

THE *Light and Life* JOURNAL

An Exploration of the Spiritual Universe

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

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Light and Life Ahead

After centuries of conflict, can we ever become loving siblings of the One God and ascend to a new era of spiritual joy?

by JIM CLEVELAND

Just a few years ago, I felt the world was pretty much a hopeless place. God would likely smile and shake his head while we blew ourselves up in greed-driven wars, and fried our minds and souls in the relentless pursuit of self-aggrandizement, cultural and religious biases.

Well, wasn't I surprised.

Now it turns out that spiritual initiatives are abounding on many fronts, outreach and upreach toward enlightenment. People are being inspired to expose the rottenness around us, discover the foundations of truth and move headlong into the exploration of higher spiritual consciousness. There are a plethora of paths to take for the courageous, who are able, in faith, to moving inward and outward. Are we daring enough to find deeper religious experience -- higher expressions of truth, beauty and goodness in our own lives -- by having a personal relationship with the God Spirit inside.

Understandably, fearful evolutionaries that we are, there may emerge a chorus of fundamentalist dissenters to scream in fear at us -- that the devil waits at every turn, lurking behind every rock to lead us away from the purity of holy scripture or their own singular revelation, or whatever other wall they've thrown up to bring God down to our material level of understanding.



Well, truth is living. And ever-growing in its fullness of perception if we allow it. In accepting the great imperfectness of being human, we should at least be open to emerging new ideas that we could never have understood earlier. Spiritual growth, projected as enlarged realities of truth, beauty and goodness, must come in increments as we evolve. Our vessel can only be filled to capacity. We must enlarge our vessel, and there are many ways to do so.

I took the path of the Urantia Papers to understand the cosmology of the creation and our place within it, resolving personal issues with the Bible, and understanding foremost that evolution is simply a technique of creation, and compatible with all true religious expressions.

From this base, I have explored ever-deeper, finding inspiration from voices within and without, listening to hear the silent bell of the Spirit of Truth or the cautionary twinges of the Indwelling Spirit. Inner guidance.

You would not be reading this if you had not yourself embarked upon a Spirit Quest in your own life — to find deeper meanings, fuller understandings of our mortal missions, the truth about our spiritual identities. We make this journey without distance together, each and all children of the One God who is ever-present to our daily needs. Whether we know it or not.

For after all is done and said, after all the spiritual tomes are read and compared, after all of our experiential living that we have done, there is a great truth that remains from all tumultuous times, ancient to present.

As children of the One God, we have a spark of the Creator's Divinity. We can fan this spark into a flame, a guiding light for our mortal lives of learning and growing. For strength and guidance, we can talk to and listen to God each day through sincere worship and prayer, by expressing our desire to know and share greater truth, to appreciate and create greater beauty, to feel and generate greater goodness around us.

And if we do this, we will be inspired to live in love. We can hold within ourselves a personal religion that can withstand and triumph over all real and imaginary barriers in a confusing world. We can see them as only temporary obstacles on our paths to higher consciousness, a higher plane in our continuing spiritual ascension, mortal experiences that hone and polish us for the real universe business of becoming a perfected being ... in the sweet by and by.

With this faith in God's love for us, a new optimism came to me, a new perspective on apocalyptic affairs, a new understanding of our evolutionary experience in Time and Space as God's grandest of all creations, even in the awesomeness of its raw imperfections, all of it evolving in an amazing synchronicity toward -- dare we say -- ultimate perfection. Be ye perfect is God's ultimate command, perhaps at all levels where this has not been realized.

I have faith that a tiny God light by whatever name lives within the time and space children, and as we love and honor our Creator, we will ascend according to our destinies to incrementally know more of truth, beauty and goodness and grow "lighter." As God's children, we are necessarily students of the Universe. As students, we realize there are things we couldn't learn any other way except by being here in the experience, on this mad world which now actually seems to be getting better ... flowing toward the Oneness of Light and Life.

As the calendar moves steadfastly toward 2000 and 2001, it truly seems that both established religions and the many new spiritual paths are seeing an increasingly similar perspective of the same vision — an awakening of spiritual values, a turning point in history, maybe even an apocalyptic orgy of destruction followed by the emergence of a new spiritual paradigm that guides a more enlightened world.

There is disagreement, of course, over the severity of anticipated Earth changes. As always, these ideas are being filtered through the perspectives of many human evolutionary mindsets, and so are being expressed in many ways. But in the end, we can see that the essences we seek are much the same.

God is Love. Apply Love in every moment. Give this love to receive love and generate positive energy, which nourishes and replenishes us. This helps change the world. It really does. Love really is an energy.

If we seek Love we find it. If we seek God, then God has already found us. Ask for spiritual guidance. It is forthcoming. Spiritual energies are expanding, quickening and propelling us to seek, strive for and demand a higher level of awareness ... of being.

Look. Horrors are being exposed worldwide by the media. Exposure brings demand for change, new institutions built on stronger values. Spiritual inspiration from within our very souls will bring leaders and movements to the forefront to fight battles with those who resist change, ultimately expanding spiritual realities.

Political changes have already swept the planet. Peace initiatives abound. Nuclear dangers are subsiding. The Soviet, a godless communism, has collapsed. Capitalism in China is driving change..

Exposure of environmental problems continue. New technologies and initiatives emerge to help clean up the mess. Holistic healing begins to permeate drug-and-scalpel medicine. Tobacco is going down in defeat. Drug, welfare, and political reforms are looming.

Parenting and family values are stirring. A new breed of lawyers look at mediation. There is more demand for civil responsibility as a companion to civil rights.

Exciting times are swirling. We can be part of it. With inner guidance from the God spirit that lives inside us, and with the true desire to use our talents to drive positive change — one kindness, one issue at a time — we can turn the inevitable disintegrations wrought by the old ways of greed and self-centeredness into a more enlightened moral and spiritual perspective.

The Urantia Papers describe the Light and Life destiny for a planet as "the final evolutionary attainment of a world of time and space." Also stating: ".... the advanced stages of a world settled in light and life represent the acme of evolutionary material

development. On these cultured worlds, gone are the idleness and friction of the earlier primitive ages. Poverty and social inequality have all but vanished, degeneracy has disappeared, and delinquency is rarely observed.

“ ... Life is refreshingly simple; man has at last coordinated a high state of mechanical development with an inspiring intellectual attainment and has overshadowed both with an exquisite spiritual achievement. The pursuit of happiness is an experience of joy and satisfaction.”

We will find our planetary journey to Light and Life fraught with moral and mental challenges, but if we struggle to evolve in love and not fear, we can see our mortal, material life as an adventure that shouldn't be missed, for which we will be eternally grateful as we look back from anywhere up ahead on the ascension path.

From this place on this path, it seems the times of the 1990s are right to draw a greater circle of love around humanity, one that encompasses all faiths, races and creeds that search for God sincerely.

We can learn new perspectives from one another, open fruitful currents of reasoned dialogue and search for deeper meanings that can span the chasms that sometimes lie between us. We can work toward Light and Life together, for truly that is the only way it will ever get done.

With the Light and Life Journal, we can do it by exploring ideas, issues and insights in a non-judgmental way, finding common ground that expands discussion up into new realms of understanding -- never debating for antagonism but in order to share the fruits of our mind and promote true intellectual and spiritual fulfillment for us all ... and always listening to the ideas of others.

Intellectual disagreements are not of great consequence. If we're wrong in a belief, we're not doomed or disdained. We are still God's children. We all know that if we love God and ask for guidance, the inner pilot light will show us the way. We will never be refused.

Time is too short here to argue over dogmas, doctrines and the various conduits used to convey spiritual ideas.

Each day, we would do well to: Find the Truth that rings the silent bell for us, at this place on the path, for our own level of understanding ... Show the world all the Beauty we can be, one kindness at a

time, and ... Give our Goodness to others, knowing that loving service is humankind's greatest need, and the very thing that the Heavenly Father asks of us.

This life can transcend all dogma. It reaches for ...

Light and Life.

CLOSER ON

**by Jim Cleveland
and Celestial Artisans**

Closer you will be
To Paradise and free,
To feel the joyous love
Through eternal history

Take these steps in daily life
Reach up to love above the strife
In time you'll perfect your daily quest
To feel the goodness that God bequests

Closer on and ever be,
Ascending pilgrim, strong and free
Sing the song of joyful praise
To love eternal your voices raise

The age is here when dark will fall
Lights the way for one and all
Lift us up in Jesus light
He shone for God to set us right.

Here we stand at break of dawn
To feel the radiance, hear Angels' songs
Our tears of joy will flow the streets
Embrace the strangers that we meet.

Where each is weak, embraced we're strong
To feel the love the whole day long.
The meek shall rise. The true get blessed
And Christ's great mercy shine on the rest

Bring the lost into the light
Expunge the darkness. Give us sight.
For love is best when joyous shared
With each and all in all that's said.

ALL ONE PEOPLE A Common Flame burns for all

Optimism pervades as a diversity of religions step toward Light and Life at the United Religions Conference at Stanford A first-person account from a founder of the United Communities of Spirit.

by BRUCE SCHUMAN
<bruce@origin.org>

INTRODUCTION: *The author is a moving force for spiritual unity. Check out the following Internet initiatives:*

United Communities of Spirit:

<http://web-wiz.com/origin/ucs.htm>

World Scripture:

<http://www.rain.org/~origin/ws.html>

The Bridge Across Consciousness:

<http://www.rain.org/~origin/bridge.html>

Global Light Network:

<http://web-wiz.com/origin/demos/demo001.htm>

The Global Spirituality Report:

<http://www.silcom.com/~origin/gsr.html>

In periodic internet reports called “Voices of the Light,” the United Communities of Spirit professes: “We believe that the spiritual transformation of global culture can arise through a cooperative network system, that brings together into one linked context the highest insights of all religions, and coordinates the participation of millions of people.”

The United Religions Conference at Stanford, University was very much “led in the spirit.” The entire week was an exciting period of creativity that persuaded me and most others I talked to that this initiative represents a potent movement and “ontological force,” and has a realistic chance of being successful.

In many ways, the URI is intimately related to the United Communities of Spirit project. One might almost say that our objectives are identical. We are both concerned with the constructive

participants. There were no lectures and no papers were read. Instead, we met around 8-person tables, and developed personal relationships with other folks around our table, in a process called “Appreciative Interview.” We then moved on to other tables, carrying forward the thrust and energy and vision developed in our previous conversations.

The net result was a complex and quite vital creative process that sustained a constant creative excitement, and a sense that this grand vision is unfolding as a natural part of social evolution, and simply reflects an avant garde attunement with the “zeitgeist” — the “spirit of the times”.

It has seemed clear to me for some time that the future of religion must involve the constructive and cooperative interaction amongst the various religions. Our world is too small, people live too closely together, and true religion too important to life for the religious traditions of this world to remain in combative relationship.

And it also seems clear to me that religions can learn from one another — that members of one tradition can vitalize and empower their own personal understanding by meeting with members of other traditions, exploring their ideas and practices, and assimilating whatever new ideas and perspectives seem illuminating. Thirty years ago, this approach was pioneered by the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, and today, this broadly ecumenist spirit can be found in many traditions and organizations, in one form or another.

The question often arises whether or not the United Religions or any similar organization is “creating a new religion”. This is a subtle

question, with no simple answer. What is a “religion?”

There were many participants at the URI conference who initially took the view that it is inappropriate to “mix religions together”, or to combine their elements into new forms. The combining of elements from various traditions is called “syncretism”, and it is often regarded critically by those who see it as artificial and perhaps ungrounded. But a strong argument can be raised that syncretism is inevitable, and represents a constructive and illuminating tendency that should be encouraged.

Dr. Ninian Smart, Chair of the Dept. of Religious Studies at UC Santa Barbara, has described himself as a “Buddhist Episcopalian”. When people tell him that’s impossible, he says that he replies “Well, here I am.”

When a member of some religious tradition encounters ideas from outside that tradition, and does not reject them, but instead explores and investigates them, the inevitable result is a partial assimilation of these new ideas into their philosophy.

Perhaps a Christian discovers something about meditation from a Buddhist or Hindu, and finds that this practice makes sense within their tradition, and is not at all inconsistent with it. For some Christians, meditation is viewed with suspicion. But many others — such as the World Community for Christian Meditation — see this practice as essential to the religious life, and very much to be valued.

So how is this process to be understood? These practices exert a creative influence on the private theology of anyone who experiences them, and it seems clear that this reshaping of theology can be understood as transforming the traditional religious understanding. Does this amount to “creating a new religion?” It’s entirely a matter of definition.

Given this fluency, I myself am less cautious about the emergence of some new global vision of the spirit than I once was. I still emphasize the necessity of intimately relating to and respecting the existing traditions. But I am also open to their reformation and revitalization, in terms of new ideas emerging from other world traditions and rooted in other cultures.

I am persuaded that this “confluence” of cultural and ideational forces can lead to a profoundly illuminating general understanding of spiritual and religious truth — and that, indeed, something exactly like this is what is occurring in culture today, in a vast creatively bubbling conversational process in which all participants are being illuminated and educated by all others.

This kind of “mutual edification” was an inherent part of the URI conference. Out of myriad conversations, there seemed to emerge something of a common vision, expressed from the podium by different voices at different times, but somehow conveying a common sense of destiny. Out of the center, there seemed to emerge the vision of a Common Flame, a white heat of the spirit into which all believers are being drawn, each from their own tradition and perspective.

Does this Flame represent a “melting” process? Are the details of cultural distinctions to be lost? We heard an eloquent plea at Stanford from the “indigenous people” present not to allow this to occur. It’s not about ideology or philosophy ...but simply being together, in a spirit of friendship.

“Don’t proselytize us,” they asked. “Let us preserve our ways. Respect us.” Yet they were present there in the spirit of unity, of oneness with the larger community, presenting their unique corner of the world with character and passion, in a way that certainly enriches our common experience.

A high point of the conference for me was the statement read to the audience by Christian de la

Huerta, a book publicist in the Southern California area. His statement was most beautiful, and emphasized the vision of unity and his deep respect for the traditions of the world. But he also affirmed in uncompromising terms the absolute necessity and rightness of honoring the persecuted sexual minorities of the world, including gay and lesbian people.

He referred to people of “sexually ambiguous identity,” and pointed out that through history these people have often been the lightbearers of a culture — the shamen, priests, healers, inspired ones of the spirit.

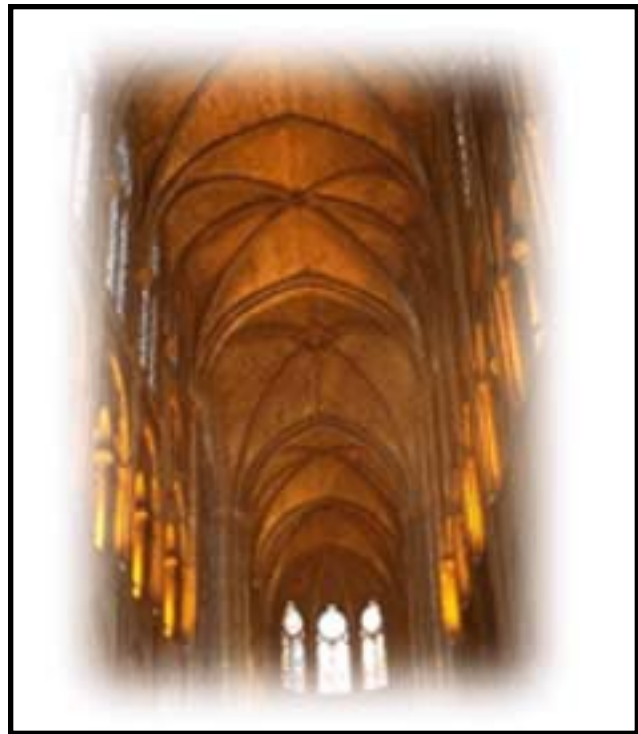
In a most resolute and sensitive way, he told us of the tragic repression of these people by many religious traditions, and how they have been injured and killed throughout history for simply being what they are.

Another remarkable character that the conference was Fr. Alexandru Stan, a Romanian priest and college professor, highly educated and articulate, who was full of overflowing with stories of interfaith affairs, and accounts of the political machinations of large-scale bureaucratic, political and economic forces that influence the spiritual destiny of people in his corner of the world.

In an area that can be fraught with violent religious passions, he showed us a collection of photographs of interreligious events he had helped organized, and the glowing faces in these photos were brilliant testimony to the common flame through which diverse traditions can be brought together.

It’s not about ideology or philosophy, he told us. These people weren’t discussing philosophy, but were simply being together, in a spirit of friendship.

