

## The Search for Perfection: the Quest for the Grail

MARC BELLEAU  
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**I** RECALL HAVING, AT A CERTAIN PERIOD OF my life, discussions with my friends on the definition of perfection. We concluded that it consists in possessing the totality of knowledge and experience. I retained this definition until I read *The Urantia Book*, which, need I say, constantly refers to the attainment of perfection. This concept is a main topic for thought in regard to the Fifth Epochal Revelation. It is important to well understand it so as to set forth the mechanisms that will allow us to respond to our celestial Fathers' invitation, "Be you perfect even as I am perfect." What does this mean for us who live on Urantia? This article is a reflection on the search for perfection within our evolutionary status as incarnated beings.

I will begin by disproving the definition I supplied. Perfection cannot be the acquisition of total knowledge and experience. God is infinite—and thus has no limit—and this means that we can never extinguish his divine creative potential; we will never fully know him, and he will always have something new and exciting for us to discover. It is a bit like walking towards the horizon, seeing a glimpse but never reaching it. We will always know more about God but never in totality.

*It is a bit like walking towards the horizon, seeing a glimpse but never reaching it.*

*Urantia mortals can hardly hope to be perfect in the infinite sense, but it is entirely possible for human beings, starting out as they do on this planet, to attain the supernal and divine goal which the infinite God has set for mortal man; and when they do achieve this destiny, they will, in all that pertains to self-realization and mind attainment, be just as replete in their sphere*



Quest for grail illustration

*of divine perfection as God himself is in his sphere of infinity and eternity. Such perfection may not be universal in the material sense, unlimited in intellectual grasp, or final in spiritual experience, but it is final and complete in all finite aspects of divinity of will, perfection of personality motivation, and God-consciousness.* [Paper 1:05.5, page 22:2] ▶

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Greetings fellow *UAI Journal* readers,

**O**UR APRIL ISSUE FOLLOWS the changing of the seasons and our authors' messages echo that change for us in our daily lives. We begin with an in-depth examination of the "Search for Perfection" by Marc Belleau. Mark has not only found the starting point for this search but he clearly understands the vehicle that is needed for the journey; *"Becoming perfect means to adapt and transform ourselves, greeting change and demonstrating flexibility. The answer to the challenges that crop up in our everyday life is found within our capacity to adapt ourselves. The environmental adjustment mentioned in the preceding quotation is the mechanism by which we can gain perfection."*

Our next contributor, a long time reader and teacher, Dorothy Elder, has given us a detailed curriculum for our study in "The Divine Perfection Plan". Dorothy easily explains the goal of our directive, *"It seems to me as though our response to the challenge of this age is to try to duplicate the Divine Perfection Plans in our lives."* She continues the plan in her next article "The 2nd Mile," where we are enticed with her statement *"why is The Urantia Book so revealing in its extent of Universal truth? Why is it 'out of step' in its up stepping? I believe that modern Agondonter man has been given a unique challenge, and it's not what you're thinking—live The Urantia Book teachings in our lives—disseminate the book—it's more than that—much more..."*

Our third truly thought provoking essay is from Rick Lyon. "Survival of the subnormal mind" delves into those areas of thought where the change we encounter is our perception. Rick's personal journey becomes part of our own as we follow the changing answer

to his query; *"This article has taken me a few years to write. During that time a lot has changed. My thinking about this topic has evolved and the reason for writing it took on greater significance. I finished this article several times but I was never convinced of the very thing I was trying to prove or disprove—until now."*

Our final article is part of a continuing essay from another long time reader/contributor Rick Warren.

In the fifth chapter of his book, "Truth Beauty and Goodness In *The Urantia Book*", Rick examines Truth, Beauty and Goodness (TB&G) from the standpoint of divine affection: *"Love may carry the same truth, beauty and goodness, but never does it manifest in the same way. Love and compassion require that revealed truth always be adapted to the student's mind..."*. Discernment of real need is crucial to love properly applied.

On page 16 from contributor Lou Nicksic, a brief interlude purveying great wisdom with a few select words in his poem, "It Begins with Giving"

*Never pass up the opportunity to give of yourself.*

*For the act of giving creates an inner Joy.*

Happy and Enlightened Reading!

Suzanne Kelly ■

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*The Search for Perfection: the Quest for the Grail cont. from page 1*

So then what is perfection and how do we define it? *The Urantia Book* speaks of three types and seven phases of **perfection manifestation** [Foreword, Paper 0:1.19, page 3:5]. I will not analyze this now but will state that absolute perfection exists only in Paradise and that, as ascending creatures, perfection is relative and partial, depending on our degree of accomplishment.

According to *The Urantia Book*, the quest for perfection is recorded in the deepest regions of our being: our cells.

*There is original endowment of adaptation in living things and beings. In every living plant or animal cell, in every living organism—material or spiritual—there is an insatiable craving for the attainment of ever-increasing perfection of environmental adjustment, organismal adaptation, and augmented life realization. These interminable efforts of all living things evidence the existence within them of an innate striving for perfection.*

[Paper 65:6.2, page 737:2]

The circumstances daily life and the inner urge for achievement that God has instilled in us are sufficient to urge us onto the path of perfection on all levels of reality: material, mental, and spiritual. Here are a few examples to illustrate my point.

- Our immune system must have means to struggle against viruses in constant mutation. In doing so, it adapts itself while improving its defense strategies, gaining in perfection; likewise for all living organisms.
- When the circumstances of life force us to change a trade and broaden our skill sets, as in the case of a layoff or a company restructure, we adapt ourselves by learning a new trade. Such a situation favors growth in our personal abilities and constitutes perfection of thought, intellect.
- In our relationships with stubborn colleagues, we must sometimes adapt ourselves by exercising patience and tolerance, while cultivating self mastery and love for our fellow men; we perfect our spiritual nature by learning to love.

Becoming perfect means to adapt and transform ourselves, greeting change and demonstrating flexibility.

The answer to the challenges that crop up in our everyday life is found within our capacity to adapt ourselves. The environmental adjustment mentioned in the preceding quotation is the mechanism by which we can gain perfection. This requires good physical, mental, and spiritual capacities. We can be the instigators of our own improvement through development on the following levels.

### Physical

*Keep our body and brain in good condition:* for our body to sustain our mind and soul, we must feed it with what it takes to fulfill its task. It is likely the simplest thing to comprehend but at the same time, the most difficult to put in practice since it requires discipline. Proper nutrition and regular physical exercise are different ways of maintaining

a healthy body; it will be better equipped to fight disease. Exercising our brain (memorizing, lecture, practicing arts such as painting, singing or acting, etc.) allows us to preserve acute intellectual capabilities, a must for the expansion of consciousness: the growth of mind and soul. Our physical shape is the base on which progress is rendered possible and this one must be strong.

### Mental

*Acquiring knowledge in various domains of expertise:* knowledge allows us to settle the problems of current life. The more knowledgeable we are, the more we are tooled to face the hard times we encounter. With the building up of knowledge we can tackle problems from different angles and find diversified and inventive solutions. Furthermore, having knowledge in varying domains allows us to savor life more intensely. Learning a new tongue, a new trade, knowing the different spiritual views existing on our planet, investing ourselves in sociology and psychology are different ways of expanding our intellectual horizons. Expressed otherwise, we must cultivate our curiosity and learn to appreciate knowledge.

***Our physical shape is the base on which progress is rendered possible and this one must be strong.***

*The progression of eternity does not consist solely in spiritual development. Intellectual acquisition is also a part of universal education. The experience of the mind is broadened equally with the expansion of the spiritual horizon. Mind and spirit are afforded like opportunities for training and advancement.* [Paper 37:6.6, page 412:6]

*The knowledge of God:* acquiring an ever increasing vision of God, learning to better know him with increasing friendship is our first responsibility. Meditation, prayer, and sharing our experiences are different ways of approaching our creator. Knowledge of God also implies that the concepts we develop must be coherent. Coherence is the intellectual basis on which our faith can lean on for its development and growth. Here is an example: At a certain period I had difficulty with the concept of redemption as presented in Christianity (the agony and death of Christ on the cross to eradicate the divine wrath) because I found it to be inconsistent with the concept of a God of love.

How could God love and at the same time demand that his loving son be tortured to redeem humanity? This apparent contradiction generated doubt in me, abraded my faith and, in time, would have turned me away from God. *The Urantia Book*, while discarding these erroneous ideas, introduces the incarnation of Christ as a disclosure of God's love for his creation as well as a revelation of what the creature can become when choosing to live in association with God. This fact reestablished in me the harmony between the mission of Christ on earth and the emerging concept of a God of love. No more was God this wrathful being, sending his only begotten son to suffer and atone for man's alleged fault. Rather, he was acting with a true and intelligent love. The consistency within the spiritual concepts as presented in *The Urantia Book* allowed me to better understand my creator, strengthen my faith, and favor the growth of my soul.

## Spiritual

Of course, gaining experience is a must on the road to perfection. It allows us to validate our knowledge through study and reflection. Facing and resolving the problems of life allow us to transform our theories into practical knowledge.

*The methods employed in many of the higher schools are beyond the human concept of the art of teaching truth, but this is the keynote of the whole educational system: character acquired by enlightened experience. The teachers provide the enlightenment; the universe station and the ascender's status afford the opportunity for experience; the wise utilization of these two augments character.* [Paper 37: 6.3, page 412:3]

**The consistency within the spiritual concepts as presented in The Urantia Book allowed me to better understand my creator, strengthen my faith, and favor the growth of my soul.**

These methods also apply to our apprenticeship on Urantia. The master humans who teach us may not fully be enlightened on the best way to fulfill our duty, but we must retain that resolving present problems has the effect of developing character, self-mastery. At our level, this means transforming animal nature into human nature. We have many common traits with animals, and this natural inheritance is expressed in many ways. For example, when we toil under pressure with a deadline and lose patience, get anxious and become aggressive, we lack control, inclining towards our animal nature. Seeking self-mastery, promoting tolerance, peace, and faith humanizes us. This is what our spiritual growth consists of down here; it is the first step in our progression towards the Father. Moreover, the whole period spent on the mansion worlds, the one immediately following our journey on Urantia, is aimed at eradicating these animal tendencies of our terrestrial life inheritance.

*One of the purposes of the morontia career is to effect the permanent eradication from the mortal survivors of such animal vestigial traits as procrastination, equivocation, insincerity, problem avoidance, unfairness, and ease seeking. The mansonia life early teaches the young morontia pupils that postponement is in no sense avoidance. After the life in the flesh, time is no longer available as a technique of dodging situations or of circumventing disagreeable obligations.* [Paper 48:5.8, page 551:3]

This excerpt should give us a fair idea of what we can accomplish now during our short but intense time on Urantia. So let's stop stalling, let's take a leg up and start working on this now. Personally, I find it great that *The Urantia Book* enables us to unify the practical aspect of our terrestrial life with the spiritual dimension.

