

Race and *The URANTIA Book*

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I was recently reminded of the difficult time I passed through when I reached sections in *The URANTIA Book* which dealt with the races. I had loaned a copy of the Book to a girlfriend. After a week or two, she called to say to me that whoever wrote Paper 64 was prejudiced. Those were my exact sentiments upon my initial reading.

I also recalled to mind the fact that only seven black adults attended the conference in Wisconsin the summer of 1978. The combination of these two events has led me to feel that if more black people are to benefit from the teachings of *The URANTIA Book*, perhaps they will have to be gingerly guided over certain portions, as I was.

To obtain an objective view on the relationship of black people to *The URANTIA Book*, I have read and re-read Papers 51, 52 and 64 many times. This is in addition to having completed one reading of the entire book and being three-fourths of the way through on a second reading. Focused attention on one particular subject such as race, without full knowledge of how and why it fits into the whole, may have a tendency to reduce ordinary reasoning to an emotional exercise in futility. During my first reading of the Book, I placed X marks opposite several paragraphs to indicate my displeasure. Now, however, after a period of careful attention, I feel that my original interpretation lacked reasoning. It is my hope that the statement I make here will ease the passage across these papers for those serious readers who would initially find them offensive.

I will venture to proffer that there are few blacks in America today who have not experienced racial discrimination. Hence, the overly sensitive response to certain words and phrases such as misfit, backward, you people, degenerate, boy, inferior, etc. Under Parts II and III of *The URANTIA Book*, some of these words appear repeatedly. Consequently, emotions gradually displace concentrated reading and objectivity takes a vacation. At such moments of frustration, one can feel that even God is not on his side, and a deep sense of helplessness follows. How can this lack of objectivity be overcome? "The true perspective of any reality problem ... can be had only by the full and unprejudiced study and correlation of three phases of universe reality: origin, history, and destiny.... The study of causation is the perusal of history. But the knowledge of *how* a being becomes does not necessarily provide an intelligent understanding of the present status and true character of such a being." (*215, emphasis added)

For an individual to gain an understanding of *The URANTIA Book* and of his relationship to the environment he lives in as well as to the universe, it would be helpful to seriously consider: (1) Completion of the book as a basis of understanding; (2) God's purpose for six evolutionary races of color; (3) The time factor regarding the six evolutionary races; (4) The defaults of the

Planetary Prince and Adam and Eve, and (5) An understanding of the Supreme Being and our relationship to him.

We are twentieth century beings who are intelligent, curious, well-rounded and spiritually motivated enough to be interested in the contents of *The URANTIA Book*. Personal emotions are a waste of energy when we are considering what our racial status on earth was nearly one-half million years ago – the time period referred to in Paper 64. This was about the time of the arrival of the Planetary Prince and long before the arrival of Adam and Eve. Equality, as we perceive it today, did not exist among early evolutionary people. At that time, a great majority of the people did not have thought adjusters, that individual spark from God which makes us all spiritually equal.

Papers 51, 52 and 64 discuss the progress of the six, or sometimes three, evolutionary races of color which are found on an average evolutionary world, and from this information we can measure our own progress. Harmonization of the Urantia races has slowly proceeded but not through the prescribed technique. The Book further states that our planet "... is a full dispensation and more behind the average planetary schedule". (*593) And further, that on a normal inhabited world the races are practically blended by the end of the Adamic dispensation.

Remember, the period of time referred to in Paper 64 is after the arrival of the Planetary Prince and long before the arrival of Adam and Eve. The shortest paragraph of Paper 64 is the most troublesome: "Notwithstanding their backwardness, these indigo peoples have exactly the same standing before the celestial powers as any other earthly race." (*725) It is my personal opinion that this paragraph is quite unnecessary, but the real fault is one of tense. This statement might appropriately refer to that time long ago, yet it is written as though its application is always current; as it could have been read then, can be read now, and will continue to be read fifty to one hundred years from now when the status of the black man will, no doubt, be a record of continuous advancement. "However wise it may be to glean wisdom from the past, it is folly to regard the past as the exclusive source of truth..." (*888) Again, it should be borne in mind when reading the sentences that contain some of those "touchy words" that cause social reflex flinching, that unfit and inferior strains are found in all races of people just as higher strains are found in all races. These differences sometimes manifest themselves within the same family. "...all human beings are not born equal." (*774) Some are superior at one thing and perform at unacceptable levels at other things.