Indeed, that spirit stands above almost all else at the URI conference.



and nothings shadow dances rarely

*vacant glances hardly scare me
silent vows don't oft deter me
half thought words can never stir me...*

*God in heaven, heart and mind
the truth i live i've scant defined
the steps i take are all intertwined
the fount i sip, the height i climb*

*of mirrors, shadows, clouds and dreams
of circumstance and half-baked schemes
of pompous truth and circumstance
of nights spend learning when to dance*

*i can not grasp beyond my reach
that i've not learned i cannot teach
those paths untrod are mystics' ways
those whispered words, those changing ways*

*so take a hand and give a hold
walk upright and somewhat bold
relax in ease then count the fold
the lamb is oft atop the coals....*

take care jim mccallon

ALLONEPEOPLE Spiritual Awakenings Everywhere

People in many places are being inspired to greater spiritual growth by contacting the Spirit inside.

by BARRY NORBY

INTRODUCTION: The author, who lives in Delaware, has worked with partners in Ohio, Idaho and elsewhere to establish an internet site for the Association of Light and Life. This is an altruistic family of spiritual seekers who stress love and commonalities and seek enlightenments together. The url can be accessed at: <http://www.lightandlife.com>

Why “United Communities of Spirit?” Why “The Association for Light and Life?” Why “Bridges Across Consciousness? Why a “Global Spiritual Report”? Why “Lightweavers?” Why hundreds of other human efforts to bring enlightenment?

I can see clearly a new spiritual awakening on many different fronts. There are different focuses to each of these efforts of the minds of men. We all seem to possess a very common vision, but we seem incapable of saying what that vision is.

In many cases, I believe the vision is not even clearly defined. It is still a vague hope of something better. Others are much more clearly thought out.

Bruce Schuman recently posted a quote that he read off of some fellow’s T-shirt. It read:

*Unity in what is essential
Liberty in non-essentials
And in all things charity*

Bruce stated that this summarizes the vision, and indeed it does, but I believe the vision needs to be elaborated upon before it can be summarized. If it is not, then we do not have a common basis for determining just what is essential or non-

essential. I speak strictly for myself. My vision is not complete. I depend on many others to refine and redefine this vision just as we must all come to depend upon one another to bring this vision to reality.

New Age!? This term means many different things to different people. It strikes fear in the hearts of some. To some it brings visions of whacked out lunatics. I apologize if you find this term offensive but I can find no other term.

The vision is not possible within the frameworks of this present age. It is only possible by rebuilding all of our societal structures over again from the ground up. Totally and completely different foundations must be laid. It cannot be the same Age or a return to a past Age, so of necessity it must be a New Age.

This New Age will bring real happiness because it will recognize the real source of happiness. It will not make the mistake of focusing on materialism as a worthy goal.

Today the world seems intent on accumulating vast possessions. If I don’t feel happy, then all I need to do is go out and buy some new toy. Surely, then I will be happy. Underneath we are all quite conscious of the fact that this is not true. We know as we reminisce on our past happy moments that the happiness came from sharing love and caring with a dear friend or relative. It is ONLY the caring and sharing of love that brings us true happiness.

There is in our present structures the concept that I am somehow better than you are if I have a newer, bigger automobile or a larger house or more money. If I am better than you are or I am beneath you then I can’t relate to you on equal

Spiritual Awakenings

terms as a friend. There are walls between us that separate us from sharing love. We have purposely erected these walls that separate us from sharing love and in so doing we have erected walls that prevent our own happiness.

You are different from me because you have a different color of skin or a different religious heritage or a different political understanding or a different sexual preference or even different interests. If therefore you are different then we cannot share as equals. If I allow myself to recognize a difference in you then I have consciously build a wall between us that separates us from sharing love and in so doing we have erected walls that prevent our own happiness.

The foundations of this New Age must be radically different. Success must be measured differently. Success must be measured by ones contribution to ones fellow man and to society and not by the greedy pursuit of material gain. Success must be measured by how much of truth, beauty and goodness one has contributed to the world. By how much of LOVE one has contributed, as truth, beauty and goodness are the elements of love and they are also the elements that define God. So then, success must inevitably be measured by how godlike we are able to become.

I don't know if you have noticed, but there is nothing here that is incompatible with any religious faith. These foundations are layable from any background or heritage. To strive to be godlike can be pursued from any starting point.

I absolutely refuse to recognize myself as superior or inferior to you because I want happiness and I can only achieve happiness by sharing love with you. The more love I can share, the more of happiness I shall have. I cannot afford to have any walls between us, as they will prevent my happiness.

You might respond to this that there really are those who would victimize you, and there is a real basis for fear. There are real differences in people.

This is true, but it is never the responsibility of the individual to make that judgment. Society has erected juries, judges, committees and panels to decide these things and to set apart those antisocial elements. Never are these responsibilities placed upon the individual. Never should the individual find it necessary to act in this manner when relating person to person.

Only when empaneled with authority to represent society should anyone ever presume to judge. In personal relations the focus must consistently remain on sharing truth, beauty and goodness.

Love makes the world go round. God is love.

Success can only legitimately be claimed by becoming more godlike. Our builder and maker is God and he is the foundation of the New Age. His kingdom comes as His will is done. The goal of the New Age is the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Matthew 22:37: Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

From the Urantia Papers ...

“A godless humanitarianism is, humanly speaking, a noble gesture, but true religion is the only power which can lastingly increase the responsiveness of one social group to the needs and sufferings of other groups.”

“True religion must ever be, at one and the same time, the eternal foundation and the guiding star of all enduring civilizations.”

Divinity is creature comprehensible as truth, beauty, and goodness; correlated in personality as love, mercy, and ministry; disclosed on impersonal levels as justice, power, and sovereignty.”

JOIN THE SEEKERS LIST of the Association for Light and Life:
<http://www.q1.com/ALL>

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Association for Light and Life (ALL) is meant to represent all spiritual seekers everywhere, from all backgrounds, who strive to instill the light of goodness, beauty and truth into their individual and collective lives in order to know love and become characterized by it.

Our actions are guided by the knowledge that as unconditional love finds expression in the lives of God-knowing persons, intellectual peace, social progress, moral satisfaction, spiritual joy and cosmic wisdom grow in direct proportion to our understanding.

In this mighty effort to comprehend and to love one another as one Family of God, the Association for Light and Life is on a quest — to test and to share the theories that love is the greatest thing in all the universes, that God is love, and that love is the desire to do good to others.

May we serve one another and humanity with spiritual intent, characterized by acceptance, peace, understanding and ...LOVE.

We are the Association for Light and Life.

The Golden Rule... manyfold

Often, religions seem to exclaim that they have the only way to the truth. But if we look at a cross-section of religious beliefs, we find some astounding similarities of a common truth.

Christianity: All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the Law and the Prophets. — Matthew 7:12

Islam: No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself. —Sunnah

Judaism: What is hateful to you, do not to your fellowman. That is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary. —Talmud, Shabbat 31a

Buddhism: Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. —Udana-Varga 5:18

Taoism: Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain and your neighbor's loss as your own loss. —T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien

Zoroastrianism: That nature alone is good which refrains from doing unto another whatsoever is not good for itself. — Dadistan-i-dinik

Confucianism: Surely it is the maxim of loving kindness: Do not unto others what you would not have them do unto you. — Analects 15:23

Who can really own the truth? Perhaps the Source of truth itself, but can a material source really do anything more than portray such realities to the minds of seekers and believers? It seems that much truth is there for anyone to reach for, evidenced by the commonality of the Golden Rule among the various religions.

When Jesus said: “Love one another as I have loved you.” he amplified the Golden Rule to another level.

It seems that to love another as a brother or sister holds much merit, but to love one another as God loves us takes on new meaning. To love another as a parent would love its child holds a whole different level of affection.

THE URANTIA PAPERS: Genetics, Ironies, Technophobias

Email writers explore the tangled tumult of genetics, judgments and birth control.

Genetical Ironies

What kind of judgments are okay?

by CHRISTIAN ERIC WELLDERING

I think it is the irony of ironies that we prohibit our most spiritually progressed individuals (i.e. priests, monks) from engaging in sexual acts, but we allow our convicted criminals to have conjugal visits and to father children.

We have been charged by our Master: Judge not, lest ye be judged.

Some have interpreted this to apply across the board, as if unbridled liberty of every individual was the essence of the Master's teachings. That limitless freedom was, in reality, the rotten core of Lucifer's rebellion.

It is possible to perceive every individual as having equal potential in spirit and to refrain from making judgments as to the quality of their personality. This differs, of course, from recognizing genetic issues and protecting the rights of the descendants of these individuals as well as the individuals who must cohabitate and interact with "biologic degenerates."

Disallowing parenthood does not necessarily entail excommunication, condemnation, nor unfair treatment through the loss of our established rights as human beings.

Parenthood is a privilege, not a right.

The Urantia papers DO charge us with attaining

perfection, but this goal of perfection applies to the social system and not just the individual (Please note that these passages make a clear distinction between genetics and race!)

82:6.7 As long as present-day races are so overloaded with inferior and degenerate strains, race intermingling on a large scale would be most detrimental, but most of the objections to such experiments rest on social and cultural prejudices rather than on biological considerations. Even among inferior stocks, hybrids often are an improvement on their ancestors. Hybridization makes for species improvement because of the role of the dominant genes. Racial intermixture increases the likelihood of a larger number of the desirable dominants being present in the hybrid.

82:6.11 After all, the real jeopardy of the human species is to be found in the unrestrained multiplication of the inferior and degenerate strains of the various civilized peoples rather than in any supposed danger of their racial interbreeding.

52:2.12 It is neither tenderness nor altruism to bestow futile sympathy upon degenerated human beings, unsalvable abnormal and inferior mortals. There exist on even the most normal of the evolutionary worlds sufficient differences between individuals and between numerous social groups to provide for the full exercise of all those noble traits of altruistic sentiment and unselfish mortal ministry without perpetuating the socially unfit and the morally degenerate strains of evolving humanity. There is abundant opportunity for the exercise of tolerance and the function of altruism in behalf of those unfortu-

nate and needy individuals who have not irretrievably lost their moral heritage and forever destroyed their spiritual birthright.

51:4.8 These six evolutionary races are destined to be blended and exalted by amalgamation with the progeny of the Adamic uplifters. But before these peoples are blended, the inferior and unfit are largely eliminated. The Planetary Prince and the Material Son, with other suitable planetary authorities, pass upon the fitness of the reproducing strains. The difficulty of executing such a radical program on Urantia consists in the absence of competent judges to pass upon the biologic fitness or unfitness of the individuals of your world races. Notwithstanding this obstacle, it seems that you ought to be able to agree upon the biologic disfellowshipping of your more markedly unfit, defective, degenerate, and antisocial stocks.

AFTERMATH: The author got into a discussion over just WHO can be trusted to control genetical engineering. Subsequent reflection found Chris producing a piece relating genetics management with a phobia about the new technology that makes it possible.

Genetics and Technophobia

Can we overcome our fears and fully utilize the technology of genetical upliftment?

Dealing with the fear of technology, particularly genetics:

As a computer consultant, I am often called upon to defend what I do against conspiracy theorists and religious technophobes who believe that computers pave the way for the New World Order.

I told someone recently: A wheel is a fine invention when it is used to transport food to a needy village. Pop that same wheel on a chariot which is used to destroy the village, and you have a case of “bad technology.”

The same rule applies to all forms of technology. Computers. Fire. Genetic Engineering. Society always moves slower than science, and it is understandable that the first few generations exposed to these advancements remain wary of change and apprehensive of possible misuse.

I used to be very skeptical of genetics and related sciences. One day I was sitting around thinking hard though, and I realized all the good uses that could come from cloning, artificial wombs, genetic engineering, and cybernetics. Here are just a few:

1. Adam and Eve failed in our genetic uplift-ing. As a result, the pain of childbirth was never alleviated. Though it is scary to see fetuses floating in green vats and hooked up to computers, it makes me think that:

- a. the mother does not have to experience the pain of childbirth
- b. the baby does not have to experience the trauma of childbirth
- c. the baby has a healthier more stable incubation

2. Tampering with genetic code is made frightening by movies like “Species.” I’ve even leaned away from this method of evolution by promoting responsible parenthood and selective sterilization. In the interest of those who are afraid of Big Brother interfering with parental “rights,” gene therapy could eliminate or correct the defective portions of a person’s code and allow them to pass down “normal” chromosomes to their offspring.

3. A person unusually resistant to disease (perhaps a “mutant”) could be cloned and the genetic basis for their unique immune system preserved for the benefit of our species. These clones could then reproduce with “normal” humans to integrate this trait into their society.

Primitive man looked at primitive technology in much the same way as we do modern scientific leaps. Explosives resulted from experiments to

Genetics, Judgments, Ironies

(continued)

prolong life and pyrotechnics became, for a short while, a form of “magic.”

Likewise, a blacksmith was regarded as a sort of “magician,” when they worked with the steel and fire. In each case, there were individuals in the respective societies who objected to the use of such technology; that “we shouldn’t be messing around with that kind of stuff!”

When the theories of evolution were first presented, everyone clamored at the apparent blasphemy. God, they argued, created the world in six days and one was an agent of the devil if one believed otherwise. Now, as we’ve advanced a bit further, many people have learned to accept the likely method by which God put his creation together. It does not discount God to us, but rather glorifies him all the more.

The science of evolution does not imply a mechanical universe, but instead lends all the more credibility to the possibility of an intelligent creator. Like the Urantia papers say, with all of this mathematics, shouldn’t there be a Master Mathematician?

Genetics, in and of itself, is not an evil science. For the first time in our history, we have the ability to know where our evolution is taking us and how we can influence it for the best. Whether we actually “get our hands dirty” and alter genetic code or whether we issue warnings or standards concerning genetic defects and possible hazards, we have discovered a tool that lets us make one of the greatest gestures of altruism; thinking of our species as a whole.

We have no choice as to the knowledge we have; we know things even if we think we are not ready for it. We do have a choice with regards to wisdom and how we use the knowledge that we’ve gained. We now know all about genes

and how to manipulate them. It is possible to proactively interfere with our evolution, or we can travel what is, IMHO, the better path and patiently “observe” genetic trends and selectively remove unfit individuals from the gene pool.

Again, this does not necessarily entail them losing the privilege of one day raising or even bearing (artificially fertilized) children, but it does prevent defective genes from prospering. One person’s right to make money should not infringe on everyone else’s right to a clean environment.

In much the same way as

One person’s desire for children should not infringe upon the health and welfare of his/her society.

Practically speaking, we should limit selective sterilization to violent offenders and severe genetically-prompted mental cases. Minor health ailments can be corrected by gene therapy.

It is common sense that farmers breed their best livestock and send the unfit ones to the slaughterhouse. While we cannot bend to treating humans with as much “cruelty” as we treat our animals, we can at least recognize the validity of this line of thought. One day, I hope that we can wisely manipulate our own evolution so that people like these atheists I meet each day can no longer argue that there is too much disease and crime in the world for a loving God to be watching over us.

He is watching over us, but he only helps those who help themselves. Pray that he grants us the wisdom, because we cannot turn back from what we’ve already learned.

I’ve learned to view the most controversial uses of technology with the best possible optimism. I’d like to encourage others to do the same.

Childbirth is an irreplaceable miracle!

In reply to comments about childbirth pain and nurturing from Doretta Wildes

Hi Christian, I suspect you've never fathered a child. Despite the pain of childbirth, pregnancy can be a wonderful experience for both the mom and the growing fetus. Technology, in my opinion, could never find a more "stable" environment than the womb. Get hold of your Grey's Anatomy and read all about it.

But aside from the physical shelter of the womb, the growing fetus is cradled within what God intended to be his/her first source of nurturance. Over that period,, as the baby develops physically, the mother often develops emotionally.

This evolving relationship is at once very physical and very spiritual. I doubt, in fact, if it would be so spiritual if it were not so physical. I don't know of any woman who has carried a child to term who would be willing to trade this experience for the pain-free convenience technology might someday afford.

My daughter frequently refers to me as "her first home" and loves to imagine what it was like to be a tiny fetus.

The Urantia papers say that a government can never be a substitute for good parenting. I doubt if technology will find a substitute for the womb and the precious mother-child (and father-mother-child) bond that develops during natural pregnancy.

I believe, like you, that we must attempt to use technology to alleviate suffering and eliminate diseases and genetic disorders. However, in doing so, we'd be wise to accept the fact of an emotional and spiritual backdrop against which all the physical realities play out. We should proceed with the utmost respect for this delicate silken fabric which, despite its little snags and tears, is a true and ancient gift from God.

