the Union -- the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and the greatest threat, a war fought on the soil of the United States near the time of Jesus' return to reign on the earth.

The last time I ever saw Anthony Sherman was on the Fourth of July, 1859, in Independence Square. He was then ninety-nine years old, and becoming very feeble. But though so old, his dimming eyes rekindled as he gazed upon Independence Hall, which he came to visit once more. "Let us go into the hall," he said. "I want to tell you of an incident of Washington's life — one which no one alive knows of except myself; and if you live, you will before long see it verified.

"From the opening of the Revolution we experienced all phases of fortune, now good and now ill, one time victorious and another conquered. The darkest period we had, I think, was when Washington, after several reverses, retreated to Valley Forge, where he resolved to spend the winter of 1777. Ah! I have often seen the tears coursing down our dear commander's care-worn cheeks, as he would be conversing with a confidential officer about the condition of his poor soldiers.

You have doubtless heard the story of Washington's going into the thicket to pray. Well, it was not only true, but he used often to

pray in secret for aid and comfort from God, the interposition of whose Divine Providenc brought us safely through the darkest days of tribulation.

"One day, I remember it well, the chilly winds whistled through the leafless trees, though the sky was cloudless and the sun shone brightly, he remained in his quarters nearly all the afternoon alone. When he came out, I noticed that his face was a shade paler than usual, and there seemed to be something on his mind of more than ordinary importance. Returning just after dusk, he dispatched an orderly to the quarters of the officer I mention, who was presently in attendance.

After a preliminary conversation of about half an hour, Washington, gazing upon his companion with that strange look of dignity which he alone could command, said to the latter:

"I do not know whether it is owing to the anxiety of my mind, or what, but this afternoon, as I was sitting at this table engaged in preparing a dispatch, something seemed to disturb me. Looking up, I beheld standing opposite me a singularly beautiful female.

"So astonished was I, for I had given strict orders not to be disturbed, that it was some moments before I found language to inquire into the cause of her presence. A second, a third, and even a fourth time did I repeat my question, but received no answer from my mysterious visitor except a slight raising of her eyes.

By this time I felt strange sentiments spreading through me. I would have risen, but the riveted gaze of the being before me rendered volition impossible. I assayed once more to address her, but my tongue had become useless, even thought itself had become paralyzed. A new influence, mysterious, potent, irresistible, took possession

of me. All I could do was to gaze steadily, vacantly at my unknown visitor.

“Gradually, the surrounding atmosphere seemed as though becoming filled with sensations and luminous. Everything about me seemed to rarify, the mysterious visitor herself becoming more airy, and yet more distinct to my sight than before. I now began to feel as one dying, or rather to experience the sensations which I have sometimes imagined accompany dissolution. I did not think, I did not reason, I did not move; all were alike impossible. I was only conscious of gazing fixedly, vacantly at my companion.

“Presently I heard a voice saying, ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn,’ while at the same time my visitor extended her arm eastwardly. I now beheld a heavy white vapor at some distance rising fold upon fold. This gradually dissipated, and I looked upon a strange scene. Before me lay spread out in one vast plain all the countries of the world — Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. I saw rolling and tossing between Europe and America the billows of the Atlantic, and between Asia and America lay the Pacific. ‘Son of the Republic,’ said the same mysterious voice as before, ‘look and learn.’

“**At that moment I beheld a dark,** shadowy being, like an angel floating in mid-air, between Europe and America, dipping water out of the ocean in the hollow of each hand. He sprinkled some upon America with his right hand, while with his left hand he cast some on Europe. Immediately a dark cloud raised from these countries and joined in mid-ocean. For a while it remained stationary, and then moved slowly westward, until it enveloped America in its murky folds. Sharp flashes of lightning passed through it at intervals, and I heard the smothered groans and cries of the American people.

“A second time the angel dipped water from the ocean, and sprinkled it out as before. The dark cloud was then drawn back to the ocean, in whose heaving billows it sank from view. A third

time I heard the mysterious voice saying, ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ I cast my eyes upon America and beheld villages and towns and cities springing up one after another until the whole land from the Atlantic to the Pacific was dotted with them. Again I heard the mysterious voice say, ‘Son of the Republic, the end of the century cometh, look and learn.’

