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"Mercy is the natural and inevitable offspring of goodness and love".
Urantia Book, P-38:5

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

(NOTICE: Material concerning the activities of the three study groups must be submitted prior to the 5th. of each month, covering from the 15th. to the 15th. of the following month, or it cannot be included in the CALENDAR).

SANTA MONICA - meet the 1st. and 3rd. Sundays of each month at 1 P.M. Georgia Gecht, Teacher - Phone EX 4-2623. May 2nd, and 16th. at the home of Alice Anderson, 201 San Vincente Blvd., Santa Monica, Apt. 14. Subjects: Part I - study of the Father (Papers 1-5), Part II - Study of the Supreme.....
....June meetings will be held at the home of Mr. & Mrs Malcolm Neal, 1407 Oak Street, Santa Monica. June 6th and 20th. (Sunday) at 1:00 P.M. Subjects: The Nature of God; why we start with the complex; why there are limitations on revelations.

PASADENA - 78 North Grand Ave., Pasadena - SY 3-8971, home of Helen Steen. AGONDONTER research meets 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 2:00 P.M. On May 9th and 16th - Part I: Helen Steen will talk on "Angels and other Spirit Beings stationed throughout the Universe", Part II: Wm. Burton King will continue his talk on "Revealed Truth".

LOS ANGELES - for information contact Maria and Ward Culbertson, 317 No. Orange Drive, Los Angeles - Phone WE 6-0011. Different topics and different leaders each week. Meets every Thursday evening.

From RUTH AND BOB BURTON, in their letter of April 29, 1965

Dear Helen and members of the Society:

You must have something in addition to a cancelled check as a receipt for your most generous gift presented at that lovely farewell party on March 14, at the Eicher's beautiful home. Previously, I have repeatedly spoken or written informally to some of you, but here at last is a written acknowledgment for your Society records, a sincere and heartfelt "Thank you", not only for the final festivities, but for your wonderful co-operation and cordiality throughout the entire extension course project. The whole challenging and rewarding experience is a bright and happy memory for both my husband and me.

Although greenbacks which the Pasadena bank gave us in cashing the check have gone for gas on the trip home, the amount of that check, the full \$50.00 is being held in reserve for new duplicating equipment, which will be useful to both Bob and me, in our efforts to disseminate the teachings of the Urantia Book. Thus, we shall be continually grateful to you for your thoughtful and practical gift.

May the angels of enlightenment guide and bless the efforts of each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Ruth and Bob Burton

AGONDONTER: An ascender from isolated world. One "who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone." URANTIA BOOK, P-579:1

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Sunday, the 25th. was a red letter day for our Pasadena meeting. Mr. Hays Schlundt showed his beautiful colored slides of India, with its fabulously carved temples and picturesque people.

As everyone knows who has seen them, Mr. Schlundt's pictures are artistically beautiful, and he travels far off the beaten path to get unusual ones. He also gave an interesting talk on "Jesus and the Koran", and on "Sikhism", as it is practiced in India today.

We all join in thanking Mr. and Mrs. Schlundt for giving us such an entertaining afternoon, and hope that we may have more of them.

A TRIP TO INDIA

On Sunday, April 25, Mr. Hays Schlundt, at the Pasadena Group meeting, showed some of his many, wonderful colored slides on India. We visited many of the temples there, flew from city to city, or even took drives out into the country and farmlands to meet some of the fine Indian people. Our thanks go to him for his interesting "armchair adventure", and for his talk on "Jesus in the Koran".

WHEN IN CHICAGO VISIT ORVONTON

We received a letter from our friends in this Society, dated April 1, 1965. We wish to thank them for becoming subscribers to our AGONDONTER paper. They want to invite all interested people who visit Chicago to attend their meetings, which are held weekly, Friday evenings at 8:00 P.M., from the first of September through the last of June. 108W. Oak Street, Chicago. Phone SU 7-5792. At present they are well into Part 3 of the Urantia Book, and usually cover one paper per evening.

"JOHN THE BAPTIST, LAST OF THE PROPHETS" by Robert Steen

I have been troubled for some time over a statement Jesus made concerning his second cousin and the herald of his mission, John the Baptist, who now sits in great honor as one of the "four and twenty counsellors" (in the terminology of the King James Bible) and helps to direct the spiritual affairs of Urantia and all the spiritually isolated spheres of Satania for Michael of Nebadon.