Inspirations in Cyberspace

Prayerful Expressions of STEVE TILLER

Father Within:

Help me maintain the balance to be fair even in victory over those who would hurt me. Let me be a demonstration of your forgiveness and acceptance, protect me from the bitterness and revenge that could be possible and will be expected by those who would use me for their own ends. Let me not pay unkindness with unkindness. Let me demonstrate the victory of your love over the self centeredness of personal ambitions.

Your gentleness of heart I try to demonstrate. Give me the wisdom of your mind to know how best to show my brothers and sisters the light of your working in my experiences. Let my thoughts give way to your thoughts as you guide me walking the paths we have chosen together.

My soul is the only begotten son of the father within and my own experience. Unique in ways that others may not ever fully understand, and yet with wonderful shared experiences that lead us all to unity of spirit and understanding.

I love being alive with you my Father. And I suspect that you love being alive within the material realms through me. You give me the experience of spirit. Life beyond myself- infinite, unending, spirit. I give you a window on the world of senses. You smell, taste, and feel this bursting life all the way to Paradise.

I love you Father within. You are my heart, my mind, the essence of my life. I am your fingers as you reach beyond the infinite to touch the minds of man as they exist in your creation.

I am the sustained. You are the sustainer. You are all and I am less than nothing, yet you love me as father loves a lost child. For this love unasked, I give back to you the only thing I have. You have my experience.

This sharing makes us both more than we could be alone. Let me be a conduit of your love to the world. You are the center of all goodness.

May goodness and mercy flow from me all the days of my life. My life is my prayer to You. Let that prayer be pleasing to your spiritual sight as you look out of my eyes onto this world and work of Yours.

Peacebeuntoyou.
steve

Herbals on the Altar – A Case for Sacramental Cannabis

by GUY MOUNT
Executive Director
The New American Church Association

EDITOR’S INTRODUCTION: The drug issue grows ever more challenging. We all have to deal with the trauma and suffering that comes from drug abuse in our society. Millions of others who smoke cannabis must also deal with oppressive drug laws that treat their pastime like a narcotic and turn them into criminals. Now comes an even more challenging issue. Some cannabis lovers are now enshrining the herb with a religious significance. Can this be true? In coming issues, we will continue to explore the issues of drugs and spirituality.

We call ourselves: A Religion For People Who Need Good Medicine

When spiritually sensitive people are healed with the help of a powerful herbal medicine, like pot or peyote, they quite naturally want to give thanks to something — the mysterious power that sent the plant, or just the spirit of the plant itself. That’s why there is a “peyote religion.” Indian people go to The Native American Church primarily to get healed, or to give thanks to the medicine, itself, for a healing.

Similarly, many people in America actually feel the deepest and most profoundly significant gratitude and reverence for marijuana, because it is a good medicine — physically, mentally and spiritually. It relieves the agony of AIDS, cancer, chemotherapy, childbirth (oldest recorded use), glaucoma, hepatitis-C, chronic pain and nerve/muscle spasmodic disorders like multiple sclerosis and paraplegia. It may even relieve the agony of living in the empire, any empire! Therefore,

we need a religious exemption for sacramental use of marijuana which will establish our right to good medicine and protect us from persecution.

Healing was and continues to be the basis of the peyote religion, and healing is the basis of the religion that is evolving from the use of medical marijuana. It’s not like taking aspirin or other pharmaceuticals. Marijuana lifts the spirit. It expands our awareness of and connection with the earth.

There’s more to it than mere chemical reactions between THC and neuron receptors. Our relationship to the earth suddenly becomes more important than our relationship to the empire — it’s a matter of true spiritual and physical identity.

“Thank God for pot and peyote,” is what we say in the New American Church. This is our birthright and spiritual heritage as “earthpeople.” Puritanical fundamentalism, the political religion of every international urban empire, is based on following the warpath. It may prevail at the present, and has obviously maintained every empire on earth over the last 2000 years, but a natural religion based on the respectful use of sacred plants is redeveloping. The medicine path is the way we want to go. We simply need to establish our constitutional right to religious freedom.

Before Proposition 215 came along, it was my belief that marijuana was a sacred plant, like peyote, and that both plants should be treated with respect, not only by the government, but also by the people who used them. My message has always been “follow the medicine path, not the warpath.” I believe that marijuana smoke is “God’s Breath,” just as some Christians believe

that wine is “God’s Blood.” Marijuana is, in fact, a sacrament in my religion, and I have been publishing that claim, along with other teachings for respectful use of sacred plants, since 1980. Here are some of our nonprofit activities:

Religious publishing:

- Compiling and publishing anecdotal health stories, scientific research articles, and spiritually uplifting testimonials in HOLY SMOKE, the free,exclusively online Journal of the NACA, available to the public.
- Printing free medical information and research on the beneficial uses of cannabis for relieving the agony of AIDS, anorexia, arthritis, asthma, childbirth, chronic pain, depression, epilepsy, glaucoma,lupus, migraine headaches, multiple sclerosis, PMS, rheumatism, severe stress, spasticity, terminal illness, and the nausea from chemotherapy in the treatment of cancer and hepatitis-C, or any other illness for which marijuana provides relief as determined by patients and physicians.
- Distributing other educational materials which provide intelligent, scientific data regarding the respectful use of cannabis. We believe that marijuana can lift the spirit above the agony of almost any difficulty, physical , psychological or spiritual.

Giving information or opinion:

- Networking and sharing information with all local, state and national organizations that advocate an end to cannabis prohibition.
- Reporting local and international news on relevant events on the Internet.
- Advocating respectful use of marijuana and peyote:
 - Advocating a religious exemption to use marijuana and peyote as sacramental medicines, regardless of ethnic heritage or medical condition, through constitutional rights legislation and public education.
 - Advocating cultivation of cannabis for earth-friendly hemp products, including clothing,

paper, food and fuel.

- Making presentations to local health care, civil rights, educational and religious organizations, on request, concerning responsible, commercial, medical and sacramental uses of cannabis marijuana.
- Providing teachings for respectful use whenever possible.

And here is what we consider to be:

A SPIRITUAL ROAD MAP FOR THE RESPECTFUL USE OF MARIJUANA

- Take herbs with prayer — Thank God for pot.
- Avoid alcohol, commercial cigarettes and other manufactured drugs.
- Seek a personal vision and follow a path with heart.
- Attend an earthcircle — Sing, dance and play music.
- Get your identity from the earth, not an empire.
- Honor all your relatives — Plants, animals and people.
- Use your power to make things better for everybody.
- Be part of the solution — Respect, protect and perpetuate Mother Earth.
- Make Love, Not War — Forgive your enemies.
- Clean your house, tend the garden, study hard and support your family.
- Practice the Golden Rule — Be cheerful, friendly and kind.
- Take some time-out for yourself.

Marijuana can be a spiritually healing plant for many people, regardless of ethnic heritage, provided they observe teachings for respectful use. This is, in fact, the way we practice our religion, and share it with other people who are seeking salvation with the help of sacred plants — sacred because the plants have a spirit too.

**Contact the New American Church at: 16625 Heitman Road * Cottonwood, CA 96022
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Mother Teresa... Visionary

Quotations from her book, Meditations from a Simple Path, in honor of her extraordinary life.

“I have only one message of peace and that is to love one another as God loves each one of you. Jesus came to give us the good news that God loves us and He wants us to love one another.”

“I see God in the eyes of every child.

“There is only one God and He is God to all; therefore it is important that everyone is seen as equal before God. I’ve always said we should help a Hindu become a better Hindu, a Muslim become a better Muslim, a Catholic become a better Catholic.

“I always begin my prayer in silence, for it is in the silence of the heart that God speaks. God is the friend of silence - we need to listen to God because it’s not what we say but what He says to us and through us that matters.

“A clean heart can see God, can speak to God, and can see the love of God in others.

“God is everywhere and in everything and we are all His children. When we gather in His name this gives us strength.

“When you know how much God is in love with you then you can only live your life radiating that love.

“Love has no meaning if it isn’t shared. Love has to be put into action. You have to love without expectation, to do something for love itself, not for what you may receive. If you expect something in return, then it isn’t love, because true love is loving without conditions and expectations.

“It is not how much you do but how much love

you put into the doing and sharing with others that is important. Try not to judge people. If you judge others then you are not giving love.

“Let us serve the Lord with joy. Joy is love, joy is prayer, joy is strength. God loves a person who gives joyfully, and if you give joyfully you always give more. A joyful heart is the result of a heart burning with love. Works of love are always works of joy. We don’t need to look for happiness; if we have love for others we’ll be given it. It is the gift of God.

“Prayer in action is love. Love in action is service.

“Do not worry about why problems exist in the world - just respond to people’s needs. You don’t have to come to India to give love to others.”

“Many people think that having money makes you happy. I think it must be harder to be happy if you are wealthy because you may find it difficult to see God: you’ll have too many other things to think about. However, if God has given you this gift of wealth, then use it for His purpose - help others, help the poor, create jobs, give work to others. Don’t waste your wealth.



“Anyone is capable of going to heaven.

Heaven is our home. Dying is not the end, it is just the beginning. Death is a continuation of life. This is the meaning of eternal life; it is where our soul goes to God, to be in the presence of God, to see God, to speak to God, to continue loving Him with greater love. We only surrender our body in death - our heart and soul live forever.”

THE TEACHING MISSION **Lessons from Ham**

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION: *The celestial teacher, Ham, has been transmitting since 1991, first in Woods Cross, Utah, now in Nashville, as part of a planetary Teaching Mission. As transmitted by Rebecca Bynum, Ham announced the Mission to a Urantia Book gathering in Los Angeles in '91 and, since that time, has produced a huge collection of lessons on many topics. Here are some of the recent ones.*

FAITHFULNESS AND MORALITY **5/11/97**

While it is true and even desirable that compromises should be reached in life, those who are faithful to their inner truth are eventually rewarded for remaining so. Faithfulness involves first of all the adherence to truth which is expressed as higher morality.

Morality is not the ideals imposed on you from society or social organizations such as churches. Morality is individual and is variable according to each person's own individual situation and inner light. Life's journey is only meaningful as it is expressed in this search for higher morality.

Morality is not what someone tells you you should do. It is found only in your own heart and soul center, that place of spiritual leading.

For example, Jesus followed his own inner higher morality rather than submit to the structured morality of his day. When publicly censored for eating without washing his hands, which in that day and time was considered seriously immoral, he answered his accuser by pointing out that it is not what goes into a man's mouth which makes him unclean or immoral but rather what comes out.

Today, among your religions, breaking taboos like working on the Sabbath, are still considered immoral. But to all spirit-led mortals, morality is not found in the proscriptions of society. Every spirit-led mortal must discover for him or herself the reality of higher morality in life.

Morality is in essence just the finding of increasingly better ways to live. So in finding this better, happier, less stressful, freer, and more rewarding life, you may in actualizing this, break societal taboos. But this struggle with conscience is essential to finding actual truth. The pathway to self-realization and self-fulfillment also involves finding what for you is immoral.

And in this struggle for distinguishing the moral and the immoral, you will come to find that it changes for you. Actions that you were comfortable with in your youth, you probably are not comfortable with in middle age because you have come to find finer distinctions than you saw when you were young, and your pathway toward increasing morality has led you to drop off things by the way.

This is the process of developing righteousness and you come to understand that you delight in living a righteous life for its own sake because it gives you pleasure. One's heart burns to live in the light of truth and be carried forward in this light.

Jesus said, "Happy are you though others shall revile you and say all manner of evil against you." Because you are firm in the righteousness that burns in your breast, no amount of public censure can remove it.

So you persist in your own individual, unique righteousness, even though others may be calling you immoral for breaking some societal rule.

That is how you truly know that you have found it, when you are unmoved by the opinions of others or fear of their opinion.

The path of the spirit is never long traversed by the weak of heart. If you have courage, then the Father requires all your courage. If you have faithfulness, then the Father requires all your faithfulness. It is impossible to be truly devoted to the spiritual life and be half-hearted or cowardly about it. The world is full of men who follow men, but there are very few men who follow God.

FEELING WONDER; SHARING LOVE

You all have small periods when a sense of wonder is recaptured in your lives. Wonder is an emotion that humans long for. Human beings want to hear tales of wonder, to see movies that inspire that sense of wonder.

People want to feel that feeling of seeing something or hearing something for the first time. Beautiful things inspire that sense. People want to be inspired to action. They want to feel the sense of wonder at belonging to something for the first time. They want a sense of connection between the artist or the movie or the song that speaks to them individually and how wonderful that is.

The world is full of wonder if you would learn to see with the eyes of the spirit. The eyes of the spirit reveal that the world is made from love, that all the life, all the living and growing things, are a part of the matrix of love. There is love in the grass, there is love in the spider and his web, there is love in the birds and their songs and their beauty. But most of all, there is the wonder of finding love in each other, of looking into another's eyes and recognizing your brother or your sister.

This is truly what people are made for. This is truly the enrichment and the reward of life. There is nothing more wonderful than this.

You must go through life finding that sense of

wonder. How much more wonderful can something be than finding your enemy to be your brother or your sister? Finding love is replacing anxiety or fear or worry because you are never anxious or worried or afraid over anything other than other human beings and when you love them they cannot really hurt you. And if you love them long enough, eventually their fear will also change and their anxiety and desire for gain at your expense will disappear as well, and your enemy is then your brother or your sister.

Now there will be those who will not accept your love, who will never acknowledge it. But you go a long way toward removing your fear of them and therefore their ability to harm you by loving them. And you will find that either people will change and come near you with love, or they will separate themselves from you if they are not able to accept your love or to return it.

Eventually over time, if you live always in love, giving love and showing love, you will attract those to you who want to be loved and give love and show love as well. The others will not stay.

Be steadfast then and walk in the way of love. Do not let fear intrude on this pathway.

Question: If I had to define what it meant to love another person like, I would have trouble. Is it an attitude, is it a way of behaving, is it both and more? Could you elaborate?

Love is the realization that another person is your brother or your sister. When you understand that basis of the relationship, then you become instantly sympathetic with that person and able to sympathize with their fears or with their anxiety, whatever it is that animates them. It is realizing that the barriers that you all consistently put between yourselves and others are not real.

LEVELS OF REALITY

7-13-97

The universe consists of three levels of ordered reality. All are relatively conditioned by time. In

the first reality level, there is matter, space, and time. These three elements make the physical existence possible.

The second level of existence is in general referred to as morontia, but this level includes all animated matter. Everything living partakes of the material and spiritual levels combined.

Mortal will creatures contain an added dimension of pure morontia being, that is the soul, which can exist apart from the physical form and does so upon physical death. All other living things exist only in that connection between the spirit and material. On the dissolution of the material, the spirit withdraws and there is no further existence individually as a creature.

But, all life is an expression of God, and especially of God's love. All of you who love nature are reacting to God's love in nature. You are seeing his grace, his beauty, in the world of living things.

The third level of reality is spiritual, purely spiritual. On this level, the Father visits his creatures personally. This is the level of Father's personal presence that can only be experienced within.

The Father exists throughout all creation, also, but as a personal being, he has his existence within every will creature. He endows his children, his will creatures, with personality and this allows his children to perceive his personally. So, on your level of existence, you partake of and perceive three levels of reality.

The Father desires to approach his children. He can reveal himself to you, as a person, and this is the ultimate experience of God to understand, to know him, as a personal friend. Many humans deal with God as an abstraction, as an hypothesis. But, the understanding that you need to achieve is that God is your personal friend.

When you undertake to pray, think not that the

Father is far away and that your prayers will fall short of his ear. He is the closest friend you will ever have. He is a constant presence within you, whether or not you open your heart and your mind to his presence. He is the supreme upholder, unifier and creator of all the vast universes, and yet at the same time, he is your own personal best friend.

When you are resolved to know God, and have opened your mind and your heart to his presence, you will know him as infinite gentleness, and infinite strength. It will occur to you that you can partake of his being at all times, in all circumstances, in each moment of every day. You will know the meaning of a door that has been opened which no man can shut.

Indeed, the truth will be upon you and you will have no doubts, no nagging feeling that something doesn't fit, no worry that you placed your hopes and your dreams in something that may not be real. All that is washed away.

This period when you come to this realization is the beginning of the adolescence of your life. This is a period where you will learn the manners, the etiquette, the grace of adulthood, that you will have the feeling of starting to grow up, of knowing what's important and what is a distraction. And though you may be gray-haired and aged, you will suddenly realize that your entire life had been spent in childhood.

The future of your planet very much depends on the number of people who reach their spiritual adolescence, who can put aside the petty materialistic and egocentric concerns of childhood and begin the initiation process of growing into maturity.

