

AGONDONTER

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"The element of error present in human religious experience is directly proportional to the content of materialism which contaminates the spiritual concept of the universal Father." (1183)

NEW STUDY GROUPS

Julia Fenderson, secretary of our society and field representative of the Urantia Brotherhood, organized a very successful meeting of Urantia Book students in the San Francisco area on March 12. Eighteen attended the meeting, held at the Hilton Hotel, and there were several meetings with smaller groups during the week of her stay in San Francisco for the ASCD Conference.

Under the capable leadership of Vern and Nancy Grimsley of Berkeley a study group has been organized. It is called the Bay Area Urantia Fellowship. The first meeting was held May 1.

A few of the Bay Area group are old timers from Chicago, but the majority are young people and, according to Julia, they are most enthusiastic. Vern Grimsley is a dedicated Urantia student and Julia predicts that under his leadership the group will go far.

Vern knows Christy, Dr. Sadler, Dr. Spranger and many others in the Chicago area. On their way home from our recent Brotherhood School, Ruth and Bob Barton visited Vern and Nancy and were deeply impressed with their plans for the Bay Area.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

It is interesting to note that since the last Agondonter (April issue) there has been more speculation on the subject of quasars (Time, April 1). Astronomer Halton Arp of the Mount Wilson and Mount Palomar Observatories unlike Marten Schmidt believe that these objects were formed from great masses of matter expelled from exploding central galaxies 10 million to 1 billion years ago. This would put them about 30 million to 300 million light years from the earth. This is far from the cosmological distances of 6 to 10 billion light years as suggested by Schmidt.

Unlike most astronomers, Arp does not believe that the red shift is caused by the speed with which quasars are receding from the earth, a speed that would indicate they are billions of years away. "Instead," says Arp, "the red shift could be caused by an immense quasar gravitational field, by the high velocity of material falling toward the center of quasars, by suffering catastrophic collapse, or by some as yet unknown cause."

Whether his calculations prove true or not, only history will determine. However, his theory on the distance of these quasars (30 to 300 million light years away) seems to coincide with the Urantia Book (see p. 30, paragraphs 1 and 2).

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

Does God create good and evil? This is a question that is frequently asked of ministers by many people. If God is all good and since he created everything, including man in his image, why would he create evil? Jesus answers the question this way. "Your Father in Heaven, by endowing you with the power to choose between truth and error, created the potential negative of the positive way of light and life; but such errors of evil are really non-existent until such a time as an intelligent creature wills their existence by mischoosing the way of life." (1429)

Jesus further said to Mardus, the leader of the Cynics of Rome: "Good and evil are merely words symbolizing relative levels of human comprehension of the observable universe." If you are ethically lax and socially indifferent, you can take as your standard of good the current social usage. If you are spiritually indolent and morally unprogressive, you may take as your standards of good the religious practices and traditions of your contemporaries. But the love that survives time and emerges into eternity must make a living and personal choice between good and evil as they are determined by the true values of the spiritual standards established by the divine spirit which the Father in Heaven has sent to dwell within the heart of man. This indwelling spirit is the standard of personality survival.

Goodness, like truth, is always relative and unfailingly evil--contrasted. It is the perception of these qualities of goodness and truth that enables the evolving souls of men to make those personal decisions of choice which are essential to eternal survival (1457, paragraphs 6 and 7).

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE (2089)

Jesus brought to God, as a man of the realm, the greatest of all offerings: the consecration and dedication of his own will to the majestic service of doing the divine will. Jesus always and consistently interpreted religion wholly in terms of the Father's will. When you study the career of the Master, as concerns prayer or any other feature of the religious life, look not so much for what he taught as for what he did. Jesus never prayed as a religious duty. To him prayer was a sincere expression of spiritual attitude, a declaration of soul loyalty, a recital of personal devotion, an expression of thanksgiving, an avoidance of emotional tension, a prevention of conflict, an exaltation of intellection, an ennoblement of desire, a vindication of moral decision, an enrichment of thought, an invigoration of higher inclinations, a consecration of impulse, a clarification of viewpoint, a declaration of

faith, a transcendental surrender of will, a sublime assertion of confidence, a revelation of courage, the proclamation of discovery, a confession of supreme devotion, the validation of consecration, a technique for the adjustment of difficulties, and the mighty mobilization of the combined, soul powers to withstand all human tendencies toward selfishness, evil, and sin. He lived just such a life of prayerful consecration to the doing of his Father's will and ended his life triumphantly with just such a prayer.

NOTES:

Polly Parks requests that everyone open the mailer they will soon receive regarding their financial status with the treasury. Incidentally, Polly and Ken have recently moved to 1886 1/2 Muirkirk, Northridge. Ken tells me they are having a housewarming soon and everyone with a strong back and a weak mind is invited!

Accommodations have been obtained for the Kuliskes at 928 West 26th Street. This is the Kappa Sigma fraternity house which will be closed for the summer except for two student caretakers and the Kuliskes. They will have full use of the kitchen as requested by them. The dining room has 40 comfortable chairs and should make an ideal meeting place for the summer seminar if we choose to use it.