We have spoken about three levels of perfection—physical, mental and spiritual—and the necessity to accumulate knowledge and experience. We concluded that this allows us to better adapt to the ever-changing conditions of life. Adapting means learning from arising situations. Adaptation is the mechanism by which we learn to react with fairness and equity; this is what it means to perfect our human nature. When we do so, we start to resemble God, as he also has to modulate with the changing conditions of his creation. He demonstrates flexibility in the management and administration of a universe in constant change.

*It should be made clear, however, that, if, in the divinity of any situation, in the extremity of any circumstance, in any case where the course of supreme wisdom might indicate the demand for different conduct—if the demands of perfection might for any reason dictate another method of reaction, a better one, then and there would the all-wise God function in that better and more suitable way. That would be the expression of a higher law, not the reversal of a lower law.* [Paper 12:7.3, page 137:6]

This ability to favor the expression of a superior law indicates that God knows and perfectly understands the meaning of a given situation. This knowledge allows him to implement perfectly adapted laws in regard to his creatures. God is the obvious source of all knowledge; he knows without limit and his comprehension is absolute. He is the giver of justice; in such matters, he is changeless. Thus, knowledge of facts and understanding our life events will allow us to adapt the most appropriate attitude also. Here is another example of God's capacity to adjust himself to the choices of his multiple creatures in the universe:

*And the Deities are ever true to the ebb and flow of their spirits in meeting and satisfying the conditions and demands of this differential of creature choice, now bestowing more of their presence in response to a sincere desire for the same and again withdrawing themselves from the scene as their creatures decide adversely in the exercise of their divinely bestowed freedom of choice. And thus does the spirit of divinity become humbly obedient to the choosing of the creatures of the realms.* [Paper 13:4.5, page 150:4]

God, having granted free will to imperfect creatures, must necessarily adjust himself to these creatures' choices. When rebellion broke out in our system, he had to react to the decisions of his depraved sons and remedy the situation in this part of the universe to which our planet belongs by sending some of his sons to the rescue to restore normality, and in many other ways too numerous to mention here. He had to deviate from the normal flow of universe affairs; he adapted himself to this circumstance. Jesus of Nazareth also demonstrated flexibility and adaptation while incarnated on Urantia:

*Jesus had sought to live his life on earth and complete his bestowal mission as the Son of Man. His followers were disposed to regard him as the expected Messiah. Knowing that he could never fulfill their Messianic expectations, he endeavored to effect such a modification of their concept of the Messiah as would enable him partially to meet their expectations. But he now recognized that such a plan could hardly be carried through successfully. He therefore elected boldly to disclose the third plan—openly to announce his divinity, acknowledge the truthfulness of Peter's confession, and directly proclaim to the twelve that he was a Son of God.* [Paper 157:5.2, page 1748:2]

Jesus had to restructure his plan several times so as to adapt it to the needs of humanity. He demonstrated flexibility in his teaching methods so as to give the people of his time a vision of God adapted to their degree of consciousness.

The success of our quest for perfection is established within our ability to adjust ourselves to the occurrences of life; in other words, to be able to find the best adaptable

solutions to daily problems. Knowledge and experience are the tools needed to get to perfection. Presently, it consists in living on Urantia, and further ahead, it will concern life on the mansion worlds, the local universe spheres and on up to Paradise. I would thus define perfection, in the manner of God, as being able to handle any given situation rightly.

*Candidates for eternal life are practitioners of an invigorating and constructive technique for meeting all of the vicissitudes and harassments of mortal living. Every day a true believer lives, he finds it easier to do the right thing.*

[Paper 156:5.13, page 1740:0]

Adapting ourselves is possible when we demonstrate willingness to learn from daily situations. Why not recognize growth opportunities in the obstacles we encounter? In any given situation, we can elect to learn from it or remain subjective; I think this attitude truly represents cooperation with God. When our Master Michael incarnated on earth, he received his lot of attenuated circumstances throughout his lifetime. The heavy family burden which befell upon his young shoulders—Jesus was 15 years of age at this time—when his father died in a work accident is a good example of his capacity to meet up with the abrupt changes that intervened in his life. The dignity he portrayed during his unjust trial, facing misled and wicked-minded men is another inspiring example of adaptation. Toward evil he opposed calmness, faith, and compassion. The goodwill he reflected is the frame of mind which can allow us to adapt with ease. Jesus was an inspiration for a whole universe, and moreover, he was a splendid human example of resilience.

### The First Rendezvous with Perfection

All this research is aimed at reaching the first level of perfection, which takes place on the seventh circle of attainment of Havona (the outer circle), when we will have mastered the cluster of knowledge and experience required by the superuniverse to which we belong. It concerns the perfection of purpose. It is the first stage to attain, the first of many meeting places with perfection:

*When, through and by the ministry of all the helper hosts of the universal scheme of survival, you are finally deposited on the receiving world of Havona, you arrive with only one sort of perfection—perfection of purpose. Your purpose has been thoroughly proved; your faith has been tested. You are known to be disappointment proof. Not even the failure to discern the Universal Father can shake the faith or seriously disturb the trust of an ascendant mortal who has passed through the experience that all must traverse in order to attain the perfect spheres of Havona. By the time you reach Havona, your sincerity has become sublime. Perfection of purpose and divinity of desire, with steadfastness of faith, have secured your entrance to the settled abodes of eternity; your deliverance from the uncertainties of time is full and complete...* [Paper 26:4.13, page 290:3]

The dictionary offers, as synonyms for purpose, terms related to intention: enterprise, idea, plan, mission, resolution, as well as terms related with desire: ambition, motive, aspiration, reason, determination, end, goal, intent, aspiration, quest, and so on. Intention and desire are complementary aspects that allow us to attain perfection of purpose. It is easier to understand the idea of desire, this insatiable hunger which urges us to constantly know more about God and to love him.

Intention concerns more than simple desire. We are told that, as of the seventh mansion world, we will be required to ponder on the path we will choose to use to approach the Paradise Deities once we begin our sojourn on the seven preparatory circles of Havona.

*Immediately upon the confirmation of Adjuster fusion the new morontia being is introduced to his fellows for the first time by his new name and is granted the forty days of spiritual retirement from all routine activities wherein to commune with himself and to choose some one of the optional routes to Havona and to select from the differential techniques of Paradise attainment.* [Paper

47:8.5, page 538:3]

Choosing an optional route to reach Havona and selecting different techniques to attain Paradise means that there are various ways of approaching the Deities. For this reason, we will have to decide which method is most fit to get there—perhaps we can say, “most fit to do the right thing”—and that constitutes the ascension plan. It is difficult to know what it will consist of, but I imagine it should resemble the plans we work out for our professional careers during terrestrial life.

But let us leave these presumptions aside since we are not there yet. The perfection of purpose is thus this insatiable hunger for God which urges us to know more about him, combined with unflinching faith, sincerity, and the formulation of a plan to reach the Paradise Deities.

The first three constituents just mentioned—desire, faith, and sincerity—are the characteristics we can develop now to advance on the road that will lead us toward this first stage of perfection, while working on the three levels developed earlier—material, mental, and spiritual. The ascension plan cannot be addressed down here on Urantia. It must await our arrival on the second to last spheres of the mansion worlds, when fusion with the mortal soul and the Adjuster will have been consummated.

I believe that being perfect consists in making the right decisions, and to this end it is preferable to develop our capacity to adapt to all incoming situations. We have tools for this: goodwill in taking up challenges, increasing knowledge, and experience. The more knowledgeable and experienced we are, the more our choices are accurate; as they grow in accuracy, we grow in perfection. This perfection will never be absolute; it will forever remain a quest for the Grail, something inaccessible. It is precisely this that makes attainment of perfection a thrilling and exciting adventure, a stimulus for our curiosity making us crave to see what God has in reserve for each of us.

Fortunately, there will always be something to discover. He, at the helm of the immense creation, is the master weaver whose inexhaustible creativity weaves the woof of an eternally renewed reality. This sole idea is breathtaking, and I am stunned in the face of the infinite panorama extending ahead of me. I don't want to reach the end of this adventure; I want it to go forever on, somewhat like a movie whose ending isn't wishful because it captivates us with passion and suspense.

If you have comments or suggestions, don't hesitate to write me at [belleaumar@hotmaill.com](mailto:belleaumar@hotmaill.com). ■

**God, having granted free will to imperfect creatures, must necessarily adjust himself to these creatures' choices.**

# The Divine Perfection Plans

DOROTHY ELDER  
USA

I HAVE BEEN IN AWE OF “THE DIVINE Perfection Plans” for many years. A day does not pass that, for a moment, I catch a glimpse of its grandeur flashing through my mind. Just imagine! This whole, immense swirling superuniverse has a divine purpose, and we—the mere finite creatures of time are the sought-after treasures of the age.

***This whole, immense swirling superuniverse has a divine purpose, and we—the mere finite creatures of time are the sought-after treasures of the age.***

Back at the dawn of time God the Father said, “*Let us make man in our own image*”; God the Son went into partnership with the Father with His Bestowal plan; God the Spirit, alone and of Himself, projected and put into action this tremendous operation [Paper 7:4.7, Page 85:7]. The mandate, “*Be you perfect*” went forth, and from that almost eternity moment, the gifts of the Gods were flung out into every corner of the universe for the singular purpose of bringing man to God.

God the Father has already claimed us. His love is so great that He gave us a personality all our own and a personal pilot light to guide us on the way. God the Son’s great revelation enterprise sends His co-ordinate Sons to us to demonstrate and make real the love of the Father and the mercy of the Son. And the minute this plan was conceived, God the Spirit became the administrator of the plan. He pledged all of His resources to the Father and Son to execute their united and eternal purpose; He dedicated all to this stupendous enterprise of *...exalting surviving will creatures to the divine heights of Paradise perfection.* [Paper 8:3.5, page 93:7]

It boggles the mind—at least my mind. I look up at the stars at night and try to imagine how the plan is evolving on all those unseen planets. I think of how I fit into the plan, and my first thought humbles me as I acknowledge the gift of God’s indwelling fragment of light. Then I think of the stupendous event that took place on little Urantia just a moment ago in universe time—Michael’s bestowal—and I feel honored just to know of its significance as part of the divine plan. Next, I think of those rare but exhilarating moments when my human mind grasps a tiny new insight into spiritual reality, and I know that I am on the receiving end of the manifold influences of the Infinite Spirit—all a part of the plan.