Be all of you of good cheer. You should all rejoice in your spiritual progress and know for certain that your faith is growing stronger every day. Each day, you are a little more able to surrender yourselves to love, and to the Father. Each day, you are a little better able to let go of

your ego concerns, the perceived injustices and petty slights that are part of living.

The time now is to look forward, not to look back. Take your steps along the spiritual path with firmness, decisiveness, and complete consecration of will. Remember that your being contains the highest levels of the universe, that you are never alone, for an instant.

Your trust in the Father will only breed more trust. Once you have made the decision and taken the step to trust him, there is no returning to the places of fear and mistrust, the place of the child. Be exceedingly glad, rejoice in the love of God, keep your eye on that point of light that ever guides you, trust and keep trusting and you will find that there will be happiness and peace in this lifetime.

Question: There are a number of books out that would qualify as channeling, for lack of a better word, such as "A Course in Miracles" and another called "Conversations with God." Could you elaborate on the source of those?

I cannot pass judgment as to the content of these books. It is only for you and each person to take truth from whatever source and to hold it as your own. That which is not ultimately true, which does not continue to serve your growing spiritual need, can be left aside.

But each person has a different temperament, a different life view, and different requirements, so what may be just right for you at the time may not fit another's needs at all.

Truth is a living thing, and as you grow in the truth, and grow in your ability to discern truth, it becomes easier to sidestep the pitfalls that sometimes accompany a grain of truth.

CENTER ON GOD TO CONQUER FEAR

When you experience anxiety or fear and the mental turmoil that accompanies fear, you are

separating the consciousness from divine contact and so you are required then in order to quell the fear and achieve peace consciously to direct your thoughts to God. As soon as your thoughts are consciously directed to God, however fearful they might be, you'll experience calmness and the ability to remain calm.

Human beings have the tendency to dwell in fearful thinking indulgently without really wanting to have comfort. You, however, are directed to consciously pull away from this self-indulgence and to reestablish contact with the Father at once.

Indulging in fearful speculation is a faith destructive or lowering pastime. Do not allow your lower animal-based fearful natures to destroy your higher faith based natures. When you find yourselves indulging like that, be conscious of it and direct your thoughts to God.

Question: Is this also a way to overcome other destructive emotions like anger. Is this a way to overcome anger or to move out of anger more quickly?

Exactly so. Anger is the other side of fear. They are the dual reaction to a single stimulus which we term animal fear. It is an integral part of the material mind, but this material level of mind is just your basis or starting point in your mindal development.

The morontial mind is overlapping of the purely material mind. Always are you functioning as an integrated whole and cannot fully leave behind the material mind until experiencing mortal death.

The material mind, in essence, constitutes all your basic drives: hunger, procreation, fight or flight. You need these animal drives in order for the animal body to continue.

However, it is likened to the lilies which have their roots in the mire and their beautiful faces turned toward the sun. The soul which encompasses the morontial mind has its face always turned to God and your consciousness can dwell in these areas.

THE TEACHING MISSION **Lessons around the USA**

HUMOR IN HUMAN EXPERIENCE

Rayson - 2/13/94 - Malibu, California

As with all behaviors that you learn and develop while in your material life, only those qualities which are conducive to spiritual growth are retained when you move to a higher form at the cessation of your material life. Humor, of course, is one of those qualities.

Question: Is there humor which has no spiritual value?

There is that which is called humor which is not of value in your ascension career. As with other areas that we have discussed there is the higher definition and the material definition. Do you understand? Merely because a situation or description thereof evokes a response of laughter and appreciation by mortal beings does not qualify that necessarily as humor, according to the higher definition.

In the mortal form which you now experience, the humor that will survive the material life is that which helps to moderate your forming animal drives. Fear, grief, rage and pride.

For example, the laughter at a funeral, which is quite common though little discussed, often occurs due to the fear of death which all material beings experience to some extent. Laughter helps to subdue this fear and in so doing can serve very well to promote spiritual growth.

The joy that is felt from perception of true humor increases immensely as you pass from one form to another. In large measures this is due to the loss of the animal remnant which impedes your capacity to experience joy.

It is important for you to realize just how impor-

tant humor is in your lives -- now and forever. Humor was an important part of the war against Lucifer. It may seem odd to you but it was very effective, as it always is against evil. Even now, the mention of Lucifer's name evokes the equivalent of laughter on high.

Reference is to the Urantia papers account of the Biblical 'war in the heavens,' against Lucifer, Satan and other rebellious personalities.

It may be your delightful pleasure some day to hear some of the jokes of your ancestors that have been passed down from the spirit beings on your planet. Some of the jokes you hear now are really older than you think they are.

In response to a question about churches:

Formal religions unfortunately fall into ways of controlling people through fear and intimidation. It is difficult to have a fearful congregation if you are spreading humorous anecdotes and present God as a being who is loving, kind and funny.

When was the last time a congregation laughed at a priest? There is a very old joke which dates back to the first time that the Jewish people declared themselves to be chosen by God.

Shortly after the announcement was made and accepted among the tribes there was a great war which brought on much discussion and doubt. And the joke became, "Let God choose someone else."

This is a high form of humor for it incorporates self mockery and yet there is the germ of understanding of God's true love and man's capacity to make free will choices which determine his material state.

THE TEACHING MISSION

SELF-DISCIPLINE and the TEMPLE OF THE SOUL Olfana - 12/94 - Half Moon Bay, California

The issue of self-discipline is one which many people struggle with in this life, on a planet especially such as this — one so unbalanced and prone to misperceptions of healthy choices.

You can always benefit greatly from the “tried and true” path of looking inward for this Voice of God which continually reaches out toward you. You have so little encouragement, now, on this planet, to regard to this Voice as the great guide which it is! It is as if those who chose this effort must do so by overcoming the prejudices which exist regarding this process.

They are often discouraged from such an effort by statements such as: “All you will hear is what you want to hear.” “You will only be talking to yourself.” “You cannot find the Guidance of God within the small confines of your own mind.”

This is most incorrect! I encourage you to trust greatly in the ability of the Thought Adjuster’s guidance, the Voice of God within you, to ring clearly within your mind and heart — if you will only come to this process with an open mind, and a willingness to listen, a willingness to ponder what you sense. Consider it from many perspectives. Does it not only nourish you, but appease your appetite for Truth?

Self-discipline also requires an abandonment of the ego’s desire to be in charge. If you are led by this voice which rationalizes continually the noble effort you might make, you are being drawn down by the ego! It will continually attempt to convince you that such efforts, such choices, will not, indeed, reward you in any way,—will go unappreciated. Perhaps, will be

“a waste of your otherwise precious time.” It will operate from the anxieties which you can be so prone to suffer from.

Self-discipline can be motivated by saying to yourself: “I will make this effort for God.” “I will make this effort for the good of my soul.” “I will make this effort for the common good of others.” “I will make this effort as an example to others of my intention to sincerely serve.”

I am speaking here not only of issues of self-discipline that are those regarding one’s use of one’s time, or one’s decisions which affect others. I am also speaking of those issues of self-discipline which involve the maintenance of one’s bio-physical being, one’s body, one’s “Temple for the Soul.”

I would encourage you to regard yourself in this manner. Your physical body is a shelter for your soul in this life. You can be encouraged in healthy habits regarding your body by, again, empowering yourself by such statements as:

“I will make my food choices in order to give my body strength and health.”

“I will exercise my body in order to allow the beautiful Energy of God to flow through me with more ease and freedom.”

“I will regard any chemical substance that I put into my body by high standards of health and discipline”

“I will not allow my body to become encumbered by choices which diminish my ability to use this body, this Gift from God, in this world, which can, instead, serve the Father’s Purpose.”

I hope I have conveyed to you encouragement, and a strong sense of purpose, in the reasoning behind choices of self-discipline with this lesson.

EARTH REBIRTH Do We Have A Mission Here?

The Lightworkers believe they are Starseeds, and they intend to help humankind through catastrophe into spiritual rebirth. Warning! Evacuations may be necessary.

by BOB LEA

Are you ready to fulfill your life's mission? What mission? Surely you must know. It's that one you signed up for just before you were born into this three dimensional world at this critical time in the history of the universe.

What do you mean, this critical time? Surely you must know. It's the time for a vast shift in the consciousness of BOTH this space ship we call Earth and the consciousness of our being. This shift, from the limitations of 3D to the freedom and vision of the fourth and fifth dimensions, is what is referred to as ascension.

Which brings us back to our mission. It is really a two-part mission. The first is the critically important aspect of our own personal ascension. Our own ability to become more like our loving Creator. To be co-creator with Him and His vast array of celestial and galactic beings.

And that leads to the second part, for we are all in this journey together to raise the consciousness of humanity. To bring it out of the darkness of its inhumanity and into the light of love and service for all of creation.

Wow! That's a big mission. Do you suppose we are up to it? We had better be, for you remember, we signed up for it.

Before continuing, please understand that this message is not intended to convince you of anything. It is offered up to you as something to consider, to be aware of possibilities. Each of you is encouraged to go into your personal and group meditations with the desire to know the

greatest truth for you. You should not accept anything that comes forth as the latest fancy, especially if it comes from a charismatic "leader". Rather, go to that great spark of creation within, to that spark of great wisdom.

In 1968 I had been awakened to a world beyond our 3D senses, a world which could see the unseen. I was most fortunate to be exposed to many "coincidences" which allowed me insights into many aspects of what lies just beyond our 3D barrier. Then, a couple of years ago, I was "blown away" when I began to fully realize the vast network of celestial beings that God has working for Him throughout the universe.

I was beginning to grasp the significance of all the angels, Ascended Masters, Teachers and other wonderful beings wanting to be of service to the principles of love.

Like in the movie, "Contact," when we reflect on the vastness of God's universe, we would truly be naive to think that the earth is the sole depository of intelligent life. One book on the history of the universe puts us at inhabited planet 5 trillion plus. Wow! But if you stop and think about it for a moment, that number really should not be too surprising. We are in the Milky Way galaxy. If you are lucky enough, you can see the awesome light of its hundreds of billions of stars in the night sky. And our galaxy is just one of hundreds of billions of galaxies.

You have heard the expression "You are not alone." We are not alone because of the vast array of both celestial and galactic beings that are looking after us, who are waiting to enlighten you and encourage you in your ascension process.

We are not only NOT alone; there is a whole crowd here. And they love to come together while we hold group meetings — even if we do not know they are there.

Sound a little bit like Loony Tunes to you? If you have not been exposed to some of this yet, I don't blame you. In fact many new agers find some of this as hard to believe as I did at one point in my life. And maybe some of it is only illusion. Yet I have tried to develop an open mind, and the more willing I have been to learn of greater truths, the more amazing has been the information revealed to me.

A vast number of psychics, prophets and futurists have come forward to talk about one aspect of the ascension of Earth — earth changes. If there were only one or two such predictions, we could discount the information. But when there are many, we should pause and consider. Yet nobody should react to this information unless it rings true when they are seeking the truth.

The consensus message: Earth IS going to have a major upheaval. This will NOT be the end of the Earth, but a rebirthing. The raising of the consciousness of humanity during these times is the desire of our Creator.

It is an opportunistic coupling. These major changes are not to take millions of years. They will take no more than a few years — with very major changes occurring within weeks. The exact time for these events to occur is not known for sure by man, or the celestials, or our galactic friends. The changes could have started by the time you read this article.

Our galactic friends (generally referred to as the Galactic Federation) are not here on vacation. They have volunteered — in millions of star ships hovering out of sight in a different dimension. They are here for only one purpose: to serve our Creator during this time of divine intervention, an event important to the whole Universe.

These are good guys. They will help us evacuate from the danger areas of the world so that we do not have to face the brutality of trying to survive global catastrophe. That is, they will do so IF we want them to.

Each of us has free will. We can choose to live in love, or live in fear. The teachers tell us over and over again that fear is the opposite of love. We must have enough faith in our very existence to realize that we are primarily spiritual beings. Every one of us signed up to be mortals knowing that, physically, we are not immortal. One day this body will be shed as we move on to a greater reality.

So the issue of death is really not important. What is important is how we live during our lifetime. Are we ready to serve? Can we love ourselves and our neighbor? Can we be part of the solution as we move through these incredible times which the prophets are saying are already manifesting? Truly, you are far more powerful than you realize.

And what is also important is that we need not experience death at this time of catastrophe. So if our galactic friends come knocking on your door, take their loving hand and ascend so that you can return again to complete your mission in a loving world.

And while waiting for their assistance, live now in love — every day. Help manifest a new reality. Join with people of like mind in regular meetings of your “spiritual community.”

If you have read to this last paragraph, you have surely already signed up to be one of the human volunteers who will help others overcome their fears during these coming days and months ahead. You are an incredible being and an important member of a very important team.

Welcome aboard.

Bob Lea <EmerCom@worldnet.att.net>

GODINSIDE Inner Questions... Inner Light

by D.J. LIGHT

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION: *The author's website is entitled: "Let There Be Light - Always in All Ways" and includes a plethora of articles, meditations and expressions that seek and find inner spiritual growth.*

Our Mission is to seek the Light of Inner Consciousness.

Someone once observed that you learn more by the questions you ask than by the answers you give. Call it Socratic learning, if you will, but I find that asking questions of myself helps keep me on track. Here are some that I ask regularly.

What am I resisting?

The seeds of growth lie in your resistance to what is new, unfamiliar, or unpleasant. All too often, the very things we resist most are the things that force us to grow the most. So, be attentive to those subtle gut-tightening signals that hint of an opportunity for learning

What is the lesson here?

There is a second step that is needed to reinforce the insight gained by asking the first question. In order to really benefit, we have to actually seek out the lesson, demonstrate that we really want to hear, and be willing to follow the often subtle guidance that comes.

Have I been here before?

Often our most pressing issues are thinly disguised versions of problems we have failed to solve in the past. Different names and faces

maybe, but the same underneath, destined not to go away until we meet and resolve them once and for all. If your answer to this question is, yes, then maybe it is time to get to the bottom of the issue and solve it!

Am I losing energy to this?

We pay a price for every negative thought we entertain, and it is measured in decreased energy, heightened depression, reduced immune function, and sometimes serious illness. Although you may believe otherwise, we have to reach the place where anger, frustration, worry, and criticism have no place in our experience. Until we do, we are losing energy, diluting our focus, and rendering ourselves vulnerable.

Am I holding on to something I need to let go of?

One of the most difficult tasks of this life consists in letting go of our attachments, of ego, of our need to be right, and ultimately, of this life. You cannot fly unless you are willing to relinquish your firm footing on earth; flying requires that sort of faith, and commitment. The surprising thing is that, when we really let go, we begin to grow.

Am I in the present?

Every moment you spend regretting the past or worrying about the future is a moment of the present lost. Yes, we need to complete the past, wind up our unfinished business, and be attentive to trends that portend of future events, but we can take action only in the present. So, that is where your full attention needs to be, and staying in the present is a full time job.

Inner Questions... Inner Light

What do I need to do now?

To act or not to act, that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to take action against a sea of troubles and so by doing, prolong them, or to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous inaction and so gain clarity. (Shakespeare would sue for what I have done to Hamlet's timeless prose)

Put the question differently: is there a NEED for action now? Often, we act because we are afraid that if we do not, things will get worse. The truth is that deliberate inaction is action, and it is often a way to allow a cloudy situation to become clear.

Who is in control here?

True or false? It's important to be in control of your life. Control can be a big issue for some people, especially if they feel they do not have it. So, granted, it is perfectly reasonable to want to feel in control. Letting go of the past, staying in the present, and taking action (including no action) are all ways to develop a sense that you are in control.

But, let me suggest that there is a step beyond control. It is to recognize that, ultimately, you are NOT in control -- that you are always subject to a higher authority. Paradoxically, this recognition and your acknowledgement of it can free you from the need to always be IN control.

What is my responsibility here?

Have you noticed how some people have a need to involve others in their problems? If it is your boss, your significant other, or your child, it is normal to conclude that you have to do something. But, that something doesn't mean becoming part of the problem! Your responsibility, in this case, is to maintain a level of detachment

(continued)

that will enable you to see the situation clearly, and this clarity pertains not only to the solution, but to the extent that you should be involved in the problem in the first place.

Am I at peace with this?

Do you know when you are at peace with something? Chances are, it is when you can look at an issue, person, or problem and feel no charge, no subtle or sudden surge of emotion. But peace is something more. It is about balance, an inner certainty that you are untouched by it, him, or her. The peace-check is a key element in gaining closure, in ascertaining that the situation is complete.

-- ejlight@earthlink.net

LOVE IS ALL

Love is all we need to know to find that special inner glow, and if you share in kindness true then love will shine right back to you.

Love is all we need to feel to make each day so glowing real. Your smiling face is what you give each day to make the spirit live.