“**At this the dark, shadowy angel** turned his face southward, and from Africa I saw an ill-omened spectre approach our land. It flitted slowly over every town and city. The inhabitants presently set themselves in battle array against each other. As I continued looking, I saw a bright angel, on whose brow rested a crown of light, on which was traced the word “Union,” bearing the American flag, which he placed between the divided nation, and said, ‘Remember ye are brethren.’ Instantly the inhabitants, casting from them their weapons, became friends once more and united around the National Standard.

“And again I heard the mysterious voice saying, ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ At this the dark, shadowy angel placed a trumpet to his mouth and blew three distinct blasts; and taking water from the ocean, he sprinkled it upon Europe, Asia, and Africa.

“Then my eyes beheld a fearful scene: from each of these countries arose thick, black clouds that were joined into one. And throughout this mass there gleamed a dark red light by which I saw hordes of armed men, who, moving with the cloud, marched by land and sailed by sea to America, which country was enveloped in the volume of the cloud. And I dimly saw these vast armies devastate the whole country and burn the villages, towns, and cities that I beheld were springing up.

As my ears listened to the thundering of the cannon, clashing of swords, and the shouts and cries of millions in mortal combat, I heard again the mysterious voice saying, ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ When the voice had ceased,

the dark, shadowy angel placed his trumpet once more to his mouth and blew a long and fearful blast.

“Instantly a light as of a thousand suns shone down from above me, and pierced and broke into fragments the dark cloud which enveloped America. At the same moment the angel, upon whose head still shone the word “Union,” and who bore our national flag in one hand and a sword in the other, descended from the heavens, attended by legions of white spirits. These immediately joined the inhabitants of America, who I perceived were well-nigh overcome, but who immediately, taking courage again, closed up their broken ranks and renewed the battle.

“**Again, amid the fearful noise** of the conflict, I heard the mysterious voice saying, “Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ As the voice ceased, the shadowy angel for the last time dipped water from the ocean and sprinkled it upon America. Instantly the dark cloud rolled back, together with the armies it had brought, leaving the inhabitants of the land victorious.

“Then once more I beheld the villages, towns, and cities springing up where I had seen them before, while the bright angel, planting the azure standard he had brought in the midst of them,

cried with a loud voice, ‘While the stars remain, and the heavens send down dew upon the earth, so long shall the Union last.’ And taking from his brow the crown on which was blazoned the word “Union,” he placed it upon the Standard, while the people, kneeling down, said, ‘Amen.’

“**The scene instantly began to fade** and dissolve, and I at last saw nothing but the rising, curling vapor I at first beheld. This also disappearing, I found myself once more gazing upon the mysterious visitor, who, in the same voice I had heard before, said, “Son of the Republic, what you have seen is thus interpreted: Three great perils will come upon the Republic. The most fearful is the third, passing which the whole world united shall not prevail against her. Let every child of the Republic learn to live for his God, his land, and the Union.’

With these words the vision vanished, and I started from my seat, and felt that I had seen a vision wherein had been shown me the birth, progress, and destiny of the United States.”

“Such, my friends,” concluded the venerable narrator, “were the words I heard from General Washington’s own lips, and America will do well to profit by them.”

Let That Night Train Pass -- In loving memory of our spiritual brother, John C. Hyde

by Michael Hanna
(All rights reserved)

Let that night train pass
The station, where you sit alone,
Amidst the steam and unnatural hissing
Of its tonnage on steel wheels.
Climbing on board that night train
What ticket costs everything you have
Shatters lives like falling mirrors
Tears chasms into healthy minds

Then later returns for loved ones
To ride that train into darkness.
The groaning wood will stop,
The shaking house that God made will
rest. Wait! For soon, into the night it goes,
That phantom headlight pointing away,
Leaving you to take another breath.
Let that night train pass.