Mankind is now divided into approximately three classes: The caucasoid, mongoloid and the negroid, the first two groups containing some secondary Sangik admixture. (*905) Mankind is further intellectually divided into three classes: the subnormal minded; the average, normal type of human mind; and the supernormal mind. (*1241) We must think of ourselves as one part of a whole people we are to become. "There are no pure races in the world today." (*919) There are only two races representative of early evolutionary people of color – the yellow man and the black man – and they are admixed with extinct colored peoples. Even our modern white race contains much less than one-eighth to one-sixth percentage of the blood of Adam which characterized the Mesopotamian Andites over eight thousand years ago. (*871) Paper 80 could be just as disturbing to certain groups of whites as Paper 64 is disturbing to blacks, in that it is stated in more than one place that whites absorbed a considerable amount of secondary Sangik blood through the Saharans who were the superior group of the indigo race. Indeed, the white race has been blended too much to be classified as nordic, alpine or mediterranean.

The URANTIA Book states that "Race mixture is always advantageous in that it favors versatility of culture and makes for a progressive civilization..." (*880) The Book further

states, among other things, that “Race mixtures of the average or superior strata of various peoples greatly increases creative potential, as is shown in the present population of the United States of North America.... The chief troubles of 'half-breeds' are due to social prejudices ...” and “Mixtures of the white and black races are not so desirable in their immediate result...” (*920)

Immediate results in North and South America, as well as on the nearby Caribbean Islands, were during the height of slavery. Lerone Bennett, Jr. in *Before the Mayflower*, (p.24), wrote that most black slaves came from an area bordering a 3,000 mile stretch on the west coast of Africa. They were a bewildering mixture of various stocks. Centuries of contact and interbreeding had already produced different types. Some of the West Africans were short and broad nosed. Some were tall with straight hair and aquiline noses. They were of all colors: chocolate, asphalt, café au lait, persimmon and cream. I am of the opinion that today in the United States of America over half the black population is of mixed ancestry, long since past the stage of hybridization which was an immediate result referred to above. This is not where the harm lies. *The URANTIA Book* says that “the real jeopardy of the human species is to be found in the unrestrained multiplication of inferior and degenerate strains of the various civilized peoples rather than in any supposed danger of their racial interbreeding...” (*920)

It is no longer relevant that the earlier evolutionary races were somewhat superior than the later; that the red man was endowed with a higher intellectual ability; north of the Rio Grande, he is all but extinct. (Shades of an inverted version of the parable: The Talents and the Servants.) And about eighty percent of the Chinese population are peasants because of China's underdeveloped agrarian economy. At this period of time on Urantia, intellectual ability seems to be relative to one's environment.

As a result of slavery and wars, the modern day black man's presence and influence is now firmly rooted in four continents. Here in America, numerous blacks live around, nearby and with whites and other ethnic groups. Through the mechanism of slavery, the black man developed a unique insight into the psyche of the white man, which contributed greatly to his ability to survive. In general, the white man has not availed himself of opportunities to know the black man in a similar manner. Only lately have some whites made overt overtures to blacks, often being rebuffed in so doing. The cause and solution to this problem, however, is not the subject of this narrative.

Students of *The URANTIA Book* have learned that there exists a unique opportunity to reconcile some of the existing social problems during this phase of life, thereby greatly enhancing the prospects for advancement on the Mansion worlds where we will be “... mingling with diverse groups of personalities, orders very different from one's own fellows” (*526)

The one great truth Jesus taught was the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. It is personally debilitating and ungodly for any one of us to rebuff another who is earnestly seeking knowledge through us to enhance his or her personal growth. Each of us must willingly serve our fellowman to fulfill our duty to God the Supreme. Some of us, as individuals or as a group, have difficult tasks to perform, on the whole and from our limited perspective, it might seem quite unfair. But remember, our attainments are the result of individual effort and actual living. Finally, it is the task of each of us to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and be led to glorify the Father who is in heaven.