My life simply feels real to me knowing, that in some infinitesimal measure, I am part of the plan. We are told, *Uncertainty with security is the essence of the Paradise*



Pathway to perfection illustration

*adventure* [Paper 111:7.1, page 1223:3]—and that is so true. There is uncertainty in this life, but always is there the security of knowing that we are His ascending sons and daughters.

William Sadler, Jr., in his “Study of the Master Universe,” describes Havona in the second universe age as being the divine thesis of perfection—God’s challenge to the imperfection of the encircling evolutionary universes. Our present age is the antithesis of perfection, and the challenge of all this imperfection is growth. This vast creation is filled with imperfect creatures, but each one is endowed with the priceless power of choice, a gift from God (part of the plan). By this gift of free will we can choose to grow.

Overarching this vast scene of evolutionary growth are the arms of the Divine Perfection Plans, guiding us with love, mercy, and ministry to the shores of Paradise. The “Father idea” and the concept of family is a good vantage point from which to study The Divine Plans. It seems natural to view the love, harmony, respect, and cooperation that the three persons of Deity demonstrate in working together as the highest human concept of Family.

So, what is our response to the challenge of this age? First, our decisions turn us inward to the Thought Adjuster, and by doing so we find ourselves seeking God’s will in our lives. With this quest such a maturing person becomes wise, sympathetic, and understanding. Such kindly understanding could serve as the foundation for true mercy [Paper 28:6.8, page 315:1]. Mercy is not a simple thing. Mercy grows out of justice, fairness, patience and kindness; such mercy is truly love in-action. This love-in-action is love that has become wise by the insights of experience. Love-in-action is mercy, and mercy-applied is ministry. [Paper 8:4.2, page 94:4]

It seems to me as though our response to the challenge of this age is to try to duplicate the Divine Perfection Plans in our lives. Let love, mercy, and ministry be our calling cards “*as we pass by.*” [Paper 171:7.10, page 1875]

For me; the greatest thing of all is that we are held secure in the knowledge that we live in a friendly universe, and that this universe has in place a magnificent blueprint for our success. ■

# The Second Mile

## The Challenge, the Message, the Way

DOROTHY J. ELDER  
USA

### The Challenge

**W**HAT UNIFIES US TODAY IS OUR awareness that the dawn of a new and enlightened spiritual era on Urantia is here, and we have enlisted as pilgrims of its progress. Just as the light of dawn disseminates across the horizon on a world of space, so must the dawn of a new spiritual era be disseminated across the horizon until it encompasses the whole of humankind.

*Revelation is evolutionary but always progressive. ... It is the mission of revelation to sort and censor the successive religions of evolution. But if revelation is to exalt and upstep the religions of evolution, then must such divine visitations portray teachings which are not too far removed from the thought and reactions of the age in which they are presented. Thus must and does revelation always keep in touch with evolution. Always must the religion of revelation be limited by man's capacity of receptivity.* [Paper 92:4.1, page 1007:1]

Herein lies the paradox: The nature and content of this sweeping Fifth Epochal Revelation seems to contradict this statement regarding the progression of revelational upstepping. The key word here is **sweeping**. The question is not why we received the revelation, but why such an **extraordinary** one? It is clear to us all **why** we received it. On our historically beleaguered and quarantined planet, science is rapidly advancing, evolutionary religion is stalled, and man's attempt to coordinate these two domains into a logical philosophy has failed. Revelation is needed to illuminate evolutionary religion and to aid man in constructing a new and logical philosophy whereby he can arrive at an understanding of his sure and settled place in the universe.

But why is *The Urantia Book* so revealing in its extent of Universal truth? Why is it "out of step" in its upstepping? I believe that modern agondonter man has been given a unique challenge, and it is not what you're thinking (live *The Urantia Book* teachings, disseminate *The Urantia Book*). It is much more than this. Let's go back for a moment to the bestowal commission. Remember that Immanuel said to Michael in the final words of the bestowal charge:

*Your great mission... is embraced in your decision to live a life wholeheartedly motivated to do the will of your Paradise Father, thus to reveal God, your Father, in the flesh and especially to the creatures of the flesh...[and to] [E]xhibit in your one short life in the flesh, as it has never before been seen in all Nebadon, the transcendent possibilities attainable*



Second miler illustration

*by a God-knowing human during the short career of mortal existence, and make a new and illuminating interpretation of man and the vicissitudes of his planetary life to all the superhuman intelligences of all Nebadon, and for all time.*

Underlining mine, [Paper 120:2.8, page 1328:5]

On the morning of April 7, A.D. 30, over 2,000 years ago, as Jesus stood before Pilate, he did just that: he **raised** us all up in the eyes of his universe. He **demonstrated** that even on a backward planet man could champion all his vicissitudes. He **validated** for eternity the Father's ascension plan. He exhibited once and for all that faith-children of the realms are undaunted. His life **exemplified** that all of humanity's transcendent possibilities are attainable when man goes into partnership with God. Over 2,000 years later *The Urantia Book* is our wake-up call to that partnership. And it is Jesus' illumination of man's maximum human potential that beckons us to our task.

We are now in partnership with God in a unique and unprecedented **plan** for the spiritual and social reconstruction of the planet. It is the biggest deal ever made, and we need a universe perspective to understand our partnership role. Look at the missions of the divine Sons on an average planet. The great social achievement of the Planetary Prince age is the emergence of **family** life. Next, the culminating **development** of the following era—the Adamic age—is universal interest in true philosophy, and the crowning achievement of this age is social brotherhood. Then, with brotherhood flourishing, the Magisterial or Avonal Sons arrive to begin their work of spiritual uplift. Anywhere from 25- to 50,000 years they work to bring the planet to its highest ethical standard and to a fullness of a great spiritual awakening. And when the planet is ripe for **spiritualization**, a bestowal Son arrives to **demonstrate** "the new and living way."

The established plan is always **social brotherhood** first; and then comes the spiritualization of humanity. On our world the plan fell into disarray, and modern man is now floundering in his predicament of intellectual progress hindered by spiritual stagnation. So, in our case, we are going to have to do it the other way around. On Urantia it is the upstepping of the spiritualization of humanity which will lead us to the next required evolutionary goal, which is universal **social brotherhood**.

*Just as the light of dawn disseminates across the horizon on a world of space, so must the dawn of a new spiritual era be disseminated across the horizon until it encompasses the whole of humankind.*

That's the purpose of our task. The challenge, from on high, is that this tremendous task has been given to agondonters. Can we, the early receivers of *The Urantia Book*, collectively in the next century and progressively during the next millennium, harness our potentials and successfully broadcast the new teachings for the advance-

**...demonstrate to the onlooking universe that ascendent sons—inspired agondonter man—armed only with his faith and illuminated by truth—can and will lead a twicedarkened planet to the goal of this age: “Peace on earth and good will towards men.”**

ment of all evolutionary religions and for the spiritual and cultural enlightenment of all mankind? Will we be the men and women who will presage the eventual flowering of a new and universal philosophy on earth? This is not to say we are to become philosophers. *Religion does need new leaders, spiritual men and women who will dare to depend solely on Jesus and his incomparable teachings* [Paper 195:9.4, page 2082:9]. We will be the teachers of expanded spiritual truth:

*The quickest way to realize the brotherhood of man on Urantia is to effect the spiritual transformation of present-day humanity.*

Underlining mine, [Paper 52:6.7, page 598:2]

Recall these quotes:

*Urantia is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustments, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment.* [Paper 195:9.2, page 2082:7]

*If Christianity persists in neglecting its spiritual mission while it continues to busy itself with social and material problems, the spiritual renaissance must await the coming of these new teachers of Jesus' religion who will be exclusively devoted to the spiritual regeneration of men. And then will these spirit-born souls quickly supply the leadership and inspiration requisite for the social, moral, economic, and political reorganization of the world.* [Paper 195:9.4, page 2082:9]

We're also told: *This new and oncoming social order will not settle down complacently for a millennium* [Paper 99:1.1, page 1086:4] and that these progressing changes in the upstepping of social relations can result in lasting brotherhood only by the ministry of religion.

In the drama that is about to unfold, the cast of characters does not include superhuman personalities. Many thousands of lead parts have been handed out—freely given to any outstretched hand. And—with confidence from unseen directors—we have been given blank scripts. Dissemination plans were not part of *The Urantia Book*. It is up to us to chart a wise course.

Let us begin with the understanding that in the modern era we must be the evangelists of new and advanced spiritual truth who will pave the way to the universal acceptance of the golden rule:

*It is futile to talk about a revival of primitive Christianity; you must go forward from where you find yourselves. Modern culture must become spiritually baptized with a new revelation of Jesus' life and illuminated with a new understanding of his gospel of eternal salvation.* [Paper 195:10.1, page 2084:1]

We are taught that:

*it is not the first mile of compulsion, duty, or convention that will transform man and his world, but rather the second mile of free service and liberty-loving devotion that betokens the Jesusonian reaching forth to grasp his brother in love and sweep him on under spiritual guidance toward the higher and divine goal of mortal existence.* [Paper 195:10.5, page 2084:5]

As we go forward on that second mile, let us take up the challenge before us and demonstrate to the onlooking universe that ascendent sons—inspired agondonter man—armed only with his faith and illuminated by truth—can and will lead a twicedarkened planet to the goal of this age: “Peace on earth and good will towards men.” This will be the victory over impatience, the realization of the living gospel, and the triumph of the human potential.

### The Message

In delivering his Epochal Sermon, Jesus concluded by stating: *I have come to proclaim spiritual liberty, teach eternal truth, and foster living faith* [Paper 153:2.6, page 1710:4]. On that day he inaugurated the final, spiritual phase of his gospel:

- Divine Sonship
- Spiritual Liberty
- Eternal Salvation

Teachers of expanded spiritual truth, with leadership and inspiration, are called to carry forward the restatement of this triune message of Jesus with new meaning and power. In preparation, we would do well to review the following excerpt from Immanuel's bestowal charge to Michael:

*...function largely in the role of a teacher. Give attention, first, to the liberation and inspiration of man's spiritual nature. Next, illuminate the darkened human intellect; heal the souls of men, and emancipate their minds from age-old fears...set rebellion-segregated man spiritually free.* [Paper 120: 2.5, page 1328:2-3]

These particular words of counsel should be taken to heart by the teachers of advancing spiritual truth. We are to so conduct ourselves that the effect we have will be to emancipate, illuminate, liberate, and inspire all those with whom we come in contact.

