

Appendix I

“Forum Data” and Apocrypha

The following passages have been drawn chronologically from the first of the Shermans’ fifteen notebooks. Much of this material is the Shermans’ record of information about the Urantia phenomenon given them in the spring and summer of 1942.

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Forum Data (Bill, Dr. S. and other Forumites)

[undated; possibly compiled immediately after the Shermans received Loose’s July 21 letter in which he encouraged them to “accumulate every memo possible. A copy of the list of the original Forumites would be interesting.”]

- Original seven: H.J.L.—
- Next seven?: Dr. William Sadler, Dr. Lena Sadler, Mr. & Mrs. Kellogg (Dr. Lena’s sister), Thurston— (Wilfred? Kellogg)
 - *First message*: “And, as I slept, I dreamed.”* (Bill)
 - First contact with subject: 1911
 - Formation of Forum Group: 1926?-1942, about 200 members. Passed by midwayers for purpose of developing questions. Names of Forumites, *complete* list. How chosen/sponsored—Faith. Little *social* contact among group until 1942.
 - Formation of Seventy: 1940. Monday alternate
 - Formation of Bill’s study group. (Interest lacking last 2-3 years.) Alternate Wed.
 - Forum services officially dispensed with June 7, 1942. (Paper read

* From *Pilgrim’s Progress*, by John Bunyan (1628-1688). See Volume One, p. 425, for the passage in which the quote occurs.

June 6 at picnic at Haleses': Angels of Churches approve; Angels of Progress not satisfied. Prediction made concerning possible disunity among members since the overall protection of harmony of purpose was being removed and they were on their own.)

- Forum picnics
- "Apocrypha" papers
- Committees appointed by Dr. S. (under some pressure by certain members). Music: "Christy," Mrs. Bucklin, Mr. Dawson. Flowers: —
- Date for "plating" permission—
- Study of church creeds begun
- Years covered in actual book preparation—
- Rewritten 3 times. How done—
- Statement made which aroused [illegible] laugh re Jews. Reaction of Forum watched and statement withdrawn. Questions could be asked verbally or mentally or written. Every question clearly formulated answered.
- Selection of Sadler building—its adaptability and location
- Description of Subject: Businessman uninterested in philosophy.

Wife came to Sadler for help with husband who did unusual things in sleep. Number of witnesses. Wrote with both hands and spoke at same time. Subject entirely unaware of phenomena. On occasion all asked to withdraw for a moment while certain papers were destroyed.

- 1942. Up until 3 years ago (until demise of Dr. Lena?) discussions were informal and enjoyed by all. At that time they were told papers were complete and Bill discouraged further outside reading and research. Since that time papers were revised again but discussions have never been free and open as before, and Bill (who had said he would never become a teacher) became more and more pedantic.

Dr. Lena died of cancer 1939 (Aug.). Found sitting in her chair at 4 a.m. by Doctor, who had no idea she would go so quickly—expected her to live until after Xmas. A few days later came communication that she had passed straight through to mansion worlds (as Reserve Corps of Destiny member) and did not have to wait till general roll call.

Lincoln: Possible Reserve Corps of Destiny member. Had unusual dreams which he wrote down (and which made his wife Mary Todd think him crazy) which were sealed and filed in Springfield, Ill., to be opened in 1947, — years after his death.

Young people come to Forum a few times and then drop out. No appeal to them as presented.

Mrs. Hales suffers from depression, longtime patient of Doctor.

Bill: Ran away from home at fifteen. Father afraid to cross him ever since. Stubborn traits still persist, notably inability to get out of bed in a.m. and down to work. Has developed Benzedrine habit for stimulating mind. Nervously picks finger- and toenails below "quick."