April 1979

Addendum

Eleven years later the question is: Is the divine plan for the races, as described in *The URANTIA Book*, proceeding apace? I will have to say not necessarily. Let's look at the big picture.

Diverse people are again longing for nationalism; pro and anti-abortion issues in the United States mask the main issue of purging the races of the antisocial and degenerate individuals. So many people have found that the issues confronting them today are too much to deal with so they have "copped out" on drugs. A lot of self purging and group purging is going on. There is no hurry for a racial commission to undertake the "weeding out" task. A great number of people are committing suicide in various forms. A new underclass of people consistently eliminate each other with guns because of drugs and the profit drugs bring. Ethical leadership is at an all time low. I can't recall in my lifetime when such leadership was at an all time high. All of these factors have a bearing on our evolutionary progress on this planet. "Evolution is the rule of human development." (*560)

I consider Washington, D.C., to be one of the major crossroads of URANTIA. Plant yourself in a good spot in this area and you can watch the world go to and fro. Here in the United States I have observed a marked increase in interracial cohabitation and marriage. I have observed the larger category to be among black men and white women followed by white men and oriental women. Of course there are additional racial mixtures, but I speak mainly of those who cause your head to turn as they pass by.

Since my first writing I have visited Brazil and was told that 80 percent of its citizens were racially blended. I have been to China and saw some Chinese who were more red, so called, than so called yellow. How to get this nation to emerge from hegemony is a task worthy for the Angels of Nation Life.

And it is good that people from some eastern European countries, where everyone is beginning to look like sister and brother, have the urge to migrate and hopefully will mix and marry outside their own group.

The 2000 year birthday of Jesus on URANTIA is said to be in 1994 which we hope will inaugurate a new dispensation for URANTIA. What type of people will carry us into this new era? Of necessity they must be the biologically fit and the intellectually competent and those who possess the capacity for spiritual receptivity.

We in the United States are just a small part of that global struggle wherein man is constantly searching for his identity and place in this world. "When men search for God, they are searching for everything. When they find God, they have found everything." (*1289) May our continuing search enhance our daily lives with new understanding and increased love for our fellowman.

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Biographical Sketch of Earlene A. Green

On P. 2097 of my Urantia Book, I recorded the following: ***Completed 5-17-77 at 4:46 pm in the U.S. Attorney's office, Bldg. B, Washington, DC. Commenced appx. 11-30-76.*** About four other independent readings followed along with at least seven to nine completions of the Book in our study group, ten years of which I was the host.

I was introduced to the Urantia Book by Troy Bishop, the author of "***Starwind*** -- A Study of space, time, Deity, and the multilevelate nature of..." God sent me a genius to be my spiritual mentor. By the time I had finished Paper 51.5, I threw the Urantia Book from my position in bed clear across the room. I was in spiritual crisis. Troy had given me his phone number which I used for the first time at 10:30 that same evening. For over two hours, he guided me through other papers and sections which gave some continuity to the subject of the six evolutionary races of color.

I was one of about ten black people I had met at conferences who read the Urantia Book. I bought and gave away books to my other friends. I found it difficult to verbally explain to the unread in fifteen minutes or less how God really did love his black children equally with all of his children. Suddenly I was inspired to write about the subject and thus was born my paper called ***RACE and THE URANTIA BOOK***, April 1979, and ADDENDUM, August 1990. It was well-received in the Urantia community. Consequently I became a workshop leader, a speaker, a moderator, at a number of local, regional, and international conferences. I reached my pinnacle when I was a plenary speaker at IC96 in Flagstaff, Arizona. The title of the speech was: ***We're All Connected.***

Now I enjoy the status of a senior in the Urantia movement. I attend only a few conferences now, the last one being IC08 in Los Angeles. It was most gratifying to see so many serious minded young people with a new attitude and a new way of spreading the teachings of The Urantia Book. For this, I give thanks to God. And So It Is!