### The Way

With the foregoing in place, the way is truly simple:

#### I. Know the Message

- Teach the new spiritual brotherhood of Jesus: Divine sonship, spiritual liberty, eternal salvation.

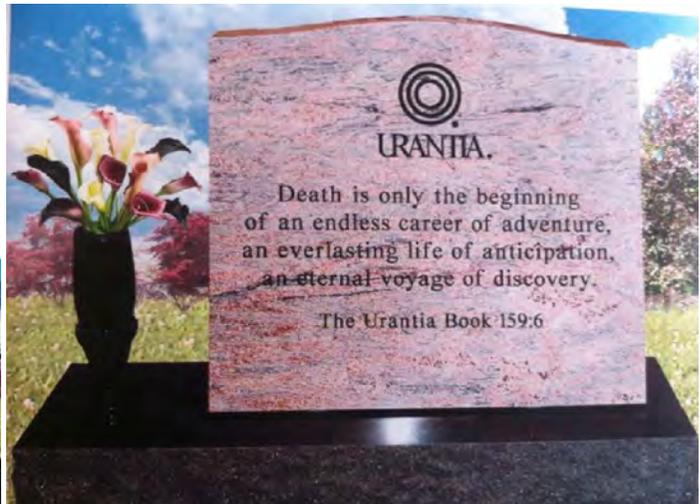
#### II. Know the Goal: Planetary Social Brotherhood

- Do it with spiritual fragrance, “as we pass by”; show forth the fruits of the spirit.
- Do it with inspired leadership.

Armed with the message and nourished by the fruits of the spirit for the way ahead, let us take up the challenge and go forward as true soldiers of the circles towards the goal of a spiritually inspired, socially transformed human society, where man loves his brother and calls a loving God his Father. ■

# Survival of the subnormal mind

RICK LYON  
USA



Memorial to a loved son born with a mental disability.

*Make not the mistake of estimating the soul's worth by the imperfections of the mind or by the appetites of the body. Judge not the soul nor evaluate its destiny by the standard of a single unfortunate human episode. Your spiritual destiny is conditioned only by your spiritual longings and purposes.* [Paper 156:5.9, page 1739:4]

This article has taken me a few years to write. During that time a lot has changed. My thinking about this topic has evolved and the reason for writing it took on greater significance. I finished this article several times but I was never convinced of the very thing I was trying to prove or disprove—until now.

Does a person who does not have a normal mind survive mortal death? As the father of a mentally handicapped son I struggled with this question for many years. I suspect that all parents of a mentally handicapped child do too.

My son, Bradford E. Lyon, was born November 6, 1978 and passed away September 19, 2010. 1978 was the same year that I discovered *The Urantia Book*. Even though life with Brad presented its challenges, we loved him with all our heart. We kept him at home as long as we could and took him everywhere and did all the typical family things trying to make his life as “normal” as we could. When Brad became physically bigger and stronger than his mother, we were forced to do something we did not want to do.

Brad had problems even before he was born and when the happy day came it was soon apparent that his problems were just beginning. His first month of life was filled with episodes of projectile vomiting and no dirty diapers. The doctors said that it was just the formula so try something different. We did—several times. Breastfeeding was totally out of vogue at that time so it wasn't even considered. The young inexperienced mother finally threw a screaming temper tantrum in the doctor's office. The result was the discovery of an intestinal blockage called Pyloric Stenosis.

This required surgery to correct. Brad had not taken in any nourishment and little liquid during the first 30 days of his life.

All seemed well after that. Of course, he was late on his childhood milestones because he had a rough start—at least that is what everyone told us. We heard all the comforting excuses and made up some of our own. At age 2, he was diagnosed as autistic and moderately to severely mentally retarded. With the diagnosis came some relief to finally know what was wrong with our son but the guilt and anger came next. His mom continues to blame herself even today. We kept Brad at home until he got so big that his mom was a wreck from the “aggressive behavior” he exhibited every day. Even when we gave him whatever we thought he wanted he still had his “behaviors”. At age 14 when he was physically bigger than his mom, her attempts to control his behaviors and take care of him were rewarded with bruises and scratches and the fear of something worse. Brad went through a period of self-injury that included biting himself. During a really bad seizure his mom took him to the emergency room. After seeing the bite marks on Brad the police were called and she was questioned and accused of abusing her son. She nearly went to jail because of the ignorance of the emergency room staff about autism at that time.

The purpose of this article is to share with you our own personal growth in understanding these questions. Perhaps we will see how applying *The Urantia Book* teachings to our daily life situations can help us to understand them and react to them in a more positive manner. We can put the teachings into action and grow and benefit from them. I hope this article will bring the peace we have found in *The Urantia Book* concerning our son to you who have similar circumstances. Let me thank my wife Shelia for her help in researching the eulogy for Brad. Shelia supposedly doesn't read the book but somehow she sure knows a lot about what it says. Because of her, what I said at Brad's

**Does a person who does not have a normal mind survive mortal death? As the father of a mentally handicapped son I struggled with this question for many years.**

funeral was greatly improved and what I believed changed too —something good that resulted from something bad. Just the process of searching the teachings for the right words to say helped me to come to terms with things that I have struggled with for years concerning my son. Of course there are not enough words to describe the love, loyalty, and courage of Brad's mom, Deborah.

Three questions that concerned us as Brad's parents were:

Why is Brad the way he is?

What will happen to Brad if we die?

What will happen to Brad when he dies?

The first question, "Why is Brad the way he is?" is one that all parents of a handicapped child will ask and the next one is usually "Why did God let his happen?" A few years after Brad was born I once told a friend of mine who had a severely handicapped newborn child that first you blame yourself; then you blame your spouse; then you blame

God; and then you finally realize that nobody is to blame but you are left with the confusion and frustration of "Why?" The conclusion that I came to was that this is a material life with material bodies and like any material thing on an imperfect world, they sometimes break or go bad, or eventually wear out.

**The conclusion that I came to was that this is a material life with material bodies and like any material thing on an imperfect world, they sometimes break or go bad, or eventually wear out.**

Jesus said, *In the matter of sickness and health, you should know that these bodily states are the result of material causes; health is not the smile of heaven, neither is affliction the frown of God.* [Paper 166:4.10, page 1831:1]

The difficulties of Brad's life were not in any way a sign of God's disfavor with him or us. Brad was simply an innocent victim of one of the material accidents of time. Such occurrences are not pre-arranged or otherwise produced by the spiritual forces of the realm. Our Father does not cause or send pain and suffering upon us.

*The Father causes his rain to fall on the just and the unjust; the sun likewise shines on the righteous and the unrighteous...* [Paper 166:4.4, page 1830:4]

I think this means that bad things happen to good people just as good things happen to bad people. The situations in life are different for each person but our lives are made up of both good and bad events regardless of who we are or what kind of person we are. If I have learned anything from my 58 years on this planet it is that good things often come from bad experiences. Often there is a benefit to suffering or the difficulties and disappointments of life.

So, why do bad things, or what we perceive as bad things, happen?

From *The Urantia Book* we are told:

The uncertainties of life and the vicissitudes of existence do not in any manner contradict the concept of the universal sovereignty of God. All evolutionary creature life is beset by certain inevitabilities.

Consider the following:

**Is courage—strength of character—desirable? Then must man be reared in an environment which necessitates grappling with hardships and reacting to disappointments.** [Paper 3:5.6, page 51:5]

**Is altruism—service of one's fellows—desirable? Then must life experience provide for encountering situations of social inequality.** [Paper 3:5.7, page 51:6]

**Is hope—the grandeur of trust—desirable? Then human existence must constantly be confronted with insecurities and recurrent uncertainties.** [Paper 3:5.8.3, page 51:7]

**Is faith—the supreme assertion of human thought—desirable? Then must the mind of man find itself in that troublesome predicament where it ever knows less than it can believe.** [Paper 3:5.9, page 51:8]

**Is pleasure—the satisfaction of happiness—desirable? Then must man live in a world where the alternative of pain and the likelihood of suffering are ever-present experiential possibilities.** [Paper 3:5.14, page 51:8]

We are also told that the greatest affliction is to have never been afflicted. It is often the bad things in life that make us appreciate the good. It is the ugliness in this world that makes us appreciate the beauty of God's creation. It is the potential of evil that gives us the opportunity to choose the good.

In the mind of God there is a plan but as mortals on this tiny isolated material world it is nearly impossible for us to comprehend that plan. While at times we may question God's ways and wonder why things happen the way they do, all we can do is believe and put our faith in God and in the wisdom of his plan for we know that our Father loves us unconditionally and He would never do anything to hurt us. The ways of God are true, beautiful, and good. It is the truth, beauty, and goodness instilled in us by the indwelling spirit that leads us to love our children, our grandchildren, and each other.

Why was Brad the way he was? The simple answer is because something went wrong during the material development of his physical body. Brad's hardships and disappointments gave us courage to fight for his happiness and well-being. The unfairness of Brad's situation inspired many to serve as caregivers and their service no doubt brought them spiritual satisfaction. The uncertainty of his survival and the reasons for his problems caused us to have faith because we believed more than we knew about Brad's life and his future. Brad's pain and suffering caused us to appreciate our own health and happiness and that of his sibling and our grandchildren. Caring for Brad made us unselfish as we chose to put his needs above our own.

The second question, "What will happen to Brad if we die?" is a question concerning the care of Brad while here on Urantia. Since Brad has gone before us this is no longer of concern. However, let me share this quote with you that I think does relate to Brad's life here.

**The teaching about guardian angels is not a myth; certain groups of human beings do actually have personal angels. It was in recognition of this that Jesus, in speaking of the children of the heavenly kingdom, said: "Take heed that you despise not one of these little ones, for I say to you, their angels do always behold the presence of the spirit of my Father."** [Paper 113:1.1, page 1241:3]

**Originally, the seraphim were definitely assigned to the separate Urantia races. But since the bestowal of Michael, they are assigned in accordance with human intelligence, spirituality, and destiny. Intellectually, mankind is divided into three classes:** [Paper 113:1.2, page 1241:4]

**... The subnormal minded—those who do not exercise normal will power; those who do not make average decisions. This class embraces those who cannot comprehend God; they lack capacity for the intelligent worship of Deity. The subnormal beings of Urantia have a corps of seraphim, one company, with one battalion of cherubim, assigned to minister to them and to witness that justice and mercy are extended to them in the life struggles of the sphere.** [Paper 113:1.3, page 1241:4]

Had Brad outlived his parents, the Guardian Angels would have continued to watch over him.