A TIME OF REVELATION ... and a look at two of them

A professor, scholar, author and spiritual seeker shares his thoughts on our pivotal times, and two book-form spiritual revelations that he believes altogether compatible in their universe views.

by **BOB HUNT**

From a religious or spiritual perspective, we are living in a truly extraordinary age - a time of revelation. Revelation occurs in two quite distinct ways. The first of these is through personal experience, whereby the insights and understanding of receptive individuals are enriched and expanded. This type of revelation is ongoing and has no doubt always been an aspect of human experience.

Our personal experiences of revelation may sometimes be more in the realm of feelings rather than in the mind. These are usually recognized as our most wonderful life experiences when we feel joy, happiness, peace, or love. These may be no more than brief glimpses, those special instances that you wish would last forever, when there is momentary clarity and understanding. The source of these revelations is your inner Voice, your internal Teacher, the spark of divinity within your mind and heart.

The second type of revelation occurs on a vastly broader scale and at specific times in evolution, sometimes referred to as epochs, important or noteworthy periods in history. These revelations are the functions of celestial personalities or agencies and have the purpose of providing both information and inspiration for anyone who is receptive to them. The life and teachings of Jesus provide the most well known example of such an epochal revelation.

At this time, a massive outpouring of spiritual information is being channeled through a host of individuals. It is difficult to stay abreast of it all and then to sort it out to discover what rings true, what contains meaning and has value. Perhaps the best test is your own personal truth filter, those inner feelings of clarity associated with personal revelation.

This is the approach I have taken in evaluating and studying The Urantia Book (UB) and A Course in Miracles (ACIM). It is the presence of these two works that makes this truly a time of revelation, an epoch as extraordinary as the period of Jesus' life on earth two thousand years ago.

I am assured that the UB and ACIM are pure and authentic written revelations, and my purpose here and now is to share some information and observations about each of these with you. First of all, I have selected some quotations about revelation directly from these sources.

The UB refers to two types of revelation when it states:

“Revelation as an epochal phenomenon is periodic; as a personal human experience, it is continuous.”

In reference to personal revelation, ACIM states that such revelation is “literally unspeakable because it is an experience of unspeakable love” and “...revelation is an experience of pure joy”.

In a more general vein, ACIM states: “Revelation unites you directly with God.” A similar passage in the UB states that “revelation successfully bridges the gulf between the material and spiritual...between man and God”.

I acquired the UB in 1970 and, while reading it, gradually realized that it is precisely what it purports to be - a major revelation for our planet, which is referred to as Urantia. During the next several years, I studied the book, met other readers, and taught a college course based on the book. In 1974, I was invited by the World Future Society to give a talk about the UB. In that talk, I chose the following remarks to introduce the book.

“Suppose that, by some technique, the very highest, most perceptive and truthful human insights could be collected and then formulated into a consistent rendition for study and analysis. The source of each gem of wisdom would be relatively unimportant; each would find its proper place in the whole by withstanding the tests of truth, beauty and goodness on as many levels of reality as the current evolving consciousness of man has experience for evaluation.

Suppose, further, that some new information is made available for transition, for completion of partial concepts, and for extensions within the grasp of human understanding. Would the populace of this beleaguered little planet be able to adjust to the new levels of both understanding and responsibility? I regard both the supposition and the question as being of the utmost importance because, incredibly, what I am describing has occurred!

I am speaking about The Urantia Book, an unprecedented, altogether astounding, and totally unique work that will one day be recognized as one of the most important documents ever to appear in the history of mankind on this planet. I shall hereafter attempt to refrain from further exclamatory adjectives or overextended praise. I cannot possibly do justice to the phenomenon that is the UB; and, furthermore, this treatise can stand on its own merits with no need of supporting rhetoric.”

My experience with ACIM has been equally powerful. Although I read an article about ACIM soon after it was published in 1975, I did not begin reading and studying it in depth until 1986.

In a preface, ACIM is described as “a teaching device” with a curriculum that “is carefully conceived and is explained, step by step, at both the theoretical and practical levels. It emphasizes application, rather than theory, and experience rather than theology”. The preface goes on to state that while it is “Christian in statement, the Course deals with universal spiritual themes. It emphasizes that it is but one version of the universal curriculum. There are many others, this one differing from them only in form. They all lead to God in the end”.