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Dr. William Sadler [undated, late July 1942]:

Book in hands of Revelatory Commission. About two years ago control was given over to Angels of Progress for next 100 years. Angels of Churches had hoped for that assignment. Thirty-third lieutenant (no name given) of Angels of Progress in immediate charge. Nov. 1941: "Sonsovocton" head of Angels of Progress. "33rd" a Seraphington graduate previously in charge of similar revelations on other planets. Introduced by d-e-f, secondary midwayer, working with Revelatory Commissioners. Two-way conversations carried on and advice given from time to time.

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Kelloggs (7/27/42): Dinner at their home with Ruth.

- Subject discovered: 1911
- Forum founded: 1926
- Question period closed May 31, 1942
- Dr. Lena died August 9, 1939
- Mrs. K. stated H. J. L. never was present when subject produced information. Both Mr. and Mrs. K. stated they were (always) present.

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Bucklin: History [undated]:

Contact Commissioners: Subject, Dr. Lena and William Sadler, Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg, Christy and Bill. If any one of them dies, orders are given for book to be published 18 months later. This was given () years ago. When Dr. Lena passed on, a midwayer was commissioned to take her place and order was postponed for future emergency.

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Bill Sadler, 7/30/42:

Story of Tabamantia visit, part of apocrypha papers which are not to be included in U. Book.

September 13, 1924, Tabamantia made visit to this planet via receiving station at Big Tree (Grizzly Bear) for first time in 40,000 years. Chicago group one of 978 (sleeping contacts) waiting in preparedness for this visit. Sixty-eight "projectile contacts unannounced" arrived, and as each came the contact was "shocked" as though a high-voltage current fairly lifted him from the bed. Tabamantia himself arrived. He is the sovereign supervisor of all experimental worlds, having once been a mortal on the very first planet on which there was a rebellion in all the superuniverses. He delivered a withering indictment against the methods of the Angels of the Churches which permitted the existing situation on Urantia and the almost total loss of the Adamic strain. He especially praised the Thought Adjusters.

In commenting on the work of the contact commissioner group, he stated they were no better than other similar groups but were selected by the first assistant to the governor for good reason, possibly the fact that one of the contact commissioners (Christy) could take shorthand.

Tabamantia's visit was such a physical and nervous strain for subject that only first half of his one-night visit was held in Chicago. Second half was given to Omaha group.

Five days before Tabamantia reached Urantia, an outpost stationed somewhere in the universe perceived the presence of the Tabamantia vehicle, recognized by its insignia its enormous importance, and computed by its direction that it was headed for Urantia. So the outpost, who had been on guard at this station for seventy years, flashed the news report to Urantia. Thus all the preparations were made to have the various contact groups ready for the use of the visitor, who arrived on a Saturday, September [illegible], 1924, at about 6 p.m. (Grizzly Bear). There he was greeted by a great host of seraphim and heavenly creatures standing in the shape of a cross (Urantia the World of the Cross) and singing somewhat the equivalent of "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." There registrations and speeches took place, and it was not until 10 p.m. that he announced himself in Chicago, and not until then was the Chicago group aware that they were to be chosen. During all this momentous happening a mortal man slept quietly at the base of this very tree.

Tabamantia also criticized the Angels of Progress for permitting mankind to so far advance in material inventions that mechanically he was far outstripping his mental and spiritual development, and *absolutely ordered* no further inventions to be given. Mankind *must* labor to survive. The finest stocks had been permitted by these mechanical means to destroy each other while the inferior races were allowed to multiply. Had not intended white race to exterminate fine red man. Regretted black man had been brought to this country though they were races least apt to intermarry. The order intended on this earth was a caste system of violet at top to black race at bottom; and in government a republic, as first founded in America, not a monarchy nor a democracy (domination of mediocrity).

Tabamantia paid great tribute to Thought Adjusters. This included in Book of Urantia.

More apocrypha:

Surprise visit from entity—“student visitor”—from a distant planet on which beings have no bodies, hence no size nor features such as eyesight. Thus they do not see color! They do not die as we do and have no recollection of birth. Their only concept is *knowing*. Many of their order die permanently in trespassing beyond the limits of their own energy sources. They have no Thought Adjusters. They do not breathe.