Love is all we need to be and love will make us all so free to find our special way to share and flow our lovestreams everywhere.

Love is where the fear is not, where caring passion burns so hot, and faith speaks true that we are growing

-- Jim Cleveland

Joining the Infinite and Finite... God and Man

In a critique of Eastern and Western religions, this excerpt from the author's book, "The Union of God and Man," explores how each offers a missing reality to the other.

by PHIL EVERSOU

Personality, or personhood, makes reality unfold, makes progress happen, brings in the new. It does not happen otherwise or by itself.

Personality insists on purpose and direction, foresees the future, or possible futures, and wills them into manifestation. Personality is the will and desire of the Infinite to move into a rediscovery of itself, revealing a forever unfolding reality.

But in Buddhism and Eastern religions generally, there is no ultimately real personal self, and created reality is seen as purposeless and futile as far as progress or lasting worth is concerned.

All major Eastern religions except Islam see creation as arising either from error or delusion. For them, the purpose of creation is to realize that you want to escape it forever since it is only that which fools you into forgetting who you really are.

In Buddhism, there is a deep sense of the here-and-nowness of reality, the immediate presence of the Infinite, but there is no recognition of a truly valid individual selfhood, and there is nowhere to go, except through the cycles of reincarnation, because you are already there.

What Hinduism and Buddhism consider to be really "you" does not exist except as unbounded Infinity, and the cycles of reincarnation that you may go through are only for freeing yourself from the egoic delusions of karma and karmic debt that hold you in a fundamentally delusory universe.

The deepest self-delusion to have, according to Eastern religions, is to believe you really exist or really can exist as an individual self. It is this fundamental error, this holding to ego, that causes all creation to arise, in Eastern thinking.

True selfhood and forward drive go together, and no Eastern religion, teaching the invalidity of the ego and delusory nature of all creation, has forward drive. They all have an entirely negative view of the value of the individual self, whose desires generate its delusions.

On the other hand, it is indeed true that the individual self does not exist of itself or from its own source of existence separate from any other supposed source of existence. It is also true that if one thinks of himself as *only* being an individual self, separate from other selves and from the Source of all selfhood, one can only go astray in delusions.

The belief that the individual self need go no higher than itself for guidance or for the source of its existence is the cause of all possible evil, devastation and suffering. In other words, the sin of pride.

We are all egotistical in the beginning of our evolution, but there are no egotists still existing at the end of that evolution. It is not the ego itself that is the problem; it is egotism. Egotism, self-centeredness, ignorance of higher dimensions of self, is inevitable in the scheme of things, but it gives way to learning and to self-realization. The ego should learn that it is not to be annihilated in the name of self-realization, but rather superseded and overcontrolled by its own Higher Self.

Eastern religions generally teach that the person, on whatever level, is a mask or veil, a persona or ego, a nonessential role. They do not see the person as a focus of volition and true consciousness but as the trap of egohood. They see the universe as basically a false enterprise, a field of illusion populated by egos which themselves are only vortices of illusion.

The goal is always to obliterate oneself as an individual, to void the characteristics of particularity and uniqueness, to extinguish all personal desire of any kind, to cease to exist in any identifiable form, and to get out of the universe forever after a tour of duty as a *bodhisattva*.

It is indeed an admirable goal to disidentify oneself from all objects, symbols, images, and forms, which means to be detached from identification with what one is not. But this does not mean that the universe is essentially a trap to avoid. It is a trap only when one is identified with it and hence attached to it, ignorant of one's freedom to see beyond it.

The existence of the universe, and of oneself in it, is not what the problem is, and getting out of the universe entirely and permanently is not the answer to that supposed problem. There is nothing wrong with the universe that dealing with it properly won't solve. There never was anything wrong with it, and there never will be.

What has been wrong is how we relate to it and to others. We have kicked up dust into our eyes, and then we complain that we are in tears.

To give Eastern religion its due, it is true that there is a Reality beyond the personal and the impersonal, called in Zen the Fertile Void, but this Reality does not make the personal and the impersonal less than what they are, namely, the complementary sources of creation. There can be no creation without the fundamental distinction between personal and impersonal.

Creation is an eternally ongoing project of the

Infinite. The Infinite fully supports creation, and creation exists in non-creation. Creation, rather than being a pitfall to learn to avoid, is the Infinite's only opportunity to manifest itself and communicate with itself. You can be sure that Infinity knows this.

This means that reality beyond creation and within creation are equally valid, both part of the same reality. This complementarity allows the Infinite Creator to be himself—as a unique person—on any level of creation that is designed to be consciously receptive to him. The Creator is the Voluntary Consciousness, and the Conscious Volition, of the creation. There is no other voluntary consciousness of it, only different variations of the Same Creator in the same Creation.

The West is equally wrong about the nature of man in the opposite way. While it validates the individual, it denies him unity with the Infinite. This is because the validation of self is so tentative, so conditional, and so limited that it cannot deem man worthy to attain union with the Infinite, such as Jesus was believed to have done.

The orthodox Christian validation of your worth as an individual tells you that you are a damned-to-hell original sinner unless you believe that Jesus, the perfect God-man, died as an innocent lamb-offering to appease the wrath of God the Father toward you. If you don't believe it, you are damned to hell in the name of divine justice.

The orthodox Christian attitude is, who needs people who can't believe such things? Hell's too good for them. In addition, you can never be sure that you are saved and not one of the damned, through any act of willingness or good intention on your part. Only God can save you if it pleases him to do so, you yourself cannot ensure it, and God might not want to save you anyway.

Both East and West have committed themselves, historically, to equally erroneous views of man

and God because each has emphasized half the truth and denied the other half as impossible or mad. Neither Eastern nor Western teachings has been able to bridge the great paradox of Infinity: the unification of God and man as one.

The West allowed it for Jesus but for no one else. The East has never seen individuality as anything but lostness in egotism, and in its view the purpose of life, in all past and future lifetimes, is to eradicate the need to exist as an individual and hence to eradicate the need for the illusion of creation to continue.

The West affirmed the individual as the potential object of salvation but separated him from God, who became remote at best. In medieval times, if you were not remote from God, you were in danger of losing your life as a heretic. Those who believed in this God who never associated with them personally, were various kinds of theists and Deists.

In Catholicism, Roman or Orthodox, it is nearly impossible for one to have direct, personal experience of any sort with God. The great contribution of the Protestant Reformation was that it asserted that man can directly and personally interact with God through prayer and worship and that man's life can be guided, informed, and inspired by this personal communion with God. But God was still held to be completely separate from and other than oneself.

Those who could not believe in such a personally non-experienceable God tended to become various kinds of atheists and agnostics. Western religion, by denying the union of God and man, as Jesus portrayed for everyone to follow along with, has been the spawning ground for abundant varieties of atheism, materialism, liberal humanism, socialism, and communism, all of which are deliberate attempts of man to live without God.

The only true answer for the disastrous religions of East and West is the union of the Infinite with the finite. Although you are finite

as a human, the Infinite is still the real *who* of you. If you are to be a person with a real identity, a lasting pattern of individuality, it is incapable and essential for you to *be* the Infinite.

The Infinite serves an essential function that you cannot postpone if you are to be a real person, a real subjectivity. The Infinite that is you is imageless subjectivity, void of all objectivity, and transcendent over all possible creation. That is what true subjectivity is: voluntary consciousness beyond all boundaries, patterns, images, constructs, beliefs, and thoughts but capable of living happily within them.

The proper instructions, cautions and qualifications for achieving the union of God and man are to be found in the Urantia papers in the sections on Thought Adjusters (the internal spirit of God) and on the Life of Jesus.

The papers make the point that Thought Adjusters are both you and God. If this is so, then it follows that they are the mobile and dynamic mode of the Infinite I AM, the way in which the static I AM escapes the "limitations" of unqualified infinity. It also logically follows that if the Thought Adjuster is both you and God, then you are God, subject to all the qualifications noted in the papers on Thought Adjusters.

In support of this line of reasoning, we can note that Paper 107 says that Mystery Monitors start out as Thought Changers, then become Thought Adjusters, and then Thought Controllers. In other words, they start out as divine "objects" relative to the human mind, but in the end, the human mind realizes that they are not objects but subjects, and at some point wholly submits to them in recognition of its subordinate status.

The human ego acknowledges its master and continues to exist, but only as the willing servant. This prepares the way for fusion, which is nothing more or less than another unique union of God and man. God escapes unqualified infinity and man escapes the limits of finitude."

JEST THE FACTS

THOUGHTS OF THE DEEPEST PRO FUN DITTY

ON METAPHYSICS

Deja Fu: The feeling that somehow, somewhere, you've been kicked in the head like this before.

ON DEEP THOUGHTS

A day without sunshine is like night.

ON HIGHER EDUCATION

College is a fountain of knowledge...and the students are there to drink.

ON MATHEMATICAL TRANSFORMS

A polar bear is a rectangular bear after a coordinate transform.

ON PROBLEM SOLVING

When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to resemble a nail.

ON MATERIALISM

He who dies with the most toys is still dead.

ON RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

Photons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic!

ON INFINITY

If you had everything, where would you keep it?

ON ECONOMICS

The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.

ON PUBLISHING OR PERISHING

I am returning this otherwise good typing paper to you because someone has printed gibberish all over it and put your name at the top.

— English Professor, Ohio University

ON REVISIONIST HISTORY

What was sliced bread the greatest thing since?

ON DATING

When aiming for the common denominator, be prepared for the occasional division by zero.

ON LAMENTATION

Of all the things I've lost, I miss my mind the most.

ON POETIC LOVE

When you're swimming in the creek
And an eel bites your cheek - That's a moray!

ON MODERNISM

Q: How many surrealists does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

A: Two. One to hold the giraffe; the other to fill the bathtub with brightly colored machine tools.

ON MATERIAL SCIENCE

Character density: The number of very weird people in the office.

ON EXTINCTION

Save the whales. Collect the whole set.

ON LITERATURE

This is not a novel to be tossed aside lightly. It should be thrown with great force. — Dorothy Parker

ON PROPHECY

The meek shall inherit the earth—they are too weak to refuse.

ON NUMBERS

Grabel's Law: 2 is not equal to 3—not even for very large values of 2.

ON DRUGS AND DEVELOPMENT

There are two major products to come out of Berkeley: LSD and UNIX. We don't believe this to be a coincidence.

The Jean-Paul Sartre Cookbook

by Alastair Sutherland

We have been lucky to discover several previously lost diaries of French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre stuck in between the cushions of our office sofa. These diaries reveal a young Sartre, obsessed not with the void, but with food.

Apparently Sartre, before discovering philosophy, had hoped to write "a cookbook that will put to rest all notions of flavor forever." The diaries are excerpted here for your perusal.

October 3 -- Spoke with Camus today about my cookbook. Though he has never actually eaten, he gave me much encouragement. I rushed home immediately to begin work. How excited I am! I have begun my formula for a Denver omelet.

October 4 - Still working on the omelet. There have been stumbling blocks. I keep creating omelets one after another, like soldiers marching into the sea, but each one seems empty, hollow, like stone. I want to create an omelet that expresses the meaninglessness of existence, and instead they taste like cheese.

I look at them on the plate, but they do not look back. Tried eating them with the lights off. It did not help. Malraux suggested paprika.

October 6 - I have realized that the traditional omelet form (eggs and cheese) is bourgeois. Today I tried making one out of cigarette, some coffee, and four tiny stones. I fed it to Malraux, who puked. I am encouraged, but my journey is still long.

October 10 - I find myself trying ever more radical interpretations of traditional dishes, in an effort to somehow express the void I feel so acutely. Today I tried this recipe:

Tuna Casserole

Ingredients: 1 large casserole dish

Place the casserole dish in a cold oven. Place a chair facing the oven and sit in it forever. Think

about how hungry you are. When night falls, do not turn on the light.

While a void is expressed in this recipe, I am struck by its inapplicability to the bourgeois lifestyle. How can the eater recognize that the food denied him is a tuna casserole and not some other dish? I am becoming more and more frustrated.

October 25 - I have been forced to abandon the project of producing an entire cookbook. Rather, I now seek a single recipe which will, by itself, embody the plight of man in a world ruled by an unfeeling God, as well as providing the eater with at least one ingredient from each of the four basic food groups.

To this end, I purchased six hundred pounds of foodstuffs from the corner grocery and locked myself in the kitchen, refusing to admit anyone. After several weeks of work, I produced a recipe calling for two eggs, half a cup of flour, four tons of beef, and a leek. While this is a start, I am afraid I still have much work ahead.

November 15 - Today I made a Black Forest cake out of five pounds of cherries and a live beaver, challenging the very definition of the word cake. I was very pleased. Malraux said he admired it greatly, but could not stay for dessert. Still, I feel that this may be my most profound achievement yet, and have resolved to enter it in the Betty Crocker Bake-Off.

November 30 - Today was the day of the Bake-Off. Alas, things did not go as I had hoped.

During the judging, the beaver became agitated and bit Betty Crocker on the wrist. The beaver's powerful jaws are capable of felling a blue spruce in less than ten minutes and proved, needless to say, more than a match for the tender limbs of America's favorite homemaker. I only got third place. Moreover, I am now the subject of a rather nasty lawsuit.

December 1 - I have been gaining 25 pounds a week for two months, and I am now experiencing light tides. It is stupid to be so fat. My pain and ultimate solitude are still as authentic as they were when I was thin, but seem to impress girls far less. From now on, I will live on cigarettes and black coffee.

CELESTIAL SURFING Fear and Fundamentalism

by JERRY McCOLLUM
via the Urantia Papers email discussion groups

My dear UB Talkers -

I have some friends who are very nice people, very gracious people. They are spirit-led, God-conscious and very caring. They also believe the Urantia Book is a Satanic-motivated tome which needs to be methodically removed from society (along with other “similar” writings).

What gives my friends their assured, fundamental sense of right and wrong? What gives them their heartfelt measuring stick for sin? The Holy Bible.

This is not a cynical attack on the Bible or on the many good people who believe in its words, literally and symbolically. I am only illustrating how many of us seem to WANT and NEED fundamental edicts with which we can interpret our world and personal experience. The books with which we do this range from the Satanic Bible and Astrology to the Koran, the Holy Bible, A Course in Miracles and the Urantia Book, among others.

These are confusing times with a variety of new age and celestial messages being introduced into the global, mindal mileu. Spiritual consciousness seems to be swirling as though many invisible hands are stirring the pot.

This elevated activity forces us to live our lives with increasing uncertainty in many respects. So we naturally look for a rock of ages or at least a toehold with which we can climb into the future with some predictability and moral certainty.

I believe there are innate fears in many of us that find expression in our adult lives in various ways, from individual paranoia to group-think

cultism. Indeed, it’s probably near-impossible to actually think as an individual these days, yet I personally believe this is what my Father asks of me.

I believe my Father wants me to have a personal relationship with Him that transcends any and all groups, books, cults, religions, cultures, institutions and societies.

And the very real challenge in this paramount relationship is to still pay respect and recognize the organismic value in these self same groups, to give unto Caesar what is properly due Caesar.

I have read posts recently that suggest certain groups or books are sinful or evil. I have also read that these same groups and books will be judged by these perceived attributes. I see these attitudes as convenient discriminations which serve only to bolster preconceived views of the world based mainly on fear.

I don’t get a sense of truth from many of these observations, only a fear-based rationale and boundaried integrity, very similar to my bible-reading friends’ paradigms of morality.

Their world has this pigeon hole here and that pigeon hole there into which information, people and reality can go. No other holes are possible or even exist. Fear won’t allow it.

If other holes DID exist, surely the primary book or group to which my friends have relinquished their personal search for truth would tell them.

I can sympathize and agree with the notion that unbridled license masquarading as liberty is pathetic and dangerous, but personally I would rather suffer the disappointment of unrewarded sincere searching than live in the self-congratulating house of fearful circumspect.

THE CHURCH WITHIN *Fear Not*

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION: *The Church Within supports the development of the God spirit that resides within us all.*

THE SUNDAY SERVICE

Quotes:

(The Urantia Papers - #165)

“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And yet, when these birds flit about in quest of their sustenance, not one of them exists without the knowledge of the Father, the source of all life. To the seraphic guardians the very hairs of your head are numbered. And if all of this is true, why should you live in fear of the many trifles which come up in your daily lives? I say to you: Fear not; you are of much more value than many sparrows.”

(The Bible - Luke 12:6-7)

“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

The Sermon:

Why do we fear?

Animals "seem" to fear everything... but do they? Do they live in fear the way we seem to at times? What is it that animals truly fear anyway? Watch animals ... they fear nothing but that which immediately endangers their present survival.