Jesus said John was the greatest of the Prophets of the old order but "he also said that the least of those who saw the great light of the new way and entered thereby into the Kingdom of heaven was indeed greater than John". (p-1509:1)

After much reflection, a new light of understanding dawned and I believe I have an answer to the riddle of how that which Jesus said about John could have been true.

I pondered long and hard as to why Jesus' message calling men to repentance and to submission to God's loving guidance would have been preceeded and proclaimed first as a message of repentance in order to escape God's wrath.

It occurs to me that this was perhaps a case of God forgiving the devil (or the Spiritual government combatting the influences of evil) with the enemy's weapons. John frightened people and compelled them to reflect on their sin, while Jesus liberated them from thought of sin by giving them high spiritual ideals to think about. Instead of hating and rebelling against evil Jesus turned his back on it and did not dwell on the shortcomings and failures of his fellows. He rather talked positively to them of the better things they could attain through their own efforts assisted by prayer to their Father in Paradise, just as he had done.

"John was an eager and earnest worker, but Jesus was a calm and happy laborer" (p-1509:1)

I have speculated long and repeatedly about the evil influences of Castigia, Satan and Lucifer and how the vestiges of their influences manifest themselves in our world today as well as how they must have been in Christ's day when their power was as yet undiminished by the spread of Jesus' teachings and bestowal of his Spirit of Truth. I think this greater power of the devil and his associates in the previous age may have called for the "old-order" of prophets, such as Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah and John, to combat it effectively.

Here I see the methods of the Gods as those of fighting fire with fire, so to speak. While the devil influenced men to rebel and to hate their divine creator, the prophets called upon them to hate and rebel against evil!

JOHN THE BAPTIST, LAST OF THE PROPHETS Continued from page 2

But, fear and compulsion, hate and rebellion, are truly not the way, in the Post Bestowal Son Age, to call the sincere of heart to a deeper and closer unity with their creator. Jesus left us with the pattern. Patience, persistence and love should bring us success eventually as "calm and happy laborers".

NEW GOALS AHEAD By Bob Burton

Scientists are now probing outer space. Astronomers and thoughtful people are considering the probability of other inhabited planets. It follows that there must be more advanced civilizations than ours on some of them.

...The science editor of the New York Times, Walter Sullivan, in his book, "We are not alone", suggests that if we contacted life on another planet and found a more advanced civilization, "Knowledge of such a civilization, its discoveries, its techniques might enable us to leap-frog thousands of years along the path before us."

...But we have been given just such knowledge of better worlds and better governments to help us advance civilization and augment governmental evolution on Urantia. Urantia Book, P-820:2

...It tells how more advanced civilizations on other worlds have solved or are solving these many problems that now threaten our civilization.

...We have enough experience and inner guidance to recognize good suggestions and should welcome them no matter from what source they come.

...Our troubled world needs fresh new pictures of possible future exalted goals for human achievement.

A FAVORED PARABLE of Henry Thoreau from HINDU RELIGIOUS WRITINGS

"There was a King's son, who, being expelled in infancy from his native city, was brought up by a woodsman, and, growing up to maturity in that state, imagined himself to belong to the barbarous race with which he lived. One of his father's ministers having discovered him, revealed to him what he was, and the misconception of his character was removed and he knew himself to be a prince. So (a) soul, from the circumstances in which it is placed, mistakes its own character, until the truth is revealed to it by some holy teacher, and then it knows itself to be 'BRAHME' (divine)".

REVELATION VERSUS SCIENCE

Revelation has always kept pace with science because revelation is evolutionary and always progressive. In fact we can go a step further and say that revelation is the basis of all pioneering in both religion and science. What is revelation but the disclosure or manifestation of something not previously known?...and this applies to all things that fall into the category of both science and religion. We will have little problem with the word "revelation" if we but remember this divine axiom: "Nothing can or does exist in a material form that does not have a spiritual counterpart."

There is little difference between the method of a revelation that comes to an Edison showing him the possibility of harnessing electricity to produce light, and the revelation that comes into the mind of a true Christian about the eternal state of man. However, both of these revelations must be worked out to the complete satisfaction of the one who receives the revelation. A true Christian has just as much integrity as a true scientist, and will only express those truths which have been fully investigated and which have become fact based upon relative knowledge and actual personal experience.