Cardif, [of] an order of dual-personality beings able to use two-brained subject for registration on this planet, broadcast from capital of Nebadon to all sleeping “contacts” and all orders of beings in charge of all inhabited planets: “Word has just been received of the arrival on one of the outermost planets of the superuniverse, of an ambassador from the capital of a hitherto unknown and undiscovered universe.” He had been in transit 500,000 years, and a like number of years more would transpire before he arrived in Nebadon. This fact being established, a Melchizedek Son was immediately dispatched as an ambassador from Nebadon to this universe. It will require a million years for him to reach this universe and he will arrive at *their* capital 500,000 years after their ambassador reaches Nebadon. Great joy was expressed that another link had been established with fellow creatures so far, far away, akin to those residing in Nebadon.

Everything which passes through the brain is recorded there whether conscious or unconscious. Hence higher intelligences can read the records

of past events in a contact's brain. Dual intelligences (both male and female) use both sides of brain of subject. Various "circles" of brain activity are used by various entities.

No knowledge was of value to this planet unless it first passed through the mind of a mortal.

John the Potter (one of the four-and-twenty elders) and a-b-c and d-e-f in charge of subject. Twenty-four elders in charge of this planet (Machiventa Melchizedek, Moses, Enoch, etc.), sixteen of whom are full-fledged members and active, the other eight in reserve.

Subject's T.A. had served six times previously. Subject has no knowledge of events except as related to him later by others. In beginning subject wrote with alternate hands. (Produced sealed notebooks fully written.) Later he was used as a speaking voice by intelligences.

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Bill (7/31/42):

Bright and Morning Star of Avalon (a neighboring universe) visits Urantia (Chicago) in February 1925. Had the same relationship to Avalon as Gabriel to Nebadon—representing the Second Great Source and Center. He found and had so recorded by the various orders that Tabamantia's indictments were *just*, but, considering the unusual destiny of mortals here and the numerous mistakes which had been made, a universal viewpoint rather than a planetary viewpoint should be taken, and hence he was adding universal mercy and tempering the previous indictment. He was a most gracious and benign influence, maintaining he was ordered for this service because, coming from another universe, he was able to take an impersonal, and hence an impartial, viewpoint.

Preparations for his arrival were not as extensive as for Tabamantia. Even so, there were 72 sleeping contacts ready, one of which, however, was not usable as he was asleep in a car. This communication was divided between Chicago and Omaha, as with Tabamantia. He stated the midwayers had been of irreplaceable service and were most necessary as the connecting link with man. Only one of them was permitted to leave with Jesus to become one of the four-and-twenty elders of this planet. The others remained to serve mankind and had not slept for 37,000 years, since their creation. They are to continue here in service till Urantia is settled in light and life.

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Bill (8/4/42):

Student visitors not permitted after actual book revelation work was begun, but previous to that time they were in constant attendance. Their remarks very enlightening as to how observers look at our planet. One spoke of being on a planet where the thunderstorms were so terrific that they took great toll of life, particularly during a 30-day season when everything without protection perished. They erected homes or shelters consisting of seven layers of asbestos. Between each layer were gas chambers. Our thunder was the mere whisper of an echo of theirs. These intelligences were non-breathers.

Another student came from a world of small, 11-inch entities and he was amazed at our size. Remarked that he wished *their* planet had "*animals*" indwelt by T.A.'s. He had been experimenting in the development of a form of life called Spornagia, very faithful animals and intelligent, even able to talk.