As for the third question—which is the focus of this article, “What will happen to Brad when he dies?” If we study things like the planetary nursery and the subnormal minded, perhaps we can find an answer to this. This question always seems to come up in study group at some point because of my son Brad. The more we discuss it the more an answer seems to elude me. I came to believe that I finally knew the answer to this question but now I believe that I was wrong about it.

Because Brad did not have a normal mind, does that mean that he was merely an animal and not human? Since he could not make a moral choice (or at least a moral choice that we could perceive) was he unable to receive an adjuster? Since he could not receive an adjuster was he less than human?

**The survival of mortal creatures is wholly predicated on the evolvment of an immortal soul within the mortal mind.** [Paper 36:6.5, page 404:3]

Since I believed that Brad had not received an adjuster I felt that Brad would not survive. However, how could I know that Brad never made a moral decision? Brad was kind to others, loved babies, loved us, and would share with others. Maybe Brads “problem” was more of a problem with my thinking than with Brad himself.

**Mortal mind, prior to death, is self-consciously independent of the Adjuster presence; adjutant mind needs only the associated material-energy pattern to enable it to operate.** [Paper 112:6.7, page 1236:5]

So, Brad was mortal even without the Adjuster presence and the Adjutant Mind Spirits functioned in him.

**...The subnormal man should be kept under society’s control; no more should be produced than are required to administer the lower levels of industry, those tasks requiring intelligence above the animal level ....** [Paper 68:6.11, page 770:8]

A subnormal man functions at an intelligence level above that of an animal. So, now I believe that Brad was not

merely an animal in a human body. I always treated Brad as a person, as my son, and never as anything less than a human. It is strange sometimes, the struggles that we inflict upon ourselves through the lack of understanding.

I was confused about when does our time run out to make our “final choice”? If a person is incapable of making an average decision can they make such an important decision as choosing to do Gods will rather than their own? Must it be made before mortal death? Does a person who is not of normal mind have survival potential? My opinion was that they did not because they did not receive a Thought Adjuster. I based this belief on this quote:

**If the finite mind of man is unable to comprehend how so great and so majestic a God as the Universal Father can descend from his eternal abode in infinite perfection to fraternize with the individual human creature, then must such a finite intellect rest assurance of divine fellowship upon the truth of the fact that an actual fragment of the living God resides within the intellect of every normal-minded and morally conscious Urantia mortal...** [Paper 5:0.1 , page 62:1]

**I always treated Brad as a person, as my son, and never as anything less than a human.**

And:

**Thereafter all normal-minded will creatures of that world will receive Adjusters as soon as they attain the age of moral responsibility, of spiritual choice.** [Paper 52:5.6 page 596.4]

Because I read things like this I came to believe that Brad did not have survival potential because he was unable to make a choice of anything beyond his immediate material needs. My confusion grew as Brad passed his sixteenth birthday because:

**... Any time after sixteen, if final choice has been made, they translate to the first mansion world and begin their Paradise ascent. Some make a choice before this age and go on to the ascension spheres, but very few children under sixteen years of age, as reckoned by Urantia standards, will be found on the mansion worlds.** [Paper 47:2.5 page 532:3]

At the time of Brads passing, he was 31 years old with the mental age of 2-3 years old. He was an adult body with a child mind. Does the above quote refer to material age or mental age? Part of me thought it referred to material age because it says “as reckoned by Urantia standards”. Part of me thought it did not because why would the age of the material body have any value to a spiritual decision? Since Brad was 31 years old, it seemed that the issue was no longer valid as he was past the age of 16 and had not been able to make his choice—but how many normal minded people over the age of 16 have not made that choice either?

Was Brad a child that qualified for the nursery or was he an adult who missed his chance? Is not making a choice the same as rejection of God? Maybe this question could help us to understand the situation that faces our loved ones who also don’t make their choice during this mortal life. Do they get the chance to make their choice after mortal death? When does the time to make our choice run out?

Children who have not yet received an adjuster do survive. An infant who is not yet capable of making an average decision does survive. Apparently making the final decision about God is not required prior to mortal death. It must be made at some point, before we can leave the mansion worlds but we are given every opportunity to make that choice until the final choice—either way—is made.

*Eternal survival of personality is wholly dependent on the choosing of the mortal mind, whose decisions*

*determine the survival potential of the immortal soul. When the mind believes God and the soul knows God, and when, with the fostering Adjuster, they all desire God, then is survival assured. Limitations of intellect, curtailment of education, deprivation of culture, impoverishment of social status, even inferiority of the human standards of morality resulting from the unfortunate lack of educational, cultural, and social advantages, cannot invalidate the presence of the divine spirit in such unfortunate and humanly handicapped but believing individuals. The indwelling of the Mystery Monitor constitutes the inception and insures the possibility of the potential of growth and survival of the immortal soul.* [Paper 5:5.13, page 69:8]

***I now believe that because of the patience, tolerance, understanding, and merciful sympathy of the governing bodies of Orvonton and Nebadon that Brad will be afforded additional time and accorded further opportunity in which to make his choice and shall not be deprived of the eternal joy of pursuing the ascending career.***

This paragraph confused me because on the one hand survival is dependent upon making a decision but on the other hand the limitations of intellect do not “invalidate” the presence of the indwelling adjuster.

*Though the cosmic circles of personality growth must eventually be attained, if, through no fault of your own, the accidents of time and the handicaps of material existence prevent your mastering these levels on your native planet, if your intentions and desires are of survival value, there are issued the decrees of probation extension. You will be afforded additional time in which to prove yourself.* [Paper 112:5.6, page 1233:2]

*If ever there is doubt as to the advisability of advancing a human identity to the mansion worlds, the universe governments invariably rule in the personal interests of that individual; they unhesitatingly advance such a soul to the status of a transitional being, while they continue their observations of the emerging morontia intent and spiritual purpose. Thus divine justice is certain of achievement, and divine mercy is accorded further opportunity for extending its ministry.* [Paper 112:5.7, page 1233:3]

*The governments of Orvonton and Nebadon do not claim absolute perfection for the detail working of the universal plan of mortal repersonalization, but they do claim to, and actually do, manifest patience, tolerance, understanding, and merciful sympathy. We had rather assume the risk of a system rebellion than to court the hazard of depriving one struggling mortal from any*

*evolutionary world of the eternal joy of pursuing the ascending career.* [Paper 112:5.8, page 1233:4]

*This does not mean that human beings are to enjoy a second opportunity in the face of the rejection of a first, not at all. But it does signify that all will creatures are to experience one true opportunity to make one undoubted, self-conscious, and final choice. The sovereign Judges of the universes will not deprive any being of personality status who has not finally and fully made the eternal choice; the soul of man must and will be given full and ample opportunity to reveal its true intent and real purpose.* (Paper 112:5.9, page 1233:5)

I now believe that because of the patience, tolerance, understanding, and merciful sympathy of the governing bodies of Orvonton and Nebadon that Brad will be afforded additional time and accorded further opportunity in which to make his choice and shall not be deprived of the eternal joy of pursuing the ascending career. The failure to make a final choice concerning God before mortal death will not prevent Brad's survival and advancement to the mansion worlds. I now believe that the mental handicaps that my son had will not prevent him from being given full and ample opportunity to make one undoubted, self-conscious, and final choice.

So, how about the inability to acquire a Thought Adjuster prior to mortal death? We read in Paper 47 about the Probationary Nursery on mansion world number one:

*This probation nursery of Satania is maintained by certain morontia personalities on the finaliter's world, one half of the planet being devoted to this work of child rearing. Here are received and reassembled certain children of surviving mortals, such as those offspring who perished on the evolutionary worlds before acquiring spiritual status as individuals. The ascension of either of its natural parents insures that such a mortal child of the realms will be accorded repersonalization on the system finaliter planet and there be permitted to demonstrate by subsequent freewill choice whether or not it elects to follow the parental path of mortal ascension...* [Paper 45:6.7 page 516.5]

*The infant-receiving schools of Satania are situated on the finaliter world, the first of the Jerusem transition-culture spheres. These infant-receiving schools are enterprises devoted to the nurture and training of the children of time, including those who have died on the evolutionary worlds of space before the acquirement of individual status on the universe records. In the event of the survival of either or both of such a child's parents, the guardian of destiny deputizes her associated cherubim as the custodian of the child's potential identity, charging the cherubim with the responsibility of delivering this undeveloped soul into the hands of the Mansion World Teachers in the probationary nurseries of the morontia worlds.* [Paper 47:2.1, page 531:5]

It seems that a lot of effort goes into the education and training of undeveloped souls in order to promote their spiritual survival.

*It is these same deserted cherubim who, as Mansion World Teachers, under the supervision of the Melchizedeks, maintain such extensive educational facilities for the training of the probationary wards of the finaliters. These wards of the finaliters, these infants of ascending mortals, are always personalized as of their exact physical status at the time of death except for reproductive potential. This awakening occurs at the exact time of the parental arrival on the first mansion world. And then are these children given every opportunity, as they are, to choose the heavenly way just as they would have made such a choice on the worlds where death so untimely terminated their careers.* [Paper 47:2.2, page 531:6]

*On the nursery world, probationary creatures are grouped according to whether or not they have Adjusters, for the Adjusters come to indwell these material children just as on the worlds of time. Children of pre-Adjuster ages are cared for in families of five, ranging in ages from one year and under up to approximately five years, or that age when the Adjuster arrives.* [Paper 47:2.3, page 532:1]

*All children on the evolving worlds who have Thought Adjusters, but who before death had not made a choice concerning the Paradise career, are also repersonalized on the finaliter world of the system, where they likewise grow up in the families of the Material Sons and their associates as do those little ones who arrived without Adjusters, but who will subsequently receive the Mystery Monitors after attaining the requisite age of moral choice.* [Paper 47:2.4, page 532:2]

*The guardian seraphim attend these youths in the probationary nursery on the finaliter world just as they spiritually minister to mortals on the evolutionary planets, while the faithful spornagia minister to their physical necessities. And so do these children grow up on the transition world until such time as they make their final choice.* [Paper 47:2.6, page 532:4]

*When material life has run its course, if no choice has been made for the ascendant life, or if these children of time definitely decide against the Havona adventure, death automatically terminates their probationary careers. There is no adjudication of such cases; there is no resurrection from such a second death. They simply become as though they had not been.* [Paper 47:2.7, page 532:5]

*But if they choose the Paradise path of perfection, they are immediately made ready for translation to the first mansion world, where many of them arrive in time to join their parents in the Havona ascent. After passing through Havona and attaining the Deities,*

*these salvaged souls of mortal origin constitute the permanent ascendant citizenship of Paradise. These children who have been deprived of the valuable and essential evolutionary experience on the worlds of mortal nativity are not mustered into the Corps of the Finality.* [Paper 47:2.8, page 532:6]

Does a person of subnormal mind survive mortal death? Let me point out that:

- Subnormal minded people are not animals but are mortals with less intelligent minds that function on levels higher than animals.
- The first mansion world has a nursery dedicated to the pre-choice children of surviving mortals.
- Infants who have not yet received a Thought Adjuster have survival potential and are kept safe in the Planetary Nursery until a parent arrives to make decisions concerning their future.
- Thought Adjusters come to indwell the children of the planetary nursery just as they would on this material world.
- A corps of seraphim, one company, with one battalion of cherubim, minister to the subnormal children of Urantia to assure that justice and mercy are extended to the subnormal minded in this material life.
- Mansion World Teachers, under the supervision of the Melchizedeks, maintain extensive educational facilities for the training of the probationary wards of the finaliters.