Neither the UB nor ACIM can be satisfactorily summarized nor briefly described. However, I wish to make a few observations about the origins, content, and authorship of each. The UB was published in 1955, having been transmitted over a period of about fifteen years from some time in the early part of this century until 1935. The UB consists of one hundred and ninety-six papers (or chapters), is two thousand and ninety-seven pages long, and is divided into four major parts.

Part One is entitled “The Central and Superuniverses” and consists of thirty-one papers; Part Two is entitled “The Local Universe” and consists of twenty-five papers; Part Three, with sixty-three papers, is “The History of Urantia”; and Part Four, with seventy-seven papers, is “The Life and Teachings of Jesus”.

While the UB was transmitted through a single human being, the authorship is attributed to a group of superhuman beings, celestial personalities united in a common mission to present this revelation in the English language to our world. According to the cosmology of the UB, the earth is known as Urantia, which is one of about ten million inhabited or inhabitable worlds at various stages of evolution and composing what is known as a local universe. Our local universe is the creation of Michael, a divine being, a Son of God belonging to a class known as Creator Sons. These Sons, according to plan, as part of the scheme of creation, are bestowed on one of the worlds at a certain stage in its evolution. Michael’s chosen bestowal world was Urantia; and Michael lived and went through the experience of human death as Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus was, literally, Son of Man and Son of God.

The UB also informs us that approximately one hundred thousand local universes comprise a superuniverse, of which there are seven. This represents about seven trillion inhabited or inhabitable planets on which dwell an extraordinary variety of types of beings with the common characteristic of being of one family, the family of God,

the Universal Father.

The UB describes a vast array of cosmological data while at the same time presenting a consistent, highly intelligent and insightful philosophy of life and reality. One vital thread concerns not only the origin and nature of mortal, planetary beings, but also their potential ascendant destiny. There is every assurance that each unique human personality has the capacity to survive physical death and to exist on successively higher levels of awareness, growing as in immortal soul, formed by human and divine partnership, to a fully realized spirit. Thus, Jesus’ teachings of eternal life achieve new dimensions of literal truth by this expanded message.

ACIM, available in a single soft-cover volume since 1985, was originally published in 1975 as three hard-bound volumes. These are: the Text, comprising six hundred and twenty-two pages; the Workbook for Students, 478 pages; and an 88- page Manual for Teachers.

The content of the ACIM was transmitted over a period of about eight years, from 1965 to 1973. A preface briefly explains in three short sections: “How It Came”, “What It Is”, and “What It Says”. Thus, the reader is immediately given some helpful information about the work itself. The author, the guiding Spirit-Voice of ACIM, is none other than Michael, our Creator Son, speaking again as Jesus. In many instances, he addresses the reader in the first person, leaving no doubt as to his identity. In an early section of the Text, he comments specifically about revelation as follows: “Revelations are directly inspired by me because I am close to the Holy Spirit, and alert to the revelation-readiness of my brothers. I can thus bring down to them more than they can draw down to themselves. The Holy Spirit mediates higher to lower communication, keeping the direct channel from God to you open for revelation.”

As for the purpose of these revelations, the UB states that “Revelation is a technique whereby ages upon ages of time are saved in the necessary work of sorting and sifting the errors of evolution from the truths of spirit acquirement”; while ACIM states that “revelation saves time”.

The UB also makes an interesting distinction between evolutionary religion and revealed religion and then states: “It is a part of the plan of the universe that, sooner or later, evolutionary religion is destined to receive the spiritual expansion of revelation.”

The UB also states: “In science, God is the First Cause; in religion, the universal and loving Father; in philosophy, the one being who exists by himself, not dependent on any other being for existence but beneficently conferring reality of existence on all things and upon all other beings. But it requires revelation to show that the First Cause of science and the self-existent Unity of philosophy are the

God of religion, full of mercy and goodness and pledged to effect the eternal survival of his children on earth.”

