

# DUTY & DESTINY

**O**UR DUTY TO OURSELVES is also our duty to others. The Midwayer Commission tells us: “Jesus never failed to exalt the sacredness of the individual as contrasted with the community. But he also recognized that man develops his character by unselfish service; that he unfolds his moral nature in loving relations with his fellows.” [1862:7 / 170:3.10] If you prefer to focus on your own spiritual growth, believing that all else will follow, please bear in mind that a Mighty Messenger urges active cooperation with others: “One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is *teamwork*. ... Few are the duties in the universe for the lone servant.” [312:1 / 28:5.14] So teamwork is our destiny as ascenders, just as the destiny of our planet Urantia depends on teamwork aimed at fostering progressive growth and development according to God’s plan. Let us consider the context.

In the annals of early human life on our planet, Caligastia aligned himself with the folly of Lucifer and Satan, betraying his trust and leaving Urantia “in confusion worse confounded” [*a Melchizedek*, 759:1 / 67:5.3]. When Adam and Eve arrived about 38,000 years ago, they found “a world groping about in abject spiritual darkness” and were confronted by “hundreds upon hundreds of local dialects” [*Solonia*, 839:4 / 75:1.3]. Discouragement and impatience eventually led them to depart from the Father’s plan and default on their mission, but they left an able progeny. A Secondary Lanonandek Son tells us that Urantia “has profited immeasurably from the gift of Adam and Eve” [580:3 / 51:0.3]. The advance in civilization since their day “has far exceeded the progress of mankind throughout its entire previous existence of almost a million years” [*an Archangel of Nebadon*, 900:2 / 81:0.2].

Nonetheless a Mighty Messenger states, “Your world is a full dispensation and more behind the average planetary schedule” [593:5 / 52:3.6]. Further, Western civilization “staggers under the guilt of tolerating science without idealism, politics without principles, wealth without work, pleasure without restraint, knowledge without character, power without conscience, and industry without morality” [*the Midwayer Commission*, 2086:6 / 195:10.20].

So what are you going to do about it? Many others would be inclined to read that sentence with a puzzled frown and mutter to themselves, “Nothing.” But what are *you* going to do about it?

Some people might say, “Since I did not make this mess, it is not up to me to clean it up.” Well, if everyone replied that way then the world would stagger on, for with answers like that no one would do anything to advance human society and civilization according to God’s plan.

After all, the Father does not sit idly on some golden throne in the clouds, watching with ironic amusement while his children on earth assault each other and commit other absurdities and crimes. To the contrary, God actively fosters all wholesome aspects of human life. On his behalf and based on his plan, angels and other spiritual beings and influences minister to us as individuals and as members of society. In part they seek to encourage us to develop better ways of living and act on our highest ideals, so we can cooperate with insight and wisdom and do our utmost to promote human growth and development on our planet Urantia.

These efforts of God and his angels are unceasingly and intensely active, not a poetic metaphor or some kind of background noise. The seraphim minister to inquiring aspects of the human mind, stimulating us on the understanding that only the inner life is truly creative and that the advances of civilization are all born in this inner world of mankind (*a Solitary Messenger*, 1220:2 / 111:4.3). Thus in future ages — when our world has attained far higher stages of civilization than we can currently conceive — the crucial innovations and advances will reflect the actions and achievements of human beings, decisions they made of their own free will and not from any form of compulsion or constraint.

In all these regards, are you shoulder to shoulder with God? In more specific terms, might you be interested in an endeavor that would put you in partnership with God and his angels? Many other human beings would also be your partners, including individuals and groups in society who wish to propose or promote initiatives, innovations, or reforms that relate to their own fields of experience, knowledge, or interest. These imaginative men and women clearly rank as resolute explorers of the inner life. In doing your utmost to serve them, assist them, encourage them, inspire them, your duty and destiny would be closely associated with the progressive growth and development of humanity as a whole.