One visitor remarked that this was most interesting planet ever visited, containing as it did animals indwelt by mystery beings, most of whom are not aware of this presence and who live in such sublime uncertainty! Not doubting for the past million years these mystery beings existed, he nevertheless had never seen evidence of any until his being brought in contact with the indwelt mind of this mortal subject on Urantia. After listening to the detached T.A. of this sleeping contact he declared he would rather hear this mystery being talk than God himself. *The T.A.* in question, having been granted permission to address the little mortal group in attendance, made a stirring plea to those assembled to communicate a message to the subject of his indwelling upon the return of this subject to mortal consciousness. The T.A. explained that he probably would be unable to speak direct to the soul of his "betrothment" until after he had completed his life in the flesh, and this entreaty was that the mortal of his indwelling not fail him; that he accept greater and greater guidance, and assuring him that he, the T.A., would be attending him, through whatever was to come, to the very end with the most sympathetic understanding and loving devotion. When the T.A. had finished speaking, a-b-c the midwayer, who had set up the lines of communication, remarked ecstatically, "Wasn't he wonderful! You know, I really saw him that time as he bridged over from

the fourth to the third circle in this mortal's consciousness. I had to watch awfully close. It was just a flash. I've never doubted the existence of these wonderful beings but it's seldom you can ever catch any sight of them."

A Trinitized Son (about 1922) awakens to his first consciousness on this, 606 of Satania, World of Cross, the world of his identification. John the Potter this night instructed a-b-c (midwayer in charge of communication) to stand by for an unusual contact on the "ten o'clock draught," a time apparently when many sleeping contacts are held in readiness for whatever service may be necessary. On this occasion, a new type of being presented himself by saying, "Who am I? Who are you?" And when told where he was, he seemed to get his bearings and said, "There are really three of us but you see only two—my father, mother and myself. One of my parents is invisible but whether it is my father or my mother, I do not know. My parents, of a high spiritual development, elected to participate in an act of creation and so petitioned. Their oneness of purpose in the desire to create a new trinitized idea for service on the worlds of time and space having been passed upon, they were set aside by themselves and protected by a band of seraphic hosts while they undertook the majestic task of bringing forth a new sublime creature. Many couples, no matter how spiritual, often fail in this attempted reproduction, but my parents remained in creative meditation for the period of a million years, endeavoring to so synchronize their singleness of purpose and spiritual devotion to this idea as to bring forth this new being. When it seemed as though their heroic and concentrated effort was to meet with failure, there was suddenly a great flash of light, and I stepped forth, but one of my parents, in this indescribable moment of creation, became invisible and we are now co-existent with each other yet still possessed of our individual identities. I am here now, having been brought to the World of the Cross for purposes of identification and for taking the oath of loyalty and service required of all Trinitized Sons.

A-b-c here interrupted to state that lines were being laid straight from Salvington (central universe) so that the oath might be administered by a seven-times-incarnated Son. There was then heard the voice of such a Son (unnamed but might have been Michael of Nebadon). The swearing-in ceremony was transcendently awesome. The last pledge had to do with the acceptance by the Trinitized Son of a possible mandate to surrender his own life on behalf of lower creatures whose uplifting would be placed in his charge. In the making of such a sacrifice, it was understood that it would mean

complete severance from this 3-in-1 attachment with his parents and his entering into a state of complete isolation. It was emphasized, before this Trinitized Son was given opportunity to take this pledge, that no other oaths of allegiance meant anything unless he should be ready and willing to subscribe to this final condition. The new Trinitized Son gave a soul-stirring and unfaltering answer and then was welcomed as a full-fledged member of his order of beings. A-b-c: "The last time I saw this happen was 3000 years ago."

It was remarked here that Bestowal Sons serve from 6 to 604 years, but on the latter planet everyone accepted its Son and it was approaching light and life. Each Son worked with his hands in some *builder*work on the planet of his bestowal, such as carpenter, potter, tiller of soil and "transparency." (604: This Son left a glass replica of the mansion world to which they were going, to each of his apostles.)

Contact group—special delivery of special instructions: During the controversy over the Jesus papers, the need for special instructions to one of the contact commissioners arose and this communication was delivered direct to her (commissioner in question) by unseen hands and dropped from mid-air on her desk. It was a startling experience which was humorously commented on by the midwayer of the next "session."

