

WINTER/SPRING 1992

VOLUME 5, NO. 1

THIRD PLANET NEWS & VIEWS

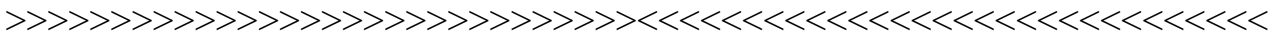
Sometimes it is very frustrating to edit a biannual journal; things are moving so fast in the world that the commentary of last month may be irrelevant, outdated or even ridiculous. But it is a rare privilege to be living in such pivotal times.

Twenty years ago, it might have seemed to students of The Urantia Book that centuries would have to pass before the social soil of our planet would be fertile enough for us to plant the teachings of the book here. Now, barriers are falling like dominoes. Unfortunately, it does appear that there will be some problems with old cultural rivalries in many newly independent countries, but there are undoubtedly many spiritually hungry people who will respond well to the Fifth Epochal Revelation. Melchizidek came in anticipation of the mission of Michael; no doubt The Urantia Book has come in anticipation of the great spiritual renaissance.

Considering that Urantia is the bestowal planet of our creator son, it would be unseemly for it to remain in spiritual poverty and chaos for long ages. I have no doubt that our unseen friends have labored long and hard as midwives assisting the birth of this new age. It seems that barring any unforeseen difficulties with the delivery, the baby will soon emerge healthy and kicking. Well done!

Please note the new address for Cosmic Reflections:  
 PO Box 3622, Hickory, NC 28603-3622.

MAY YOU ALL FIND PEACE AND LOVE IN THE NEW YEAR.



TIME BOMBS 2

\*\*\*This article was compiled by Dr. Ken Glasziou from comments and discussions of study groups in Australia. This article is not a reprint of the article of the same name that recently appeared in the journal Pursuit of Wisdom; it is rather, a different version of that article prepared especially for Cosmic

Reflections.\*\*\*

The first article on "Time Bombs" appeared in Cosmic Reflections Vol. 2, No. 2. The article was re-printed in The Science Content of The URANTIA Book and is available from the Brotherhood of Man Library. This first article considered the reasons why apparently inaccurate material, mainly relating to the science content of the book, appeared alongside apparently prophetic material that appears truthful, considering the odds against the authors selecting correct answers through random guesswork.

The "Time Bombs" article concluded with a statement of admiration for the skill and wisdom of the revelators in preventing the book from becoming a fetish. However there is an entirely different class of material in this strange and wonderful book which may cause its adherents to question its credibility.

Imagine you are a gifted orator, totally dedicated to the dissemination of the message of The URANTIA Book, standing before an audience of thousands who are enraptured by your utterly convincing account of why they should embrace the Fifth Epochal Revelation. Question time arrives. A voice from the audience asks you how Ratta, the mother of the invisible infants who became parents of the secondary midwayers, located these invisible children when she mislaid them? You may have been prepared for such questions, but your audience is stacked with hostiles, determined not to let you off the hook. So the demand comes to explain who and what are secondary midwayers. Does the book really say that every fourth child born to Adamson and Ratta was invisible! Does it really say that the invisible midwayers needed only electricity for nourishment? And at mealtimes, did the mothers of midwayer babies plug them into the mains or were they battery-fed?

Again we must ask why is it there, for even if totally true, the book appears to have gained nothing by including some of this material. For other material of the same nature, those with the necessary knowledge and foresight might acknowledge the wisdom of the comments or proposals presented by the book but have serious misgivings about their timeliness. The revelators could quite easily have avoided telling us about the origin and the extraordinary properties of the secondary midwayers and the book would have lost nothing at all by the omission. So why is it

there?

If you talked your way out of the first situation, try another. Imagine that your skills as an exponent of the wonders of The URANTIA Book have earned you an interview on a top-rated, prime-time television show. This is your chance to bring the book to the attention of an audience of millions. Your host directs your attention to page 590 of the book from which he reads:

"These enormous birds are able to carry one or two average-sized men for a nonstop flight of over five hundred miles. On some planets these birds are of great service since they possess a high order of intelligence, often being able to speak many words of the languages of the realm. These birds are most intelligent, very obedient, and unbelievably affectionate."

Your interviewer makes the observation that two average sized men would weigh in the vicinity of 300 lbs, and asks that considering the anatomical specialization of the bird family to provide the aerodynamic efficiency necessary for muscle-powered flight, including their remarkable bone structure to achieve both strength and lightness, do you really expect us to believe that these birds could get off the ground with a payload of that size, and then carry it non-stop for five hundred miles? You mention the discovery of fossil bones in Brazil of the very large but extinct giant teratorn having a wing span of thirty five feet and feel fairly satisfied, though you may have to admit that it could be necessary for the bird to leap from a very high cliff in order to get airborne. You are then reminded that biologists find that excessive over-design is uncommon in nature, and would not an affectionate, talking, bird-aerobus combination be more suited to a comic strip than a serious book on religion?