A herd being attacked by a predator acts terrified ... but the moment that immediate danger is passed, they graze as if nothing has happened. Birds will flee from a meal in an instant upon

being approached... and will be back at it in the next instant when danger has barely passed. To an animal, fear is an instantaneous thing ... a live or die right now kind of thing. It is never dwelt upon... it is gone after its usefulness has passed.

Do animals fear that they will starve? Do they fear that they will not have a place to rest or care for themselves and their young? Do they fear that they will not get what they deserve? No. Animals do not fear for the things necessary to their survival... they trust instinctively that everything needed for survival is available to them. There is much we could learn from animals.

What is it that we are in fear of?

We humans have learned to fear just about everything. We are not content with fearing only real immediate danger... we also like to fear potential or possible opportunities for any kind of hurt... real or imagined.

We fear our own immaturity... our own incompleteness... as if God blames us for being young and inexperienced.

We have a tendency to fear not only for our physical survival, but our spiritual survival as well. Why?

Do we fear that God loves us less than the animals? “Fear not.”

Do we fear that God condemns us for making immature mistakes? “Fear not.”

Do we fear that God will ever abandon us? “Fear not.”

Do we fear that God finds us unlovable? “Fear not.”

FEAR NOT

(Continued)



“...why should you live in fear of the many trifles which come up in your daily lives? I say to you: Fear not; you are of much more value than many sparrows.”

The Prayer

Dearest Source of All that is,

Take away all of our fears. Remind us that what we are becoming moment by moment is far more important than what we are at this moment. All that You demand of us is Growth... help us to grow. All that You ask of us is Love... help us to Love. All that we truly need is to grow in Your Love... help us to grow in our ability to recognize and to share in Your Infinite Love.

Father's Uncompromising Love,

Daniel (Your Brother) Megow

Pastor of: "The Church Within" Inc.

P.O. Box 293; Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-0293

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<http://www.cet.com/~danielm>

MORE THOUGHTS ON FEAR.... from:

tml@virtualbiz.com

The Teaching Mission Discussion Group
(thanks to Sonny Schneider for a prolific series of parallel quotes.)

Fear is a spirit poison; it is overcome with faith.—Bertrand

Your sonship is grounded in faith, and you are to remain unmoved by fear.—Jesus in the Urantia papers.

EYE IN JULY

by DELORES DINSMORE

I am in July

A step after midsummer

The seed has been set and the hardening off is begun.

The choices I have combined from abundant opportunity
Define my field.

I can no longer go some certain ways.

I am set in paths that make me who I am. And thus I have:

A heart awake to love

an open face

hands held up to the Father

Bonded friendships beside me with

The shared will to do the will of the One Who Made Us
and a golden promise for the brinking harvest.

All blessings flow.

I, in July,

Release the springtime of my youth

To the blazing Sun of dead summer:

The season Michael came,

to bring Living Water of Life to this parched place.

The older I grow, the easier my heart breaks

over the presents of his Love.

Greater love hath no one than to lay down his life...

but not the heart. Lay down not your heart for anyone,
without grave consequences.

I know. For I had to go back

And pick mine up.

Now, In July

I hold a new promise of self to my beauty.

One can not live without a heart

And it is time for me to live.

The heat will cure me now, I will never perish.

As I twine through time til the dead end of December,

His me will become more set, more true, more mine

and will sprout strong roots into ethereal mists

Making a new seed from which I will flower

After my death in this world's season.

The breeze rustles the grain.

Heat shimmers the distant vision.

My soul and I imbibe the moment:

Blue, green, and golden, with bird song

In an airplane dwarfed by wild blackberries,

I realize how greater is the Universe than shadow.

My gratitude wings through

The scent of afternoon sun on wheat,

My breath a prayer to follow.

Amen

THE PADGETT PAPERS: Jesus Sets the Record Straight

He heads a team of Biblical transmitters in an intriguing, illuminating collection of Celestial Testaments that came through in 1914.



EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION: *Washington, DC attorney James Padgett received a collection of celestial transmissions in 1914, including messages from Jesus and various Old and New Testament personalities. The background story and transmissions, as well as many other spiritual spiritual and religious manuscripts may be found at The Divine Connection -- <http://divine.org>. We offer selections from Padgett's Jesus papers here for our mutual exploration. First*

The Testimony of James Padgett (1852-1923) Excerpt from a letter, December 28, 1915

...First permit me to state that I am a practical lawyer of 35 years experience, and as such not inclined to accept allegations of fact as true without evidencing proof. I was born and reared in an orthodox Protestant church (Methodist) and until quite recently remained orthodox in my beliefs — that upon the suggestion being made to me that I was a psychic, I commenced to receive by way of automatic writing, messages from what was said to be from the spirit world, and since that time I have received messages upon many subjects, but mostly as to things of a spiritual and religious nature, not orthodox, as to the errancy of the Bible.

I have not space to name the great number of the writers of these messages, but among them is Jesus of Nazareth. I will frankly say that I refused for a long time to believe that these messages came from Jesus, because God, while He had the power, as I believed, would not engage in doing such a thing; but the evidence of the truth of the origin of these messages became so convincing, not only from the great number and positiveness of the witnesses, but from the inherent and unusual merits of the contents of

the messages, that I was forced to believe, and now say to you that I believe in the truth of these communications with as little doubt as I ever believed in the truth of a fact established by the most positive evidence in court.

I wish further to say that to my own consciousness I did no thinking in writing the messages — I did not know what was to be written, nor what was written at the time, except the word the pencil was writing.

The great object of these messages from Jesus, as he wrote, is to make a revelation of the truths of his Father. He asserts that the Bible does not contain his real teachings as he disclosed them while on earth — that many things that he said are not therein contained, and many things that are ascribed to him therein he did not say at all — and he wants the truths made known to mankind. And I must say that many of these truths which he has written I have never before heard of, and I have studied the Bible to some extent.... James E. Padgett

JESUS: Worship the Father, not Me Seek Higher - for the Divine Love

I am here, Jesus.

You are now in condition and I will give you a short message as my first.

When I was on earth I was not worshipped as God, but was considered merely as the son of God in the sense that in me were imposed truths of my Father, and many of His wonderful and mysterious powers.

I did not proclaim myself to be God, neither did I permit any of my disciples to believe that I was God, but only that I was His beloved son, sent to proclaim to mankind His truths and show them the way to the Love of the Father.

I was not different from other men except that I possessed to a degree the Love of God which made me free from sin, and prevented the evils that formed a part of the nature of men from becoming a part of my nature.

No man who believes that I am God has a knowledge of the truth or is obeying the commandments of God by worshiping me. Such worshipers are blaspheming and are doing the cause of God and my teachings great injury.

Many a man would have become a true believer in and worshiper of the Father, and a follower of my teachings, had not this blasphemous dogma been interpolated into the Bible. It was without my authority or in consequence of my teachings that such a very injurious doctrine was promulgated or believed in.

I am only a son of my Father as you are, and while I was always free from sin and error as regards the true conception of my Father's true relationship to mankind, yet you are His son also; and if you will seek earnestly and pray to the Father with faith, you may become as free from sin and error as I was then, and am now.

The Father is Himself, Alone. There is no other God besides Him, and no other God to be worshiped. I am His teacher of truth, and am the way, the truth and the life because in me are those qualities of good and knowledge which fit me to show the way and lead men to eternal life in the Father; and to teach them that God has prepared a Kingdom in which they may live forever if they so desire.

But not withstanding my teachings, men and those who have assumed high places in what is called the Christian church impose doctrines so at variance with the truth, that, in these latter days, many men in the exercise of an enlightened freedom and of reason have become infidels and turned away from God and His Love, and have thought and taught that man, himself, is sufficient for his own salvation.

The time has come when these men must be taught to know that while the teachings of these professed authorities on the truths of God are all wrong, they, these same men, are in error when they refuse to believe in God and my true teachings.

What my true teachings are I know is difficult to understand from the writings of the New Testament, for many things therein I never said, and many things that I did say are not written therein.

I am now going to give to the world the truths as I taught them when on earth, and many that I never disclosed to my disciples or inspired others to write since.

No man can come to the Father's Love except he be born again. This is the great and fundamental truth which men must learn and believe, for without this New Birth men cannot partake of the Divine Essence of God's Love, which, when possessed by a man, makes him at-One with the Father. This Love comes to a man by the workings of the Holy Ghost, causing this Love to flow into the heart and soul, and filling it so that all sin and error must be eradicated.

I am not going to tell just now how this working of the Holy Spirit operates, but I say, if a man will pray to the Father and believe and earnestly ask that this Love be given him, he will receive it, and when it comes into his soul he will realize it.

Let not men think that by any effort of their own they can come into this union with the Father, because they cannot. No river can rise higher than its source, and no man who has only the natural love and filled with error can of his own powers cause that natural love to partake of the Divine.

Man is a mere creature and cannot create anything higher than himself; so man cannot rise to the Nature of the Divine unless the Divine first comes into that man and makes him a part of its own Divinity.

All men who do not get a part of this Divine Essence will be left in their natural state; and while they may progress to higher degrees of goodness and freedom from sin and from everything that tends to make them unhappy, yet, they will be only natural men still.

I came into the world to show men the way to this Divine Love of the Father and teach them His spiritual truths, and my mission was that in all its perfection; and incidentally, to teach them the way to greater happiness on earth, as well as in the spirit world, by teaching them the way to the purification of the natural love, even though they neglected to seek for and obtain this Divine Love and become One with the Father.

Let men ponder this momentous question and they will learn that the happiness of the natural man and the happiness of the man who has obtained the attributes of Divinity are very different, and in all eternity must be separate and distinct.

My teachings are not very hard to understand and follow, and if men will only listen to them and believe them and follow them, they will learn the way and obtain the one perfect state of happiness which the Father has prepared

for His children. No man can obtain this state of Celestial Bliss unless he first gets this Divine Love of the Father, and so becomes at-One with the Father.

I know it is thought and taught that morality and correct living and great natural love will assure a man's future happiness, and to a degree this is true, but this happiness is not that greater happiness which God desires His children to have, and which I came to earth to teach.

But in some hearts and minds my truths found a lodgment and were preserved to save mankind from total spiritual darkness and a relapse to worship of form and ceremony only.

I have written this to show that you must not let the teachings of the Bible, and what men wrote or professed to have written therein, keep you from receiving and understanding what I write.

I shall write no more now, but will continue to tell you the truths which will be "My New Gospel To All People," and when they have heard my messages they will believe that there is only one God, and only one to be worshiped.

With my love and blessings I close for this time.
Jesus

Immortality and the Garden of Eden



I am here, Jesus.

I want to tell you what I mean by Immortality.

When Adam, or whom he typified, was told that if he should disobey God and eat of the forbidden fruit he should surely die, the word death meant death of the soul so far as its future progress in that which would insure its receiving the Divine Essence of the Father's Love was involved. It did not mean the physical death or the death of the body, because it is very apparent that after his doom was pronounced he lived in the flesh a great many years.

But his soul's progression stopped, and it was only after my coming to earth and teaching the doctrine of truth of man being restored to the condition which Adam occupied before his fall did mankind have the privilege of becoming Immortal again, that is, of being permitted and in condition to obtain that soul progress which would enable them to become One with and a part of the Father in His Love and Affections.

I do not mean that Adam was endowed with this Divine

Love when he was created, but that he had that formation of soul potentialities which if properly exercised would have brought him in that unison with the Father that would have made his nature Divine; and when he disobeyed the commandments of the Father he died so far as that possibility of obtaining that Divine Nature is concerned.

As to those who lived on earth between Adam's fall and my revelation of the truth of redemption they did not receive this Nature or potentiality and were compelled to live only as mortals and spirits having the natural love.

They never were admitted into the Father's Heavenly Kingdom, but existed merely as spirits having the natural love which was bestowed upon Adam and his race.

Abraham, Isaac and the rest of the persons who are described in the Bible as being children of God and obedient to His commands were not partakers of this Divine Nature and became so only after my coming to earth and showing the way to its attainment.

When I was sent to earth God sent me with the truth as to redemption and conferred upon man the privilege of receiving His Divine Essence. No sacrifice or death of mine brought this great boon, but only with my coming came this Love and the way to obtain it.

Adam was not created Immortal but had only the potentiality of Immortality, and after his death man ceased to have this potentiality until God sent it to them with my coming on earth.

When this gift was bestowed upon man it was also bestowed upon all those who were then living in the spirit world, but they could obtain it only in the way that was provided for man to obtain it.

Understand me, everything that was lost by Adam's fall was restored by my coming with the restored gift, and it embraced every spirit who had ever lived as mortal and every mortal who thereafter lived up to the present time. My coming of itself, or the death and sacrifice of me by the Jews, did not restore mankind to the condition that existed in Adam before his fall.

I was only a messenger of God sent with that gift and to teach the truth of its restoration to mankind and to spirits; and when after my death I descended into hell, as the Bible says, this saying does not express the destination of my going, for the true meaning is that I went into the world of spirits.

I proclaimed to the spirits the truth of the bestowal of this restored Life which had been lost by Adam's disobedience. All spirits good and bad now have this restored potentiality of obtaining the Divine Nature, Immortality. (Continued)

THE PADGETT PAPERS: Jesus Corrects Some Scripture

I am here, Jesus.

I know that the Bible contains many sayings attributed to me in reference to the plan of salvation which are not true, for I never said them and they are contrary to what I received from the Father as to the true plan of men's redemption from sin, and as to the only way by which they can obtain the true at-Onement with the Father and a knowledge of their own Immortality.

Many of these sayings were written by men who knew not the only way to a Oneness with the Father, and were the results of the teachings of the manuscripts that then existed and were received by the Jews as the revelations of Moses and many of the prophets who had no knowledge of the Divine Love or of its re-bestowal upon mankind.

These men wrote those things that accorded with their ideas of what was necessary to a salvation or possibility of their becoming at-One with me and with the Father, and in writing their ideas confused the truth with what they supposed was the truth as contained in the Old Testament, and much harm has been done by attributing many of these sayings to me because of the supposed authority that thereby was attached to them.

My disciples never taught and never understood that their salvation, or that of any man, depended upon faith in me as the son of God; or that I, the mere Jesus, had in me any virtue to forgive sin or to ensure an entrance into the true Kingdom of God; or that, I, as the man Jesus, was a son of God in the sense that the Bible teaches.

They knew that the Father had revealed to me the truth, and that I had in me that Love which to a large extent made me like unto and at-One with the Father; that my teachings of the re-bestowal of the Divine Love were true, and that when they or any man should possess this Love, they, to the extent of that possession, would become at-One with the Father, and also with me, who possessed it to a greater degree than any man.

I say they knew this and taught it to the people as I had taught it to them; but when the compilers of the present New Testament came to declare my sayings and teachings they knew not of this Love, and hence could not understand what many of my true expressions meant and



therefore gave them an interpretation, so far as my real sayings were concerned, that would comply with their knowledge.

No, I am not correctly quoted in many of these sayings, and, I may say, in the large majority of them, for when they were written as now contained in the New Testament men had lost the knowledge of their true meaning and out of their own minds recorded that which they thought was what I had really said.

I do not know how these false teachings can be corrected, except to take each saying and show by its incompatibility with what I now say, its falsity. This would take too much time and expend much energy that could the better be employed in declaring what the truth actually is.

But this I will say, that whenever these sayings impart that I claim to be God, or that I could or did forgive men of their sins, or that whatsoever should be asked of the Father in my name would be received, are all untrue and have greatly misled the true seeker of knowledge of Immortality.

My disciples were close to me and understood better my sayings than all the others, and yet they did not understand all the truth and left themortal life with many expectations that were not fulfilled, and in the very nature of the same could not be fulfilled. They were in certain non-essentials influenced in their beliefs and expectations by training in the teachings of these Old Testament manuscripts and were very largely Jews in belief when they died.

They understood the vital things that determined their relationship to God and to their existence in the future world, but as to many of the non-essentials they retained the faith of their fathers and were not able to receive all the truth which I could have taught them.

JESUS: Why My Truths Were Not Preserved in the Bible

I am here, Jesus.

I come to tell you of a truth which is important to all mankind and which I desire that you receive just as I write it, so give your best care to receiving just what I shall attempt to write.

I have read with you tonight many sayings contained in the alleged epistles of Paul and Peter, and I realize that they do not seem to be consistent with the truth that has been declared to you by myself and by the Apostles who have written to you, and I desire that you shall understand some of these inconsistencies and discard them from your mind, these sayings of the epistles, wherever they do not agree with what we have written or what we shall write.