(Bill's attitude. Stated his intentions of reading to us apocrypha from 1924 back to early beginnings, parts of which had never been read outside the original group before. This over several nights of reading.)

Celestial being of high development stopped off here en route to Uversa to pay a visit to the World of the Cross. He was highly developed in chemistry and was going to teach on Uversa to repay in small measure a great favor bestowed by Lanaforge many years ago. Asked why he had come by way of this little planet, he said, "Why, Urantia is known throughout all Nebadon as the world where the Creator Son lived his seventh bestowal life and was crucified by his own creatures." Asked if some of the mortal group then present would see him on Uversa, he replied that they might and if so would be walking through his laboratories, and that with his back turned he would turn about and in one glance the memory of this earth visit would return to him, as it would to them, and they would recognize each other without a word being spoken.

Anniversaries are real events in the higher realms. At such times special favors are granted to the ascending intelligences. *One celestial being* recorded he was here on the anniversary of his mortal birth which occurred millions of years ago. He referred to a mortal associate of that far-distant past and said that should he desire it, as a special birthday bestowal, he could have the lines of communication laid to any place in the universe and reach and talk to this friend of so long ago.

Student visitors have usually served hundreds of thousands of years before they visit other planets, systems, etc., except under specially conducted observation tours.

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Dr. Sadler (8/7/42):

Student visitors were frequent welcome guests at meetings with subject, and on occasion they would carry on a private interview with a *single* mortal commissioner while remaining members were sent from the room. These were held in strictest confidence until apparently two of these individuals talked or confided in each other following such a personal talk about fifteen years ago. Since that time there have been *no* private talks, indicating the student visitors had meant exactly what they said when they used the word "confidential." The orders had been disobeyed and its privilege thereafter withdrawn.

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Bill (8/11/42):

Thought Adjusters, having previous experience, use that experience on their present wards. John's T.A. had previously guided a painter so John received inspiration in form of pictures.

Subject at first dreamed dreams and wrote them down on awakening—"And as I slept I dreamed." 1911. "I seemed to be taken by a guide in full regalia before a tremendous structure near an ocean," etc. As these dreams continued they took the form of automatic writing and spoken word. He would write with both hands and speak at the same time. He would find fully written pages on awakening. Finally he was taken to Dr. Sadler for examination, and original contact commissioners would then be called in to witness actual phenomena.

Types of Contacts:

- Midwayers—a-b-c, d-e-f
- John the Potter. Nathaniel
- Thought Adjusters—attached and detached—(*“I have come with the battle plan of Verdun!”*)
 - All authorities for Book of Urantia
 - Visiting students
 - Tabamantia—Bright and Morning Star (?)
 - Sonsovocton, Angels of Progress, Angels of Churches, Seraphim
 - Clearinghouse for old “rehearsal rolls” never consummated in fact and “talked out”
 - Soul (evolving) of subject. “Ten o’clock draught”
 - Trinitized Son

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Christy (8/14/42):

Emma Christensen [Christy] came to Chicago November 1921. Got position in present office (Bankers –). In 1922 she was struck by a car and knocked unconscious; came to in hospital with Dr. Sadler working over her. Reported at his office at intervals till completely well. Dr. Lena became interested, and Christy divided her time between her own room and their home, eventually taking Bill’s room (he being in the Marines) permanently.

In 1923 the first general forum group met for free Sunday afternoon discussion of religion and philosophy, with Dr. Lena as hostess. This became so popular, as each brought his friends, that they moved to second floor and group pooled funds to buy chairs. For a year they carried membership cards and were then told not to repeat any of the “messages.” Meanwhile, the first paper (on the Universal Father) had been received (1924) and read and discussed, arousing many oral questions, and were then told to carefully formulate and write them. Out of these questions came the first (56) papers, which they thought then was the whole story. Later came all the Jesus papers and an expansion of the first group.