***It seems that a lot of effort goes into the education and training of undeveloped souls in order to promote their spiritual survival.***

Finaliters, Melchizedeks, Seraphim, Cherubim, and surviving parents all are involved in the mortal and post-mortal life of these undeveloped souls. Education and training in infant-receiving schools are provided to prepare these children of time for the ultimate adventure. A corps of Seraphim and a battalion of Cherubim watch over the mortal life of the subnormal minded. It seems that a lot of effort is put forth to care for these imperfect children of this imperfect material world. So apparently they must have potential survival value. We see in *The Urantia Book* that potential is very important for it is not what we are but what we are becoming that is important. In this spiritual universe, I suspect that only real or potential spiritual value is worthy of the efforts of Angels and spiritual beings. I now believe that we are assured that the material difficulties and physical imperfections of Brad's mortal life do not follow him or hinder his potential for an eternal spiritual life or in any way prevent his survival and attainment of the presence of God.

I am now convinced that Brad is now sleeping, awaiting for his mom or I to arrive and awaken him on the mansion world; Where perhaps for the first time he will make a clear and conscious choice about his future.

I believe that one of the greatest lessons from *The Urantia Book* is that "in the mind of God there is a plan" and that the universe is friendly and everything works for



Brad Lyon

the good. While Brad's passing was painful for us, some good has come from it. I did the eulogy for my son because it was the last thing I could do for him. Those who know me personally know what a difficult thing it is for me to speak in front of people. That eulogy allowed me to share teachings from *The Urantia Book* with family

and friends that I have not been able to reach otherwise. I boldly quoted the book and mentioned it by name in the eulogy. The funeral home director told me that, "In 15

years of doing these, that was the best eulogy I ever heard."—all of it straight from the book. A couple of weeks later, my two sisters showed up at my study group. They came because of what I had said at Brad's funeral. Brad's mom (Deborah) has suffered years of guilt over Brad but the words of *The Urantia Book* washed away this guilt and fear in a way that I was not able to help her with before. My wife Shelia helped me research the words of the eulogy and revealed that she knows a lot more about the book than

I realized. The guys at work sent flowers for Brad. So I thanked them for their sympathy, I sent an email to about 750 people at work that said, "While we are sad at the loss of Brad and miss him dearly, we are excited for him because we know that "death is only the beginning of an endless career of adventure, an everlasting life of anticipation, an eternal voyage of discovery." I got about a half dozen nice emails back commenting on this statement.

The headstone for Brad includes a quote from *The Urantia Book* to further communicate our beliefs and faith to our family and friends who visit Brad's gravesite.

This is where my effort to write this article stalled. Even though the article was complete in my mind it did not feel complete in my heart. There seemed to be something missing—either in my article or in my mind. I would revisit this article from time to time—editing and tweaking, trying to find the conclusion that so far escaped me. I could not figure out why I was reluctant to share it even though it seemed complete.

Then one day Shelia showed me a Youtube video about a girl named Carly. Carly was almost exactly like Brad in her appearance, mannerisms, and behavior. Carly's parents were saying words that could have been direct quotes from me and Brad's mom when speaking about Brad. Let me back up for a moment to add some more similarity between our situation and that of Carly.

Several years ago I had the idea of programming a computer so that if Brad touched a key on the keyboard it would say a word. I thought this would be something Brad could learn to use to communicate. However, I just could not figure out how to do it. Sounds simple enough for

someone to do though—if you know how to do computer programming. You would think there would be an app for that. I then tried to convince the company that provided for Brads 24/7 care to purchase a talking computer. However, they were \$30-40,000, which I found hard to believe. Of course, I could not afford that. The provider couldn't either and the state would not approve it because the behavior specialist could not confirm that Brad would be able to use it let alone benefit from it. I suspect now that our evaluation of Brads capabilities were much too low. I wish now that I had been one of those parents who fights and demands everything they can get for their child until they get it. But, Brad was happy and safe and that is all I ever wanted for him considering the situation. Perhaps I was terribly mistaken. What if I had pushed the issue of buying a computer or tried harder to do it myself.....

I have never doubted anything I have found in *The Urantia Book*. Sometimes they make me scratch my head and wonder but then something happens to convince me of the truth of whatever it was. While I believed all *The Urantia Book* said about this subject and that I included for this article, I was just never really convinced of what was behind those happy eyes of Brad—was there really a personality with survival potential inside there? I resigned myself to discovering the answer to that on Mansion World #1.

The Youtube video that convinced me of the truth contained in *The Urantia Book* and that I share with you here [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

You will see that

Carly, like Brad, was obviously severely handicapped. But one day something wonderful happened. Once again a bad situation caused something good to occur. I will let you discover this for yourself if interested. After watching this video I became totally convinced that my son is now sleeping in the arms of the angels, safe and happy and waiting for me or his mom to come wake him from his slumber. The survival and continuing journey of Brad depends on our survival and we shall not fail him or our Father. I am now convinced that Brad's physical difficulties do not prevent Brad's eternal survival. I wonder if he is dreaming of that day. I know I am.

So, this is the story of my progressive journey concerning my son and his eternal future. I struggled for years wavering between believing that my son would not survive but hoping that I was wrong, to being convinced that he has survived and to be looking forward to monitoring his future growth and progress in service to our Father. I came from believing that Brad had no potential survival value to being convinced of that fact and looking forward to the day when I see him again. I came from feeling somehow responsible for his handicaps and disappointment that he would miss the opportunity to experience the ultimate adventure to knowing that sometime soon he will be able to communicate with a clear functioning mind, a new and improved morontia body, and once again enjoy the loving embrace of a father for his son. ■

...to communicate with  
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his son.

# Truth, Beauty and Goodness In The Urantia Book

## Chapter 5 ~ Love

RICK WARREN  
USA



Giving love illustration

**T**RUTH, BEAUTY AND GOODNESS ARE LOVE in motion. The Midwayer Commission said of Jesus:

*...He revealed a goodness equal to God. He exalted love—truth, beauty, and goodness—as the divine ideal and the eternal reality....*[Paper 140:8.31, page 1583:5]

The primary reality in the personal realm is love; therefore do all persons crave love. All creatures capable of love want it and bestow it. Sooner or later, the universal response to receiving love is the desire to give it. There is no greater stimulus for good than love, and no greater experience between personal beings. The greatest love possible for ascending creatures like you is with Father, the Creator of Love.

When great cooks are asked: “What’s your secret ingredient?” They will invariably answer with sincerity and a beaming smile—“LOVE!” Great musicians all agree the best music comes from the heart. And love can be an ingredient in any offering—a meal, a song, a quilt, a painting, an idea, even a drink of water. You need, even require, divine love’s give and take.

*...Love is the desire to do good to others....* [Paper 56:10.21, page 648:4]

Father’s love kindly asks (but never forces) you to consider and fill the real needs of others without the expectation of reward. However, the satisfactions of service always accompany service well rendered. When you truly love, you have learned to recognize what is genuinely good for your family, friends, associates, especially for yourself and the God fragment that lives at your center. Through love you find the best and right ways to interact by observing, listening, reflecting, even giving advice when required.

Love must have empathy—compassionate understanding—that always results in appropriate service. Wanting to know and fill another’s worthy desires signifies a loving spirit and growing empathy in you. This empathy implies a personal universe with a center of love and divine personality. Jesus declares the foundations of God’s loving character are truth, beauty and goodness.

*“...Love is the ancestor of all spiritual goodness, the essence of the true and the beautiful....”*[Paper 192:2.1, page 2047:5]

This three-fold concept provides the scaffolding for a newer and grander philosophy of living that extends your reach to higher and higher spiritual levels. By relentlessly studying and living truth, beauty and goodness you will eventually attain their absolute levels, even our Father on Paradise, the source and center of divine love.

Any essay on love’s relation to beauty, goodness and truth could easily be confusing owing to preconceived ideas about the nature, meaning and value of this hackneyed word love. Hoping to avoid confusion this essay will explore divine love, spiritual love (Agape to western theologians), love that asks nothing and gives all, God’s perfect, personal, pristine and timeless love.

*“...God is love; therefore he must be good....”*[Paper 130:1.5, page 1429:1]

Love’s absolute and perfect living form is no less than the PERSON of our Universal Father, who is also love’s source, standard and destiny. Father’s love pours out of Paradise in great rivers flooding each universe. Like water, love may change states but it forever remains love as it rounds the great circuit from Father to personal creatures like you, ever nourishing all as it travels, ever leaving behind spiritual fruit. Spirit love flows through you and back to its source, enriching all, ever adapting and never ceasing. This universal spiritual watering system was designed and always upheld by the Divine Gardener, even our Father who conceived and created personalities, love, time and space.

*...When man loses sight of the love of a personal God, the kingdom of God becomes merely the kingdom of good....*[Paper 2:5.12, page 40:4]

Love without God at its center is but a human invention of limited value and endurance. Love between family members, friends or marriage partners is most real and lasting when it is born of, and sustained by, our loving Universal Father. God’s love is most dependable, far reaching, whole and fulfilling. It is perfect and matchless in quality and unlimited in quantity, notwithstanding all links in the circle of love must be in place for its circulation.

Your personal knowledge and experience with divine love depends on how well you study, define and thereby *live love*. A sound philosophy of living is therefore crucial for God’s love to take root and flourish in you. Truth, beauty and goodness are three branches of that spiritual philosophy. They are the conceptual framework you require to approach Father’s perfect love in time, space and eternity.

Among love’s many rewards is a feeling of belonging, along with an inexplicable peace and joy. A great soul in love uses tact and tolerance, earns recognition and respect, practices patience, inspires faith, fosters amity and cooperates with the Father Fragment inside who spiritizes your thinking and acting in living love. Love’s offspring is a soul satisfaction and understanding beyond words. Love’s labors reflect a selfless goodness of living truth which is always beautiful, no matter

**The primary reality in the personal realm is love...**

its manifestations. And be not surprised that wherever you find love, you find creativity.