There are interesting, intriguing parallels between the UB and ACIM. Each was transmitted verbatim through a single individual who did not interfere or attempt to contribute his or her own ideas or views. Neither book has any claim of human authorship. I find no contradictions or inconsistencies in either work; in fact, each is a virtually flawless presentation, as logical as it is beautiful. They are equally authoritative and uplifting. I find them to be mutually supportive and compatible. I have carefully read each of them several times, including going through the lessons in the ACIM Workbook on a daily basis for a year as it suggests. Each time I re-read something in either work, I find new depth and gain higher understanding.

An important concept that occurs throughout both the UB and ACIM concerns each individual’s inner spiritual guidance. The references in ACIM to the Voice for God, Teacher, Guide, and Mediator closely parallel the UB’s commentary on what is referred to the Thought Adjuster. ACIM tells us of “the Teacher Who instructs in quiet, speaks of peace, and gives our thoughts whatever meaning they may have”. The UB informs us that: “The great goal of human existence is to attune to the divinity of the indwelling Adjuster ...” and notes that we should: “Trust all matters of mind beyond the dead level of consciousness to the custody of the Adjusters.”

I am confident that the UB and ACIM will stand the test of time; in fact, both are ahead of their time in the sense that there seems to be no widespread higher consciousness prepared to recognize them. The UB, specifically, may be intended for future generations; but it has appeared at this time to acquire a readership from which teachers and leaders will arise. ACIM may have a more immediate mission although it is esoteric and presents a system of thought that is in direct opposition to the thinking and the ways of the material world. However, both the UB and ACIM should ultimately prove to be as persuasive as they are compelling to a serious and open-minded reader.

What an incredible wealth of good fortune in our lifetime to have these two sources of truth! While ACIM speaks the counsel of Jesus, the UB provides new information concerning the life on earth of this Son of God. The UB offers details about the cosmos and our role in it; while ACIM exhorts us to love and to forgive. Where the UB enlightens us intellectually, ACIM uplifts us spiritually. Each has the capability, in the words of ACIM, to “save thousands of years” in our progress towards, in the words of the UB, the “days of light and life”. Together, infused as they are with the Holy Spirit, the potentials are awe-inspiring. May we extend these by seeking and doing the Will of God in our lives!

EXPLORER ENDNOTES from the editor

Truly, we’ve considered another panorama of spiritual perspectives. Now, back to work collecting issue #4. Some good authors have promised their sharings.

Meanwhile, let’s get ready for the rebirth of spring with the Delightful Dozen pieces of Good News for Spring.

12. God has sent teachers and guides everywhere and they are ours for the asking. Why do people persist in thinking that something or other is “impossible”?

11. God is pleased to have a personal relationship with you, and encourages you to visit each day. “Be still and know that I am God.”

10. God shares the mortal experience with you and offers inner guidance through the indwelling spirit. at all times. We have a pilot light!

9. Noise can be eliminated; quietness can be found. It is a ready threshold for spiritual growth.

8. Those who seek God have already been found by God. and indwelt by the Holy Spirit.. So start talking to him. And -- start listening.

7. Jesus showed us precisely how to live and die and proved that death is only a passageway to the spiritual kingdom that is found within. He was incarnated here as you are. He lived as you can. He was resurrected as you can be. And death is perfectly safe.

6. Forgiveness is often as unnecessary as judgment. As a faith child of God you are already forgiven and you don’t have to burden yourself with judgments of others.

5. Human equality is an unnecessary myth. Spiritual equality is a given for God made us the way that we are.

4. God is Love. All you need is Love.

3. The lessons of mortal experience in time and space will be a profound and replete encyclopedia of our learning and growing experience in the ascension plan. We learn things experientially that we could learn no other way.

2. Be yet perfect will take a long, glorious time -- the longer the better.

1. In all things massive and infinitesimal, there is a profound master plan of evolution, with time as a finite tool and space for expansion available as we strive to expand into the spiritual realm accessed by mind and imagination. *Toward L&L Jim*