Just as Edison persevered in his quest to produce the incandescent light ...so does the true Christian pursue the revelation he receives until he is able to reconcile it with all previous knowledge, with the evolutionary growth of the universe and man, and with the science of his day. It is true that many scientists have pursued ideas that were not based on true revelation and insight. Likewise many religious ideas have been set forth as true ways of life, but failed in the final analysis of everyday living.

When we look at the overall historical picture of man we can see that there have been many small or individual revelations in the fields of religion and science which have served specific or temporary needs. There have also been outstanding revelations which have been universal in scope, in both science and religion. History tells us, too, that religion and science have not walked hand in hand together down the corridors of time. This is primarily due to the fact that the revelations of religion have been -----

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-----relative to the true nature of man and his life beyond the so-called --grave...while scientific revelations and research have been concerned with the material universe.

In the field of religion there have been four generally accepted universal revelations relative to the spiritual and moral state of man. The first of these was the Dalamatian teachings, followed by the Edenic teachings, Melchizedek of Salem, and the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. Very little is to be found in these teachings that pertains to the physical nature relative to the worlds or planets in the life beyond.

During this same time, evolutionary science has pursued its quest for the source of life in matter; and strange to say, the fact that science and religion did not see eye to eye did not present much of a problem in the evolution of either science or religion. Just as there have been major revelations in the field of religion, there have been major revelations in the field of science...the solving of the mystery of the atom by Einstein and his contemporaries ushered in a new day, not only for science but also for religion.

With the opening up of the atomic age by the scientists, religion and science could no longer go their separate ways...the time had come for science and religion to become reconciled. Up until the time of the beginning of the atomic age, no attempt had been made on the part of the true Christian to really reconcile the differences existing between these two bodies of thought. It is true that certain dogmatic individuals in the religious camp have endeavored to solve this feud. This they have done by trying to deny the findings of science, as well as trying to reconcile religion with science. These attempts utterly failed because religion had no scientific revelation upon which to base its claims.

Just as it has been recorded in the annals of history, that the twentieth century ushered in the atomic age for the scientists, likewise, in parallel, a fifth revelation was given to religion, which actually fulfills the philosophical words of old: "The last shall be first." That is just what has happened; with the fifth revelation, religion is now ahead of science, for we not only have a scientific revelation, we have scientific data that goes far beyond anything our scientists have yet discovered. No longer can the scientists look at us with scientific pride, for not only can we talk their language, but we can prophecy just what they will discover in the future, and how far they will go before they come face to face with our Heavenly Father, who is also their Father.

Over nineteen hundred years ago the Apostle Paul, writing to his followers in Colosse, made this statement: "For by him (the eternal Son of God) were all things created, that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by him and for him, and he is before all things, and by him all things consist." Colossians 1:16,17

Although Paul's statement was true in its entirety, as far as he was concerned, it could not be proved universally because there was no universal revelation at that time to substantiate his statement. But now, thanks to the fifth revelation we can substantiate Paul's statement.

The fact that the scientists have not come to the place where they can and are willing to recognize the God of creation has in the past presented a problem in the minds of some who have embraced the divine revelations. However, when we stop to consider the phenomena of Universal mechanism we can easily see why it is almost impossible for a scientist to accept the truth that the mind of God controls all things in the spiritual universe as well as in the material universe.

In the evaluation and recognition of mind it should be remembered that the universe is neither mechanical nor magical; it is a creation of mind and a mechanism of law. But while in practical application the laws of nature operate in what seems to be the dual realms of the physical and the spiritual, in reality they are one. The First Source and Center is the primal cause of all materialization and at the same time the first and final Father of all spirits. The Paradise Father appears personally in the extra-Havona universes only as pure energy and pure spirit...481-5

"If the nonreligious approaches to cosmic reality presume to challenge the certainty of faith on the grounds of its unproved status, then the spirit of experienter can likewise resort to the dogmatic challenge of the facts of science and the beliefs of philosophy on the grounds that they are likewise unproved; they are likewise experiences in the consciousness of the scientist or the philosopher.