Love is invisible, intangible, silent, without smell or taste, yet it is the most real of all realities. And Father's great love is everywhere at all times. No one knows the source of Father or his good, beautiful and true love. But revelation, personal and epochal, says it is boundless and lavish; that God's love ceaselessly flows over the cosmos like a great, warm and gentle wave. Love's healing waters ever spread to your family, terrestrial and celestial, even as your soul fills to overflowing. God's love is always beautiful in its varied expressions. It may be tragic or triumphal, but it is always beautiful and fraught with spirit value.

All beauty worthy of the name reveals some aspect of the divine heart of love. But no one knows where, when or how Father created love and decreed it a universal attitude and family touchstone. Or by what means God created the ability to sense, know and share love. One of the most delectable of all Father's gifts is the ability to create beauty. When love and creativity commingle, good fruit always comes forth. Said Jesus:

*"...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, unailing goodness, forgiving tolerance, and enduring peace...."* [Paper 193:2.2, page 2054:3]

## "It begins with Giving..."



Spirit of giving, illustration

LOU NICKSIC  
USA

**N**EVER PASS UP THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE of yourself.  
For the act of giving creates an inner Joy.  
And to observe someone's appreciation of your gift is truly a treasure worth remembering.

Then, knowing that your gift has brought pleasure to someone,  
your heart is filled with happiness  
and your Spiritual Presence can better shine through.

With your every gift of kindness,  
your light becomes a little brighter,  
permitting LOVE to penetrate through the curtains of doubt  
and helps illuminate your difficult path forward.

Then, with LOVE now at the forefront,  
our Father is given the chance to better embrace your Soul,  
and draw your very Spirit ever closer to His presence.

Therefore, never pass up the opportunity to give of yourself.  
For, **"It begins with Giving...."** ■

You know love only because Father wants to give and receive it. God ensures that everyone who sincerely wishes it comes to know his real love at some point in the life in the flesh--unless they flatly reject it. These love points are pivotal, they are religious experiences on which grows faith in Deity and survival. Accepting and using this feeling of real love ensures an abundance of faith and consequent spiritual fruit bearing. Apparently spirit fruit pleases the divine palette because the love that creates this fruit forever proceeds from God, going out to cooks, artists, laborers, parents, all sincere and aspiring sons and daughters of our true, good and beautiful Father.

What manner of graciousness, devotion, and solicitous watch-care, causes the Universal Father, this Being of Absolute Love at the center of all beings and things, to spread such an unspeakably supernal gift to every daughter and son who wants it, everywhere simultaneously and eternally?! No one knows. But sooner or later everyone who seeks comes to know that Father's true, good and beautiful love is to the cosmic child what mother's milk is to a babe.

*...Truth is coherent, beauty attractive, goodness stabilizing. And when these values of that which is real are co-ordinated in personality experience, the result is a high order of love conditioned by wisdom and qualified by loyalty....* [Paper 2:7.12, page 43:5]

Divine love is free, abundant and everywhere available, and this love is the greatest thing in the universe. You may have all you want in time and eternity for the amazing low price of joining with Father in Universe building, discovering the limits of creative potential (if such limits exist), and doing it all with a strong and abiding love. This love is born, tempered and strengthened in the crucible of the ever-expanding experience of time and space.

Your faith-price for receiving God's delightful, joyful love is to become a loyal member of the cosmic family, to participate in the divine scheme of universal family expansion, to progress in acquiring eternal and infinite goodness, to raise spiritual awareness and accumulate divine values, even to perfection.

Father offers you freewill to explore infinity and eternity, but asks only voluntary and loving cooperation. Cooperation Father needs in the unimaginably vast and magnificent unfolding of Universe potentials, values, purposes and personalities. Apparently not even God can enjoy love and service alone. To come alive, divine love requires at least two persons and something to do, be they human or divine, or human and divine. Divine love always eschews hatred and meanness.

*...True love does not compromise nor condone hate; it destroys it....* [Paper 188:5.2, page 2018:1]

If you have been on this partially enlightened and twice defaulted planet long, you know love is often lost in the daily struggles between good and evil, truth and error, self and others. This interference with love's potential is slowly diminishing on Earth as fear and ignorance are gradually, and painfully, replaced by love, truth, beauty and goodness.

To help navigate the often turbulent spiritual waters of an isolated world like ours, you have been given access to the "Spirit of Truth". This Spirit is Jesus' enduring gift to humanity, given on Pentecost almost 2000 years ago. The Spirit of Truth not only helps you choose between right and wrong, it also directs the loving interactions between ascending souls. You have in the Spirit of Truth a detector, a comforter, and a promoter of undying fraternal love. It is: *...the Spirit of Truth, who directs the loving contact of one human being with another....* [Paper 180:5.11, page 1951:0]

Michael's perpetual love gift, the Spirit of Truth bestowed on Pentecost, leads you quickly into learning the truths and beauties of God-inspired goodness. Kindness heals relations just as a good medicine restores the body, while sympathetic understanding reflects a magnanimous heart. After you imbibe and enjoy divine goodness, it begins to flow more and more freely from Father's heart to yours, then on to the hearts and minds of your associates, friends and lovers—up to your capacity to impart love. Your capacity depends entirely on how much God-likeness there is in you—on how much truth, beauty and goodness dwell in you.

After accepting your role in the cosmic family, and with an all-consuming desire for Godlike perfection, you increasingly exhibit love's universal earmarks: harmony, respect, felicity, humility, loyalty, service and a solicitous devotion to the wishes and wants of the Great and Personal Provider of Love, our good, beautiful and true Father. God's good love spans the universes, and this living love, by spirit gravity, eventually finds and fills every low place, satisfies every need.

*...Spiritual destiny is dependent on faith, love, and devotion to truth—hunger and thirst for righteousness—the wholehearted desire to find God and to be like him....* [Paper 156:5.7, page 1739:2]

Love is to truth, goodness and beauty what flame is to fire, inseparable. And love always implies the personal since only sentient beings may exchange it. Even lowly animals recognize, take and give love. Truth and love must be lived to exist, but the highest truth suggests there is divine law and cosmic philosophy at work in refining love. To be balanced and serviceable to your peers and the indwelling God, your philosophy of living naturally includes right understanding (truth), positive attitude (goodness), and divine creativity (beauty). Living these culminates in new experiences of love, all with your unique personality imprint.

Because the divine already indwells you, love exists there also, which makes achieving God-likeness easier. Love's potentials are endless as far as anyone knows. And love's final destiny in perfection on Paradise is a remote ideal. A mysterious Father wants you to uncover it through living experience, even by fusing with you, the ultimate act of love.

But finding Father's ever-present love through worship, communion with the divine being living inside you—is no mystery. Cosmic children have been doing it for eons. The wellspring of enduring love is there inside—ever wanting to worship God and serve His family. Love gushes forth from Father and fills your every needy place, when and where you permit it.

Love ever leads you to be God-like, to do good, live truth, and create beauty. This affection lives and expands as your consciousness of the nature, values and purposes of love grows. The more love you know, the more love you are. Father's love is available in your heart and mind at all times, and outside you through contact with other God-lovers, your earthly siblings. And when you encounter seekers who have not yet found the indwelling Divine Love, they will more easily find it after seeing love alive in your words and deeds.

When love appears in you as the result of applied truth, beauty and goodness, its manifestations are fidelity, friendliness, mercy, patience, forgiveness, wisdom, loyalty, creativity, peace, satisfaction beyond understanding, true worship, grand, enduring memories, great deeds, and genuine soul joy. And this is but the short list of benefits, values and pleasures you have available through love sought and applied.

No matter what role you have in the unfolding of the universes, you will increasingly draw love from your affectionate Creator, then reflect this divine affection to your family, friends and fellows completing love's cosmic circuit from Paradise to you and back to the Supreme, Ultimate and Absolute.

*...This concept of love generates in the soul of man that superanimal effort to find truth, beauty, and goodness; and when he does find them, he is glorified in their embrace; he is consumed with the desire to live them....* [Paper 196:3.32, page 2096:8]

**Good decisions are the stepping stones to Paradise.**

To personally know and embrace the Father of Love on Paradise you will first become truth, goodness and beauty in action and perfection, unified in your unique personality. If you do not already, you will want and need to become perfect in living love. Paradise gravity and divine love are always pulling you toward God's personal presence, all the way to the end of your journey on Paradise, our permanent home of limitless love.

Love's limits are non-existent from the divine vantage point. You may go on with love forever. Nevertheless, limited love can and will be used by you in time and space—in wholeness and perfection, in eternity and infinity. If you decide to follow love you will grow into absolute and perfect love over great stretches of time and space, one experience at a time.

At first it may be difficult to accept the divine reality that an invisible being of Paradise status and origin, a fragment of the eternal and infinite God, lives inside you awaiting your good attention, offering you perfect and lasting love, but it is true! God actually has a Paradise representative living with you. This Pilot Light To Paradise is trying to show you the way Home, ever leading you upward and inward through the spiritual schools of universe ascension. And this process provides what you most require: Experience in perfecting love.

Through your inner life of God-knowing, and your outer experience of God-revealing, love is transformed from raw truth, goodness and beauty into usable values that you and your associates may gainfully use for life's endless situations of values sorting and learning-growth in spirit.

Through loving interactions with Father, the angels, and your earthly family—you grow in love and real value. Love is real, and it becomes more real with your every decision toward the good, the true and the beautiful. Good decisions are the stepping stones to Paradise.

*...Truth, beauty, and goodness are divine realities, and as man ascends the scale of spiritual living, these supreme qualities of the Eternal become increasingly co-ordinated and unified in God, who is love....* [Paper 2:7.10, page 43:3]

Without Father's invention of love, and your reception of it, you could not know or spread it. The store of goodness and love inside your soul reveals itself in your outer personal life because genuine love must do something. Goodness is love acted out. The size and value of your goodness reserve is a reflection of the quality and quantity of love generated by you as a result of your personal belief in, and worshipful contact with, the Father Spirit within—God consciousness and adoration—combined with, and modified by, the totality of your experience.

Wisely distributing your goodness creates affectionate interactions between you and your siblings, no matter how many they might become in eternity. Love is big enough for all and the central focus of being and acting in Father's spiritual

universe. Once this center of love is established in your soul, then does God's creativity foster ever more unique expressions of goodness in and through you. These expressions enrich your relations and your wisdom beyond measure with fond memories, and crucial lessons learned.