In the first place, the continual reference of these epistles to my being God is all wrong and must not be believed; also, the statements that my blood washes away sin or that I died on the cross for the salvation of men or that I took upon myself the sins of mankind and thereby relieved them from the burden of their sins and the punishment which they must suffer in expiation of their evil deeds and thoughts, are all wrong.

Again, when it is said that from the beginning the Father had foreordained my death on the cross that man might be redeemed from the penalties of sin in all men who lived thereafter, are all wrong and have no foundation as facts in the plan of God of the salvation of man and the restoring of the harmony of His universe and the eradication of all sin and error from the world.

Neither Paul nor Peter wrote these things, and never did I teach them, for they are not in accord with the great plan of salvation which I came to earth to declare and explain to my Apostles first, and then to the whole world.

In these epistles too much emphasis is given to the importance of faith and works - I mean faith in the mere beliefs which these epistles taught, followed by works - and not enough importance to the foundation truth of man's salvation and becoming reconciled to the Father. I mean the New Birth by the inflowing into their souls of the Divine Love of the Father's through the ministrations of the Holy Spirit.

Many of their teachings as to man's conduct towards man, and as to the lives that the recipients of these truths should lead as effecting their own purification and becoming in a

condition of righteousness, are true, and are as applicable to the conduct and living of men today as they were in the days in which the Apostles taught.

But when the epistles teach or lead men in particular to understand that these, what may be called merely moral principles, will enable a man by their observance to enter into the Kingdom of God or the Celestial Heavens, they are false and misleading; and men, when they become spirits, will realize that while leading the lives which these teachings call them to lead they will become very happy and occupy conditions and positions in the spirit world that will make their happiness far superior to that which they enjoy on earth, and even enable them to become occupants of higher spiritual spheres, yet they will never be permitted to enter the Kingdom of the Father, which can only be attained to by the possession of Divine Love.

So I say, men must understand and realize the difference between the results to them from leading merely good and moral lives which affect and develop the natural love, and those results which ensue from the New Birth.

I have attempted to explain to you why the great and important truth of my mission to earth, as I had explained it to my Apostles, and as was taught by them and written by them, was not preserved and contained in the Bible as now written and accepted by the church as canonical.

The great desire in those days was to show and impress upon men those teachings which affected their conduct on earth and to hold out to them the rewards that would follow such living; and also the rewards which would follow their lives in the spirit world which would become their homes after death. And as I have said, the leading of lives in accordance with these teachings would ensure men a great happiness in the spirit world, but not to the happiness which my teachings, if observed, would lead to.

In the various copying and compilations of the writings of the Apostles many changes from the originals were made. And those persons who performed this work, and I mean by this, the dignitaries and rulers of the church, did not know the difference between those things which would bring about a purification of the natural love and those things which were necessary to fit a soul for entrance in the Kingdom of Heaven. And hence, when they came to perform this work they made the error of teaching that the living of the moral life would entitle the soul to a reward which they supposed would be the Kingdom of Heaven and Immortality.

And this erroneous teaching has prevented many a man from gaining the right to the Kingdom of Heaven, as they honestly and sincerely believed would be theirs when they came to pass into the spirit world.

Many of these teachings are intended to make a reformation in the lives of men and to purge their souls from sin and error so far as the natural love forms a part of the condition of the soul. And I taught these moral truths to a very large extent, for such teachings were necessary because men's wills were out of harmony with God's laws that affected the Divine Love of the Father. And it is the object and plan of God to bring into harmony both of these loves and thereby enable man to enjoy those things which are provided and waiting for him.

As I said when on earth, "Narrow is the way and straight is the gate which leads to life everlasting, and few there be that enter therein," I repeat now, for it is apparent from the observation of the way in which mankind from the beginning have exercised their wills, which God leaves free to their own volition, that a vast majority of men will never enter in at the straight gate but be contented to live in the spheres and happiness which their natural love in its perfect state and progress will fit them for.

That all men will ultimately be brought into harmony with God in either the natural love or in the higher one is certain, and that all sin and error will finally be eradicated from God's universe is decreed; but the time will depend to a great extent upon the wills and desires of men. And hence, while my great mission in coming to earth and teaching men was to show the way to the Celestial Kingdom, yet, a lesser part of my mission was to teach them a way to their redemption from sin and error that would result in the purification of the natural love. And to my great regret and to the untold injury to man, my moral teachings were more at large set forth in portions of the Bible, as now accepted, than were my teachings of the higher truths.

JESUS CONTINUED TO SPEAK ON THE SAME SUBJECT AT A LATER TIME

JESUS: How Humankind has Changed My Teachings

I am here, Jesus. I will continue my discourse.

The Jews and the teachers of the church that became established, or rather, controlled, after the death of my followers and those who understood the true teachings of my disciples, taught the conduct of men towards their fellow men, and the observance of certain ceremonies and feasts were the important things for men to learn and practice in order to gain salvation, rather than the truths which make man a child of the Father and at-One with Him through the operations of the New Birth.

Of course, before my coming the Jews could not have taught the truth of the New Birth because the great gift of the rebestowal of the Divine Love had not been made, and it was not possible for that great truth - which was necessary for Immortality and the possibility of man's partaking of God's Divine Love - to be known to the Jews, and hence, they could not teach it, and their teachings were limited and confined to the things which would make them purer in their natural love and in the relation of that love to the Father.

God at that time, while He never gave them the privilege of becoming at-One with Him in the Divine Love or even becoming such being in their character and spiritual qualities as were Adam and Eve, commonly supposed to be our first parents, yet did require of them obedience to His laws which would develop in them their natural love to such a degree as would cause it to become in harmony with His laws that controlled and governed their natural love.

If you will study the Ten Commandments you will see that these commandments deal only with the natural love, and by their observance would tend to make men better in that natural love and in their conduct with one another, and in their relationship to God so far as that love brought them in communion with Him.

This natural love was possessed by men just as the first parents possessed it and was never taken from them, and in its purity was in perfect harmony with God's creation and the workings of His universe. But notwithstanding these great qualities, men were mere men and had in them no part of the Divinity of the Father.

And this being so, the Jews, while they were supposed to be more in contact with God through the prophets and seers than any of the other races or sects of God's children, never looked for a messiah that would come with any other or greater power than that which would enable them to become the great ruling nation of the earth, to whom all other peoples would be subordinated and subjected and powerless to ever again conquer or subject their nation to bondage.

In a way this messiah was to be a kind of supernatural being, having power which no other man ever had, and a kind of god to be worshipped and served in their earthly lives.

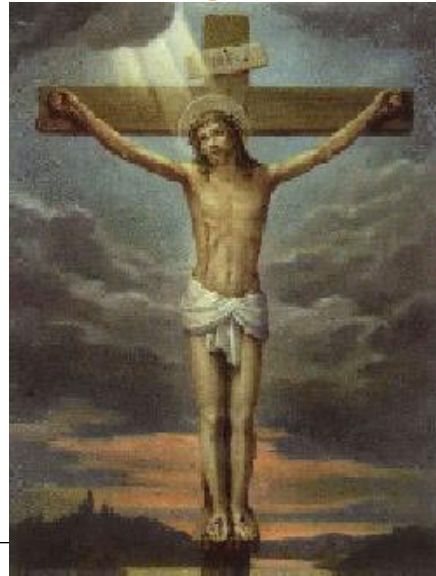
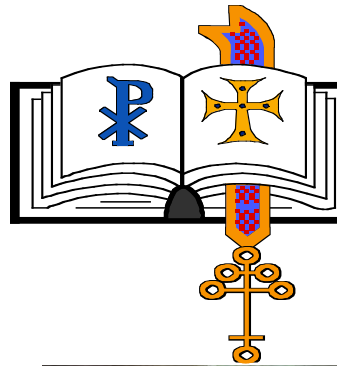
Many of the Jews, notwithstanding what may be said to the contrary in the teachings of the prophets, believed in other gods than the one which Moses declared, as is evidenced in their histories both sacred and secular; for whenever their God, that is, the God of Moses, did not treat them just as they thought He should, they would create and worship other gods, even the golden calf. So I

say, they never expected a messiah who would be other than the most powerful ruler on earth.

Their ideas and beliefs of the life after death were very hazy. And even that part of them known as the Pharisees, who believed in a kind of resurrection, never conceived that when they should drop the mortal life they would be anything different in their qualities and characters from what they were as mortals, minus the physical bodies.

This was the idea of the common people and also the priests and scribes. And notwithstanding the many beautiful and spiritual psalms ascribed to David, the happiness and glory that they might expect was only that which could come to them as spiritualized mortals having only the natural love.

So you see, the great Gift of the Father that is the rebestowal of the Divine Love was not known or even dreamed of by the Jews, nor conceived of nor taught by their scribes, nor even by their great prophets or law-givers such as Moses and Elias and others whose conception of God was that of an exalted, personal being, all powerful and all knowing, and one whom they would be able to see face to face when they should come into the heavens which He had prepared for them, and where He had His habitation.



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JUDAS: My Sin of Betrayal... And An Even Greater Sin

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The transcripts of James Padgett include many Biblical personalities, including the infamous apostle, Judas. Here are the first and second messages.*

I am here, Judas Iscariot.

I came tonight because I want to tell you of just what my condition and expectations were when I betrayed Jesus, which resulted in his crucifixion.

I was a very enthusiastic lover of the Master and believed thoroughly in his teachings and his power, and did not believe that the Roman soldiers could take him away from where we were if we did not permit it to be done.

As a consequence, I was anxious that Jesus should show his great power and demonstrate to the Jews that he was a true son of God with power over men and devils.

I never betrayed him for the money that I received, for it was not sufficient to pay for one moment of happiness which I have lost because of my act in betraying the greatest spirit in all God's Kingdom.

I see that you are too sleepy to write more tonight. I will come again and tell my story. So good night.

JUDAS: The Greatest Sin

I am here, Judas.

I come tonight to write a short message, for I have been interested in what you and your friends have said regarding the greatest sin.

Now, to me, for a long time the greatest sin in all

the universe of God was my sin in betraying Jesus to the Jews, and it was a real, living, blasting sin, and so enormous that I could not endure my life and face the recollection of that awful tragedy, but since, I have been forgiven of that sin and become a redeemed child of the Father and an inhabitant of the Celestial heavens and a possessor of Immortality,

I realize and know that my sin was not the greatest, even though I suffered for long years after I became a spirit.

As sin may be committed by neglect as well as by affirmative action, and my betraying the beloved Master was a heinous one, but yet, even in my case and as applicable to me, my greater sin was not seeking for the Divine Love of the Father.

We were not ignorant of this, for the Master had taught us that this Love was open to and waiting for us to seek and obtain and I had not sought for it in the right way, and, of course, had not obtained it, and in such neglect I was not the only one of the disciples that was guilty of that sin.

No, even we who had been with the Master for so long a time did not fully understand the importance of obtaining this great Love, as we were more interested in his establishing his kingdom on earth and, as we thought, a material kingdom to be controlled by spiritual powers manifested in him, and in us, his disciples. And the material, in our minds, was of more importance than the spiritual, and our expectations were that this great power would come and that the Master would become our king.

As I say, he had taught us that this Divine Love was open to us and that by prayer and earnest seeking we could receive it, but to us there were

so many important things to be done, connected, as I say, more immediately with our earth lives that we neglected the great gift that was ours for its seeking, and as a consequence, in my case, I had to suffer for a long time before I awakened to the fact that it was not too late even for me to receive it.

My sin of betrayal had been forgiven me in that I realized that therecollections of it were leaving me and that I was progressing in the way of purifying my soul in its natural love, and that as a spirit of the one-time murderer I was coming into happiness and light.

And then I had memories of what the Master had said to me about this great Love, and after a while I had sufficient awakening to cause me to make the effort to obtain this Love, and as that awakening came to me my old time associates, who had progressed to the higher spheres, came to me, and in their great beauty and transcendent Love, helped me to progress and to pray until at last this Love came to me and I realized that not only had my sin of murder been wholly forgiven, but that the greater sin of rejecting and neglecting to seek for the Divine Love had also been forgiven me.

The sin of the murderer or of any violator of God's laws other than that of rejecting the inflowing of this Love may and will be forgiven a man, and he will become pure and happy in his natural love, but such forgiveness will not make him an inhabitant of the Divine heavens or an inheritor of Immortality, while the forgiveness of the sin of rejecting the Holy Spirit will not only take away from him the recollections and taints of all other sins, but will open up to him the very portals of the Celestial heavens and give him a home in the Father's Kingdom.

And thus, you see, every sin except that of sinning against the Holy Spirit may be forgiven a man, with the result that he will become the perfect man, but the forgiveness of all these sins many times over, if it could so happen, would

not make him the Divine Angel.

And I need not explain to you, for you can readily see from what I have written, that the greatest sin in all the world is the sin against the Holy Spirit—the sin of neglecting or refusing to let the Holy Spirit bring in and to the soul of man the great Divine Love of the Father. And not only is this sin the greatest because of the results that flow from it, but because it will continue to be the unpardonable sin so long as man refuses to permit its forgiveness.

When the sin of murder and such kindred sins are committed, the sin then ends and only the consequences must be suffered and the penalties paid, but the sin against the Holy Spirit is a continuing sin committed every day and hour and minute and never having an end until the mortal seeks and receives the inflowing of this Divine Love.

As has been written you many times, yes, the large majority of men and spirits will continue forever and ever to commit this sin, and in the effects to follow, to them it will become and is the unpardonable sin.

As we are much interested in you and have determined that you shall not go astray to these Divine truths, my brother spirits of the Celestial spheres thought it fitting, as the world considers that I committed the greatest sin in all the history of the world, that I should write you on this subject and explain that the greatest sin in all the world is the sin against the Holy Ghost.

We all know this, and what I write you must believe, for it is true, that all of us and the Master too, declare that the sin I name is the greatest sin.

.... I have written longer than I expected and will now stop, but be assured that you have our love and the blessings of the Father.

Your brother in Christ, Judas

THE STILLNESS: **Calmness for Control**

by SenSa (via email discussion groups)

“You are a distinct portion of the essence of God; and contain part of him in yourself. When, then, are you ignorant of your noble birth? Why do you not consider whence you came? Why do you not remember, when you are eating, who you are who eat; and whom you feed? Do you not know that it is the Divine you feed; the Divine you exercise? You carry a God about with you, poor wretch, and know nothing of it.”

— Epictetus, A.D. 50

When you're full of disappointment and tempted to disordered thinking, calmness is the only solution; for the acts of Providence are so hidden it is hard to understand how delicate are the influences emanating from our minds. But great changes come about in the darkest hours when there seems to be no hope and the encircling gloom is terrifying to the heart, and it is difficult for the human to understand the power at the moment.

Calmness in the midst of chaos, serenity in the midst of feverish activity is the secret that all must learn — the secret revealed in crises: that the soul that is calm with controlled emotion is performing an act of faith. The better you play the game of fortitude the more relaxed you become to each challenge of impatience, the more “you” control your destiny. But to do this you must remember your way back into the center of your being, to the eternal fountain of refreshment within. Otherwise you block, frustrate and delay, for a frantic spirit is a stupid one.

It is a hard lesson when it should be the softest. Consider for a moment; you believe that you are a son of God, you hold the vision of your godhood. The human, impatient self can only glimpse this in moments far apart. We can only

reach God in stillness, in calmness. Refuse any frantic littleness; wait in calmness. I know all those relentless bedfellows. Be comforted and learn that destinies are controlled by the delicacy of your calmness within; by turning to the Divine Adjuster within.

Recall your first thoughts when you learned that through contemplative stillness you would be able to reach God within, that through silence your inward and secret light would be revealed to you. Always remember: it is the infinite voice, the good news, the ever-present REVELATION.

You cannot, and will not reach what you desire through emotional explosions.

Go where the eternal Spirit of Love itself pulls away from you all that binds, unshackles the imprisoning chains, and silences the alarms of fear and dismay. Translate humble things into divine things; make your daily living a way to God. Use the serene and timeless peace of a great mountain, feel its vast serenity when you write, take a walk, or perform what seems like unimportant labor. Bring divine power into your actual life and beautify it.

So peace be unto your hearts; find great stillness and calm. Seek creative peace within; where there is no struggle. Here find beauty, truth, protection, and joy in abundance.

Here is order; and here, locked away, is the Divine Plan of your Adjuster's choosing. When you become still, in oneness with the infinite, your Divine Plan comes to pass— and you are free. You are challenged out there; but inside, the challenge is defeated.

**Seek and worship the Father.
In Eternal Brotherhood, SenSa**

HEALING *A Self-Healing Meditative Visualization*

From the website:

Let There Be Light ... Always in All Ways

One of the primary purposes of man should be to promote in each individual or family unit a self-sustaining ethic so that they might rid themselves completely of an ever increasing conditioned control. He should develop an independence from as many controlling ideas and notions as possible. He must be self-actualized in every area.