No matter what the degree of plausibility, evasiveness, and cleverness you use to retain your credibility, the next comment from your host is going to be, "We note that a giant-size Adam and Eve were supposed to use these birds to fly around their Garden of Eden. Surely you don't expect us to be that gullible?"

Again there was no obvious reason for the revelators to include this material even though it may be the gospel truth. So why is it there?

Let us assume that you learn to evade such situations with a diversionary joke or two. You get an invitation to address an audience in Australia where there is much missionary zeal being generated around The URANTIA Book. You take it as a good sign that there are some aboriginal Australians in your audience and you deliver your most eloquent address on the love of God, on the brotherhood of all men, on the true nature of love, about wanting the highest cosmic good for the one who is loved, and about Jesus' injunction to love one another as he loved us. You have the audience exosmosing in an emotional frenzy of brotherly love. Tears are streaming down the faces of many. Amidst all of this, a tall, elderly, dignified gentleman, black of skin and white of beard, stands up and reads from a scrap of paper:

"On page 764 of this book from which you preach, it describes my people as miserable remnants of primitive, backward, suspicious, and anti-social left-overs from a fictitious golden age. My people have fallen victim to the white man's gifts of the welfare handout and of alcohol. They desperately need the Jesus of The URANTIA Book. But how am I going to teach them from a book that so condemns them?"

Have you ever wanted to fall through the floor? The URANTIA Book would appear to have lost nothing had the mention of specific groups been avoided when describing the `primitive' races that are still in existence. So why is it there?

Let us now glance at some more of such material that could be used to discredit the book and to embarrass those who go public. From page 770 we read:

"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 but making such low-grade demands as to prove veritable slavery and bondage for the higher types of mankind."

And from pages 812 and 818, and referring to a society on a neighboring planet that may serve as an example of progressive development:

"The feeble-minded are trained only in agriculture and animal husbandry, and are committed for life to special custodial



overlooked before.

The paragraph in question (pg 67D) starts out by telling us that tidal friction causes a planet or satellite to spin slower and slower on its axis as time goes by. The paragraph goes on to say, "...causing a planet to revolve ever slower until axial revolution ceases, leaving one hemisphere of the planet always turned to the sun or larger body..." The paragraph then goes on to cite Mercury and our moon as examples of this effect. Notice carefully what the quoted section says: The moon keeps the same face to the earth because the moon has ceased spinning on its axis. Now look at the figure below. Notice that the moon keeps the same face toward the earth as it orbits our planet, but also notice that the moon has to rotate on its axis to do this. If you doubt this, take two balls, mark one, and try to keep the mark on the orbiting ball towards the stationary one without rotating it about its axis.

The authors of The Urantia Book have told us plainly and clearly that we can expect to find flaws in the science of the book as our science progresses. In fact, this is a flaw that would be obvious regardless of a person's scientific background. How can we explain such an glaring error? A problem with the transcription of the papers? A deliberate plant by the authors? A mistake in typesetting the papers?

How can it be that so many of us have read this and not detected such an obvious problem? Do we interpret away the difficulties like those who interpret away problems in the Bible? How many other obvious problems are lurking in the science of the book?

Now what? Shall we lose faith in the book? But wait, isn't faith the relationship between God and us? After all, How could we have a faith relationship with an inanimate object? Aren't we really talking about beliefs when we talk about The Urantia Book?



The mansion worlds are the size of Urantia: Pg 509B

The radius of Urantia is 3963 miles(1)

Approx. population of Urantia: 5.5 billion people

Annual mean death rate(1): .1% or 5.5 million people

Completed system has 1000 planets: Pg. 167

Now, some assumptions:

Average population and death rate of the inhabited planets is the same as that of Urantia.

Each person stays an average of 10 years on each mansion world.

The seven mansion worlds have equal populations.

Half of the land area is living space.

As many people are leaving mansion world seven as are entering mansion world one per year.

There are as many angels on the mansion worlds as ascenders.

There are 10 billion other beings on each mansion world.

Calculated figures:

Using some of the data above, the total death rate of 1000 inhabited planets per year is 5.5 billion people.

Each mansion world will have 120 billion inhabitants.

(Ascenders + angels + all others)

The surface area of Urantia is: 197 million sq. miles

or  $5.5 \times 10^{15}$  square feet (calculated using radius)

Each individual will have  $5.5 \times 10^{15} / 1.2 \times 10^{11}$  or 45,833 square feet of living area!

Note that the living area per individual is equivalent to a square plot of land about 214 feet or 65 meters on a side. Now of course, all sorts of assumptions were made here. For instance, we may stay on a mansion world for 50 or 100 years rather than 10 years. This would obviously create severe crowding. Then too, no account was taken of the fact that we will usually share quarters with someone else. A space of 100 by 100 feet could accommodate four individuals if they lived in harmony. Also not considered was the fact that a portion of the ascenders may skip the first one or more mansion worlds.

Some may question the assumption that half of a mansion world can be used for habitations. Here on Urantia, that is obviously not