Apparently God conceived and ordained love as the standard of goodness, beauty and truth. Father can do such astounding things. Or perhaps love and goodness are simply inherent in Father's nature. Either way all love comes from God and arrives on little worlds like ours in the form of divine visitations, revelations laden with fact, truth and celestial authority. Love's revelations endure because our Father Fragments and the Spirit of Truth also persist, actually live and act in us. Father's descending sons and daughters ever labor to reveal love to you from the outside while the God's indwelling works inside. You are in a divine and benign conspiracy of love.

**Love is revealed in you by an on-going willingness to do good and serve all.**

Original love is projected from Paradise of course, but the story of all the love that was, is and will be is the grandest tale of trial and triumph ever told, culminating in the Supreme Being. It is the story of limitless divine affection that emanates from the Father Source at every moment and forever and spreads to every corner and cave. The message of God's truth, beauty and goodness eventually flows to all worlds, and its carrier is always love.

Love may carry the same truth, beauty and goodness, but never does it manifest in the same way. Love and compassion require that revealed truth always be adapted to the student's mind, and that its expression be gracious.

*...As are the families of the race or nation, so is its society. If the families are good, the society is likewise good....* [Paper 84:7.1, page 939:4]

What the cell is to the human body, the family is to planetary civilization. Health, balance and growth depend entirely on the well-being of elemental units, family or society. Love filled families foster good neighborhoods. Good neighborhoods create beautiful and servile cities. Worthy cities knit together great nations that eventually combine with other nations creating one grand and diverse global family whose motives and deeds are true, beautiful and good, always inspired by love and divine fraternity. Then an age of light and life becomes a real possibility.

Ideally the child is born into a good family and catches the "benign virus of love" through affectionate contact with its parents and siblings—from before birth to physical, mental and spiritual maturity. Such a thoughtful, complete and tender upbringing causes the virus of love to spread to succeeding generations: As this ideal love matures into a sublime affection for both the earthly and divine parents. It eventually ripens into a global family affection—the desire to do good for all, especially our Gods whom we cannot help adoring when once their reality is recognized and embraced.

Continuously spreading genuine spirit love parent-to-child, from one generation to the next, sets off the age of light and life. This is an age where religion, science, philosophy and education unite and focus on the study and practice of the components of love—beauty, goodness and truth. This is already occurring on our planet, one-family-at-time. Manifestations of spiritual love from above, like *The Urantia Book*, always hasten the process.

*...Through truth man attains beauty and by spiritual love ascends to goodness....* [Paper 103:9.10, page 1142:1]

If you did not receive a tumultuous and harrowing upbringing here on Urantia, you are one of only a few. If your adult life has not been touched by terrible errors, awful tragedies and wrenching conflicts, of your own making or by the mistakes of others, you are an exception. If you came out of this with your faith and love intact, you are surely a child of God candidate, if not one in fact!

Spirit love urges you to disown the past, unhitch from it. Once that is done love points to the work of today, the sublime duty of the dissemination of Father's affection to the rest of the divine family. This love is not gender associated or limited in creative expression. But it does develop—love grows. Love must grow, or it is not love. Love is revealed in you by an on-going willingness to do good and serve all. This divine love always adapts and expands, eventually making everyone in the Cosmos part of your family.

Someday every generation will come to know divine affection in its greatest possible glory, and partly because you chose to be a carrier of the benign virus of love. But the Master of love led the way; he blazed the original path to the First Source of Love. Jesus up-stepped the golden rule, saying if ever you are in doubt as to the most loving response—in any circumstance:

*"...I say to you: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who despitefully use you. And whatsoever you believe that I would do to men, do you also to them...."* [Paper 140:3.15, page 1571:2]

Jesus' sublime and divine Fatherly affection does not use anger, fear or ridicule to motivate children, but instead uses wisdom, empathy and compassion. A good parent is a reflection of the merciful and forgiving love of the Father of the universes. Love is the mother's milk of endless goodness and divine beauty. Knowing Father is the common bond of the cosmic family. God is personal, and God is Father, therefore God is the greatest parent. God is a paternal love, a personal relation, a compassionate creator, and the best friend ever.

*"...If you would enter the kingdom, you must have a righteousness that consists in love, mercy, and truth—the sincere desire to do the will of my Father in heaven...."* [Paper 140:6.3, page 1576:3]

To the child of God love begets love; therefore must someone initiate it, as Father did. Indeed, He rules by love. In imperfect human affairs love may require offering mercy and forgiveness. This kind of fraternization enlivens the heart, socializes the mind and charms the spirit; therefore must fraternal relations be well nurtured in God's love. Doing Father's will, showing mercy and offering forgiveness come naturally to the cosmic child who is always conscious of the source and value of divine love. Father's will on Urantia always involves finding and fulfilling real love needs, yours and others.

Love's ambition, its inspiration, leads you to wise service. Wisely applied love always yields generous service, selflessness, fealty, empathy, forthrightness, optimism, surety, kindness, understanding, balance and natural poise.

*...Jesus revealed a God of love, and love is all-embracing of truth, beauty, and goodness....* [Paper 5:4.6, page 67:4]

God is love, but Father God is more than love, incalculably more. Love is only one part of Father's nature, but it is the dominate part. God fills an empty place in your heart with love, a place which will not be ignored or satisfactorily filled with anything but real love. When all hearts are thus

filled, society will truly flourish. Love exists because God exists. Therefore, love exists in you to the degree you allow Father into your heart and mind.

Although love is innate in every child it may be pushed aside. Love is based in God's unlimited compassion, expanded by family associations, and refined in enlightened service to the universe community. Love comes alive in inverse proportion to selfishness. Selfless service and forgiveness foster fraternity. Tact, tolerance, mercy and true love of all siblings are indicators of the consciousness of spirit reality, and your growth in spiritual values around love.

Who you choose as friends and teachers has a bearing on the rate of advance in spirit love and Circle attainment. Maintaining relations with others of high ethical and moral standing helps you locate and remain in contact with the source of love and altruism in yourself. That love can then be bestowed on your siblings behind, those on lower steps of the stairway to Paradise.

Warm, friendly acquaintances magnify life's enjoyment and celebrate your successes. Long held relationships, divine and human, are the foundation of character and one of the priceless treasures of living. Friendships are the sweet substance of social life and a requirement of the soul in surmounting the complex challenges of living, be they friendship with God or one's fellows. Nothing assuages sorrow, grief and pain like the comfort and consolation of a good friend. A trusted one close-by enhances life's meanings and real values. Genuine self-respect is borne of out-going love and respect for others, human and God.

People bent on finding, knowing and becoming like God slowly evolve out of their survival programming into spiritualized thinking and doing. Love always points the way. There is wisdom involved in choosing the right speed of growth for your unique experience in time/space, and your journey ahead. At every step along the way you may be sure God, the angels and their good love are present, that love is the most real of all realities because its constitutive elements are goodness, truth and beauty, gifts from Father, the Great Love of the Universe.

Love is entirely contagious, as are joy, fear, laughter and despair. When you smile on another out of spirit affection and creature kinship, you add a measure of goodness to their life, a measure that keeps giving to all life. The soul in you will happily catch Father's virus of love, unless your freewill wholly rejects this invitation to eternity.

*...Love, the love of a father for his son, becomes the central truth in the universe relations of Creator and creature—not the justice of a king which seeks satisfaction in the sufferings and punishment of the evil-doing subject....* [Paper 188:5.1, page 2018:0]

Real love never seeks revenge or punishment, but it will withdraw when trampled upon, and defer to justice when rejected. God's merciful love does not need force. But when love is forced out of the soul by its host, then justice must be applied. Love, justice and concern for the whole family cannot permit those few errant children who reject love, and attempt to usurp Father's will, to run roughshod over the rest of creation. But God is not angry or in need of retribution. You might think of our Father as the ultimate in parental love. But how does the Ultimate Parent treat the

unwise child who refuses the love and the law of the cosmos, Father's truth and goodwill?

*...All things are sacred in the lives of those who are spirit led; that is, subordinated to truth, ennobled by love, dominated by mercy, and restrained by fairness—justice....* [Paper 155:6.11, page 1732:4]

Father's great and unfathomable love is able to forgive, even consume, wrongs. Temptation to do wrong is lessened by a love for God held fast in the heart. When we do fail, Father is first with forgiveness and mercy, then justice, but never with punishment, cruelty or enmity. It should be obvious that cessation of existence is God's only alternative once love and mercy have been unequivocally, completely and absolutely rejected.

Love has truth, beauty and goodness as its foundations because they are indispensable to whole love. The truth is Father loves you personally and individually—as his child. God wants you to survive death and accept never-ending life in his good universe. In fact that was the Master's main message:

*...There was just one motive in Jesus' postbaptismal life on Urantia, and that was a better and truer revelation of his Paradise Father; he was the pioneer of the new and better way to God, the way of faith and love....* [Paper 138:6.4, page 1543:2]

**Love is entirely contagious...**

If you are spirit led you know God is not merely a conceptualization of virtue, our Father is a REAL personality of love, the most real of all! And Father's love is always realized through personal interactions along with study and implementation of the virtues, values and ideals represented by the new definitions of the words love, truth, beauty and goodness presented in the book.

Where two who love Father gather, then and there divine love expands. When many God lovers assemble, wide-spread love sprouts peace and fraternity; brotherly and sisterly love becomes universal. God loves us everyone, faith in that fact enlivens love in the heart and simulates the mind to higher thinking and wiser choosing that eventuate in a global blanket of love that covers all.

Revelation declares divine love on Urantia will someday be the rule, not the rare or random occurrence. Imagine what Father's love might be like on Paradise where the divine affection is far, far above merely knowing and attempting to live it. There love is replete, absolute and perfect. But love without truth, beauty and goodness can never be absolute or perfect, only a sentiment. Love without Father's values is fleeting, superficial and unsatisfying.

If love is limitless from God's perspective, what limits do you put on your personal love, incoming and outgoing? Does your love everyday increase in grace, magnitude and magnanimity—in truth, beauty and goodness? It is the wish and will of the Father of Love that every child grow in appreciation and dissemination of divine love.

*...To finite man truth, beauty, and goodness embrace the full revelation of divinity reality. As this love-comprehension of Deity finds spiritual expression in the lives of God-knowing mortals, there are yielded the fruits of divinity: intellectual peace, social progress, moral satisfaction, spiritual joy, and cosmic wisdom....* [Paper 56:10.20, page 648:3] ■



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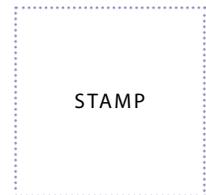
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