A major hindrance to the independence of many people is a fear of disease and the proximity of treatment. So logically, man must decide to inaugurate a program to study various methods of self healing. Self-Healing Meditative Visualization is based on the assumption that no matter how many doctors one goes to, ultimately one's own body and mind has to do the healing. And Self-Healing Meditative Visualization only takes about 2 or 3 minutes twice a day for automatic and self perpetuating results.

Self-Healing Meditative Visualization is merely combining the "centering" action of meditation. That is, the deep relaxation associated with meditation and with the process of self-fulfilling visualization while in the suggestive meditative state of mind. It works because one systematically learns to use the power of one's mind augmented with the power of the Universal Mind. It works because one learns to tap into the healing energies that are available free for the asking.

The relaxed state characteristic of the early stages of meditation have been found to put one in the best receptive mood for self-fulfilling visualization. Find a quiet time twice a day not within 2 hours before or after any meal. After people are out of the home, during the bath, just

before one gets out of bed, just before going to bed, in the hot-tub, or in the sauna. Sit in whatever way is the most comfortable. Breathe through the nose, if possible. Close the eyes and deeply relax all of the muscles, beginning at the feet and progressing up to the face.

Keep all muscles deeply relaxed. Maintain a passive attitude and permit relaxation to occur at its own pace. At first it will take longer to get into a fully relaxed state (unless one is an experienced meditator), but soon one will be able to go into a relaxed state very quickly with a little practice.

Become aware of breathing. Take deep and rhythmical breaths. As breathing out say the word "one" inwardly. That is, breathe in then out inwardly saying "one" on the exhale — breathe in - out - "one", breathe in - out - "one", and so on. When distracting thoughts occur, ignore them and continue repeating "one".

Continue until reaching a deep meditative state of mind, where one feels warm and comfortable and dreamy and very receptive. At this point, the visualization process should start and one will know when this time is reached.

Instead of random thoughts and pictures fluttering through the mind, allow a picture of the Kingdom of God to form in the mind. Some people think of this as Heaven, the repository of Cosmic Consciousness, the place man goes during peak experiences, or the higher state of being that convinces one that God exists.

The visualization usually consists of a cloud like thickness of wispy matter that separates the normal waking consciousness from the upper regions of higher consciousness where Gods and Friendly Aliens reside. It is very difficult to raise the whole being into these upper regions, but it is

easy to ask for help from this region without raising oneself all the way there.

The visualization should start with the idea of how this scene would look. Then ask for and visualize a small hole in the separation layer.

Through this hole will come an unending supply of bright, healing energy in a beam that one can direct to any affected area of the body or mind. Healing of the whole person, that is unlocalized complaints and mental problems, is accomplished by focusing the healing ray on the brain.

Also focus the beam on any area of the body that needs special attention. Keep the beam shining on the mind and body as long as possible without strain. When one starts to feel that one is having some trouble maintaining the visualization, it is time to stop.

After about a week of practice with this technique, the whole process will come with very little effort. One will be able to summon a healing beam of light at will. Whenever one thinks of ailment, one will also be able to cast a healing beam at the area so the one can know that healing is occurring 24 hours a day.

One can also call forth a healing beam by reinforcing the image at any time. There are many moments during the day that can be used to visualize the beam when one does not have the time to go through the relaxation procedure--during television commercials, while washing dishes, fixing meals, whenever.

To Summarize:

1. Sit quietly in a comfortable position.
2. Close the eyes and deeply relax all muscles.
3. Breathe deeply and rhythmically.
4. When deeply relaxed, but not in a full meditative state of mind, start to visualize.
5. Visualize a healing beam going to the desired area.
6. Continue this process until the healing is complete.

(CAUTION — Continued use of such a powerful tool after healing is complete may result in making one stronger, more aware, healthy, positive, peaceful and at ease, and may change one's life more than one realizes.)

WASH THIS GROUND by Jim Cleveland

*A homeland isn't just a bloody ground
Wars and violence make such a hollow sound
God, bring your spirit down to bless,
help us bring love and happiness
To this troubled world of suffering all around.
Let your holy water wash this battleground.*

There are things that are certain, don't have to be found.

They are true to the spirit of loving bold
So listen and believe there's a higher ground
Jesus will bring his sheep into the fold.

There are things in this life that we are heeding
though they're shallow and their meanings never clear.

There is more to this life that we are leading
And there's a God who will guide us gently and ever-near.

There is more to living life than just the motions
of a sleepwalk, cakewalk kind of chance to be
There's a purpose here that shines across all the oceans
Loving service is needed everywhere you see.

There is more to man and woman when together
they can reach as one to spirit's ecstasy
There is more to this life than stormy weather
and all this learning and this growing is for free

If we'd only choose to talk through all our problems
share the things that we now kill to make our own
and let each person have some food and some shelter
so in our wealth we wouldn't be so all alone.

Then this world could put a smile upon its
mountains
and a grin across the deep, blue wondrous sea
and the sunshine, wind and rain of all the heavens
would come wash and dry our homeland here for
free.

**THE TEACHING MISSION:
VERONICA on SERVICE
10-17-94 IN VOLCANO, HAWAII**

Fervent couriers of loving revelation, Your deepening intimacy with your divine origin is facilitating enormous expansion of universal harmony. Always be attentive to increasing your opportunities for service to your brethren ascenders. Be ever at the Father's disposal to anticipate the needs of others and be productive suppliers of the swelling demand for love.

Develop selfless sensitivity in the recognition of need so that you can become eradicators of the lingering residue of spiritual destitution. Sincere service manifests in infinite variety, and your intuitive compass of compassion will direct you toward those in need. Continue to be ministers of divine comfort and loving assistance, and you will be the catalysts of accomplishment for His resplendent plan.

Combine humility with tolerance, love with understanding, and sincerity with intention; and you will grow into total devotion to the Father, making His will indistinguishable from yours.

Your willingness to serve others is an eloquent demonstration of loyalty to our omniscient Architect of All Creation, and the powerful gravity of divine irresistible love will impel your destiny of ultimate coalescence with His sublime perfection.

**ELYON in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho - 9-22-97
PERSONALITY, EGO and DOUGH**

The expression of your personality powers is often described as ego. Ego is a flawed attempt to express personality that is unskilled at expressing its talents. I do not use "flawed" to indicate that ego is wrong any more than you would consider a poorly penned word to be wrong simply because the writing is not calligraphic. Picture, if you would, a large amount of dough in a colander being pressed through the holes as you would do to make noodles. Each strand is one limited expression of your personality. Each opening is your incomplete ego-like aperture.

When you describe your ego as an element to control or dispense with, you are merely recognizing the constriction of aperture. To be more like the Father is not to be less like yourself, but rather to be wide open to allow all of you to be revealed, thus revealing the Father.

This will take a long time. I remind you that you are only scratching the surface of the mysterious gift of personality that you are.

HIS GIFT
(INITIATION)

by HARRY ROLOFF

Yesterday
I walked along His shore
Deeply entranced as often before
Emptied of burdens, freed of woes
Ocean ripples lapping at my toes.

Today
I got caught unaware
By His tide
I failed to see out there
Without warning roar or hiss
Instantly I was suspended
By His flood of bliss
Floated off my feet
Faded each and every need.

Ears have never heard
Nor have eyes yet seen
The secret gladness
Of its unearthly sheen
Its fulfilling wholeness
Sacredly serene.

Did it come
Like a sneaking thief at night
While approaching
In the broadest of day light?

No announcing great fanfare
-All at once-
It just was there
Where before faint rumors
Murmured deep below
A holy presence
It now did bestow

Stunned Speechless
Unable to react or ponder
I am totally absorbed
In awe-struck wonder.

Perfectly filled right to the rim
No room for speculation
On any other-worldly whim
This here is the real thing.

LIGHTWORKERS MISSION UPDATE at 93097

(for those who believe and those who explore)

by Sheldon Nidle for The Galactic Federation

Greetings! We come before you today with some interesting news. This information will involve the coming Earth changes, the mass landing scenarios and the continuing Ascension procedures. Each one of these points is now nearing its conclusion at a most critical time in your Earth's history. Your planet is now passing through a temporal region in your galaxy that accentuates these particular end times. If it were not for the use of divine grace and a divine intervention, you would now be in the midst of the disasters that would have caused the extinction of Earth's current human society.

Very few, if any, of you would have survived the massive catastrophes that would have covered your beloved planet's surface. This possibility has been mitigated by our arrival. It has also been altered by the immense turning to the Light of your planet's human civilization. These two specific factors have greatly changed the manner in which the coming drama will be played out. Consequently, the coming months promise you a most interesting and very enlightening time.

The coming scenario will be unfolded as a most serious and very illuminating drama. The opening acts will set the plot for what is to come. This plot might be called, 'the enlightening of a planet and its population about its glorious destiny'. Right now, all of you are in the midst of a great internal change. This awakening process was needed to even allow this play to be written. As you have become engulfed by your internal changes, the so-called real world that you inhabit has been slowly falling away.

Meanwhile, your planet has been gradually preparing for the coming cataclysms that will act as the background for Act II. You are about to be suddenly slammed out of your present illusions by the various surprises that we have in store for you. At all times, you should be well prepared for the unexpected. Our divine purpose is to end your present period of complacency, as well as to begin your new education in consciousness with an enormous bang. Your new reality will be one that at no time should be either a bore or a drudgery.

The key to staying centered in what is to shortly transpire, is ritual. Ritual acts as the great and unmoving foundation upon which all difficulties of life can be placed. You should never forget this basic fact. Ritual is life and the means for the soul's growth. You are profound energy beings. Energy is really all that is truly real. Everything else is just a form of illusion. Hence, this vast series of illusions can be easily manipulated by your energies. You

must view all things around you, except those that are divine soul energies, as illusory. The key to this ability is your skill at creating and performing ritual. Over the past few years, ritual has been utilized by all of us to prepare your planet for the coming end times. This use of ritual has permitted all of us to keep this beloved planet from prematurely being set into action. Ritual is now also able to permit these catastrophes to happen in a much less intensive demeanor. This fact does not lessen the fact that when they occur, they will most definitely change your reality forever.

So now you have it. This cosmic play has begun to catch your attention. The first act has begun to pass away largely unnoticed by most of you. Yet the final scene will quickly grab you from your rising mode of somnolence. The Earth is preparing a string of events that will quickly expand into an enormous crescendo. In the midst of these Earthly events, we in the Galactic Federation shall formally arrive upon the scene.

This procedure will provide the action that will underline the second act of this most unique drama. God's WILL is to gently knock you into a new set of realities. The Creator's order of divine grace fully allows this fact to slowly reveal itself to you. Your new realities are based upon ritual. Ritual is what we are using to prepare you for the ending of your present reality.

.... The time has come for us to end the belief among many of you that you are alone in this vast galaxy. The entire process of Ascension is also reaching its final time. The Angelic Realms continue to raise the consciousness of your population

We now end this message with infinite blessings of endless unconditional Love, boundlessly satisfying Joy, and unlimited Abundance and Supply! Selamat Ja! (Be in Joy!)

THE WINTER WATCH for December- Issue #2 of....

The *Light and Life* Journal

Content now brewing on: the incredible power of Kundalini; the Making of The Supreme; Holy Smoke! Getting High on Herbal Religion; Tapping the celestial creativity flow; the Apocalypse according to Ernest.; Spiritual starvation and salvation in the prisons, the nature of Light, the lessons of celestial teachers; Exploring Secrets that can hurt or hurt; Overcoming Pauline Christianity with the Jesusonian reality; the Urantia Religion idea; Getting over the Holiness of Scripture; Sufism - why did the Dervishes whirl?; Updates on Commander Ashtar and the BIG ONE; Is ACIM devil-inspired? Yes! and No! views; sizzling Celestial flame Surfing; Lightshift 2000's vision; A Nashville Concert for World Peace; and also some poetry.

EXPLORER ENVOIES for Issue 1: THE *Light and Life* JOURNAL

Fellow Explorers ... If you've arrived here, you've now reviewed some leading edge spiritual movements and issues. Our writers have considered topics like faith and fear, morality and genetics, infinity, inner spirit and herbal sacraments. You've been introduced to new organizations that represent altruistic unity in spirituality. You've shared the fruitful perspectives of both celestial and human teachers.

If we have stimulated your thinking and given you broader or more focused insights to consider, we're pleased. There are many perspectives from many paths worthy of contemplation and discussion before we can reach an Era of Planetary Light and Life. Some personal notes about the first issue:

THE PADGETT PAPERS: Having served as a transmitter/channel for celestial teachers myself, I was excited to find these 1914 transcripts from Jesus. They resonate with me personally based on our experiences in Cincinnati. I commend both Jesus -- and Judas -- for your consideration. See if they ring your silent bell of truth.

As a student of the Urantia Papers, I was also anxious to email Victor Summers at The Divine Connection site (<http://divine.org>) to see if he saw, as I did, a strong resemblance to the Urantia material. He replied that, from his incomplete Urantia readings, he believes the messages are highly compatible if we substitute some terminology. For example: embracing the Father's Divine Love might well correspond to fusing with your Thought Adjuster/Indwelling Spirit for Urantia readers. These papers pre-date or correspond in history with the time of the Urantia Papers, which may raise some questions and discussion. Hope you ENJOY your exploration of these papers.

EXPLORATION WITHOUT INDOCTRINATION!? Yes, that is the point of the Light and Life Journal -- getting to know more about the myriad of faiths and spiritual movements of the modern world and their relationship to our times of profound planetary change. Some see them as apocalyptic, some as a glorious awakening or rebirth, others as shades between. But whatever and however these times turn out, we are here to chronicle them, to explore and understand them, and seek to use our reflective beams to direct them to higher measures of Truth, Beauty and Goodness in any way that we can. The One God is the source of our faith and we would draw a circle of love to encompass all God's children, regardless of the path they take in search of God. May we learn to live, learn, and grow together, serve one another, and serve God's eternal purpose of peace on earth, good will to all. -- Jim Cleveland

"There are as many paths to God as there are souls to walk them." -- Will, a Celestial Teacher

THE STILLNESS/GOD INSIDE *Faith in Our Own Minds*

Should we be so fearful of our own minds tricking us? Perhaps we don't know our minds, or the function of faith as well as we should. A lesson from celestial teacher, NERO, Cincinnati, 1995, TR:jc.

Mankind, indeed, is distrustful of your own minds, and this distrust is the trigger which activates a succession of spiritual poisons. For if you do not trust yourselves, the thoughts of your own mind, the ideals which you revere, the reality of God's presence, the knowledge of right and wrong, things so much a part of your very essence, if you do not know and trust these things, then how can you progress? God is the thought behind all creation — the universes all and every living creature within.



It is true that seeking to find God has often resulted in a plethora of complication and confusion and opposing doctrine. It is the mission of Christ Michael to confirm and reaffirm in a new and exciting two-way communication, through each of you, that these complications are truly anathema to your spiritual growth, and that the simplicity of the great thought behind all creation, residing within each of you, living and experiencing each of your lives with you, should be a joyous and glorious revelation.

How could a mortal human being not feel gratified by God's presence within each day? Why would he not avail himself of this guidance? Only a few moments of quiet time to go to the Father's house and knock on that door and speak to God each day. It will be similar to an earthly father, living in a house so close down the street, that you only have to walk a few steps to reach his door each day and to look within, tell him you love him, and give him comfort and solace and friendship. You would not think of being so close to your physical father without paying this honor and availing yourself of this closeness, this friendship, this respect and this support.

And yet so many, feeling unworthy, separated, alienated, more attuned to the cacophony of noises about you each day, refuse to take a few moments of quiet time which could in fact be the busiest time of your day, and the most profound time of true growth, for in these quiet moments, in this visit with God, will come the development of a personal relationship which will grow with each day, and in time you find that when you fail to drink of these living and holy waters with the Father each day, that you feel an added restlessness and uncertainty and lack of fulfillment, and you want to go back into the stillness and follow this plan, for its energizing effects upon your mind and body and spirit.

The Father is the thought, every thought, all thoughts, from beginning to end, in all realms of time and space, and the love, the fragment of love that shines brilliantly of illustrious growth inside each of you, a love so deep, so profound, that you cannot imagine. You can begin to feel joyous increments of this love even here as mortals as you attune to the Stillness, the quiet time, taking away distractions. Humankind is an amazing creation. You should be proud of your physical mechanism, for all of the miracles inside this mechanism which operates each day, from head to toe and fingers, all organs of your body in perfect harmony. Keep them in harmony with the Stillness, with this personal relationship with the Father, to keep your mind and body and spirit in healthy balance.