The Global Endeavor will offer all these options to committed readers of *The Urantia Book* who are keenly aware of the mess around them and who are willing to help clean it up — even though they are certainly not at fault, having inherited the circumstances of daily life from previous generations and past centuries.

## PREMISES

Although the plan is still a work in progress, the main lines are quite clear. The draft plan describes a path of idealistic service that will operate in parallel to study groups and in parallel to social or fraternal organizations. This new path is neither a substitute nor a competitor, and it will require a very different kind of active engagement. Since the essential objective is to foster higher levels of human civilization, the endeavor embodies spiritual perspectives but is not predominantly religious.

Like the master seraphim, those who participate in the Global Endeavor will serve others without inquiring into their philosophic convictions or religious beliefs. Goals, not creeds, unite us all. Therefore participants must show the utmost respect for the viewpoints and inclinations of everyone they serve — whether or not these brothers and sisters share their spiritual values, and whether or not they believe in God. Participants will be *living* the revelation, not preaching it. Further, those who participate in the endeavor will not give instructions or orders, nor issue statements or documents aimed at the public at large. Instead they will serve modestly and quietly, remaining well in the background.

Since the essence of the endeavor will be to serve and assist individuals and groups in society who want to upgrade their own pursuits or professions, the participants whom they consult will have to have experience and knowledge in the corresponding fields. During private dialogue persons with no particular experience would not inspire confidence, nor be likely to have useful insights into the practical issues that may be at stake. On the other hand the endeavor will also include responsibilities of a managerial or inspirational character, more general tasks that could be carried out by readers of *The Urantia Book* who have high ideals but no experience in any particular discipline.

## PROSPECTS

To illustrate the opportunities, let us consider the situation of a marriage counselor who has come to believe that individuals should not be entirely free to marry and have children at their personal discretion and whim. Instead the counselor is convinced that society should insist on certain personal qualifications that reflect sincerity, maturity, and mutual commitment. In addition, he believes that society should require a certain amount of “hands on” experience that relates to the upbringing of children and the need to love, nurture, and encourage them as they grow and mature.

Unfortunately this marriage counselor is quite lonely, for others in his field are well aware that his ideas conflict with long-cherished notions of personal liberty verging on license. These colleagues will not take the time and expend the effort to listen to his halting attempts to express himself clearly. Many of them believe they are too busy or see no practical or financial advantage in the musings of someone who gazes well past the tasks immediately at hand. Therefore others in the counselor’s field do not wish to devote their own energy to his exploratory and speculative thoughts, nor to his vague descriptions of innovative approaches that may eventually benefit humanity.

This is where you might come in, on the assumption that you are now a member of the working group on the home and the family and have professional background or work experience that relates to these fields. No, you would not expound on some

concept of yours and tell the marriage counselor what to do, for the members of the working groups do not promote their own initiatives. Instead a member of a working group is a catalyst and resource for individuals who are active in society and who wish to develop or refine ideas and approaches that they have imagined themselves. Therefore you would listen patiently to the counselor, while advising him in spontaneous ways that may encourage him and help him refine, pursue, and promote the idealistic goals that are taking shape in the serpentine recesses of his own inner life.

This is only one example, for the same working group will also serve individuals and groups in society who address many other aspects of the home and the family. In addition, the work of the other working groups relates to totally different fields and professions. This diversity enables the Global Endeavor to embrace the full range of wholesome human activities, while emphasizing initiatives, innovations, and reforms intended to upgrade and uplift them.

An Archangel of Nebadon offers incisive counsel: “Nothing can take precedence over the work of your status sphere — this world or the next. Very important is the work of preparation for the next higher sphere, but nothing equals the importance of the work of the world in which you are actually living. But though the *work* is important, the *self* is not.” [555:5 / 48:6.37]

Since our planet Urantia clearly needs work, you may be willing to devote substantial time and energy to an organized effort, a partnership with God and his angels. When you understand the endeavor and see yourself in it, you will have to decide: Will you help Urantia achieve its destiny by serving others and fulfilling your own?

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