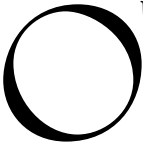


TRIUMPH & VINDICATION

"Your world still continues to pursue an irregular and checkered career as a result of the double tragedy of a rebellious Planetary Prince and a defaulting Material Son. Even the bestowal of Christ Michael on Urantia did not immediately set aside the temporal consequences of these serious blunders in the earlier administration of the world." [A Secondary Lanonandek Son, 578:5 / 50:6.5]

"Your world is a full dispensation and more behind the average planetary schedule." [A Mighty Messenger, 593:5 / 52:3.6]

"There are, of course, certain compensations for tribulation, such as Michael's bestowal on Urantia. But irrespective of all such considerations, the later celestial supervisors of this planet express complete confidence in the ultimate evolutionary triumph of the human race and in the eventual vindication of our original plans and life patterns." [A Life Carrier of Nebadon, 736:7 / 65:5.4]

 OUR WORLD'S ALL TOO EVIDENT DEFECTS are not just a matter of religion, they permeate every aspect of human life. The Global Endeavor described in the plan offers a path for individual readers of *The Urantia Book* — in close cooperation with others who share our goals — to serve the cause of progressive growth and development while also contributing to the evolutionary growth of the Supreme. A Mighty Messenger tells us: "With God the Father, sonship is the great relationship. With God the Supreme, achievement is the prerequisite to status — you must do something as well as be something." [1260:1 / 115:0.1]

Growth is a living and organic process that shapes and reshapes every human being from birth, both as an individual and as a contributor to social and cultural evolution. Participants in the endeavor will encourage such advances by serving and assisting individuals and groups who seek to upgrade their own pursuits or professions. On the other hand, participants will remain well in the background. They will not give instructions or orders, nor issue statements or documents aimed at the public at large. The key idea is to assist and support people who operate in society and who desire to improve it, on the understanding that the relatively small number of people who really want to make a difference are the main source of innovation and inspiration that advance human life on our planet.

The spirit of the teachings is the aspect of the fifth epochal revelation that will have the strongest influence on the work. The fact that the substantive working groups do not advocate, propose, or promote specific initiatives or reforms in society does not in any sense deprive members and associates of their *values* or prevent them from discussing these values in private dialogue with individuals or groups who have specifically requested advice.

In a philosophic sense these values and ideals can help reinforce and stimulate the inner life of active searchers, their quest for “those higher concepts in association with effective master patterns which will contribute to the building of a better and more enduring civilization” [*a Solitary Messenger, 1220:4 / 111:4.5*]. In the same paragraph the author specifies that these advanced concepts will be found “[o]nly in the higher levels of the superconscious mind as it impinges upon the spirit realm of human experience.” Further, he states: “The advances of true civilization are all born in this inner world of mankind. It is only the inner life that is truly creative.” [*1220:2 / 111:4.3*]

The task of developing specific initiatives aimed at upgrading and uplifting society must remain a responsibility of these active searchers, the explorers of the inner life. The endeavor is a framework for assisting and serving them, not a framework for directing or instructing them. Further, the endeavor cannot possibly be aimed at promoting or achieving particular results in specific fields, for any initiative or proposal is appropriate and worthwhile if and only if it suits the circumstances at a particular time in a particular place. Instead the endeavor will foster and encourage a *process* of creativity and imagination that will be required in every region of the world throughout the entire millennium. This innovative process will endure, whereas specific steps will come and go as society repeatedly regenerates itself. Thus new measures that embody major improvements in one field or another will eventually yield to further reforms that no one could possibly foresee right now. A Melchizedek tells us:

Mechanical inventions and the dissemination of knowledge are modifying civilization; certain economic adjustments and social changes are imperative if cultural disaster is to be avoided. This new and oncoming social order will not settle down complacently for a millennium. The human race must become reconciled to a procession of changes, adjustments, and readjustments. Mankind is on the march toward a new and unrevealed planetary destiny. [*A Melchizedek, 1086:4 / 99:1.1*]

Since the essential objective is to foster higher levels of human civilization, the Global Endeavor embodies spiritual perspectives but is not predominantly religious. Goals, not creeds, unite us all. Therefore participants must show the utmost respect for the viewpoints and inclinations of those they serve — whether or not these brothers and sisters share their spiritual values, and whether or not they believe in God.

Dissemination of the teachings is not the main point, and the plan states quite explicitly that participants may not evangelize. On the other hand, idealistic assistance and service will inevitably cause some people to take an interest in the teachings. This will be an indirect benefit, the outcome of personal cooperation and natural curiosity.

Since God did not design the universe and then disengage for all eternity, he will be an active partner in the strivings of individuals and groups in society, and in the efforts of everyone who participates in the endeavor. Thus the Partnership for Growth is not only a global undertaking that fosters cooperation among human beings, it is also a partnership with God and with his angels who encourage men and women to act on our highest insights of our own free will, not from any form of compulsion or constraint.

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, not just the creative impulses of innate perfection. And in our own age, in our own lifetimes, participants in the Global Endeavor will dedicate their energy and insight to fostering and promoting the ascent of mankind.

[July 1, 2008]