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Robert Solone  
URANTIA Foundation  
533 Diversey Parkway  
Chicago, IL 60614

Dear Bob,

In the last few days I have come to the conclusion that I cannot allow the Foundation to distribute my chart, *The Evolution of Life on Earth*. It is a derivative work, a simplified, human interpretation of a complex subject, and it is flawed. No matter how much I revise it, it will never be good enough to carry the concentric circles symbol of the Urantia Foundation. Future readers may be misled into believing that this is an official concept, and it may inhibit them from producing their own interpretations. I was honored and flattered that the Foundation would consider my work worthy, but I cannot allow my ego to ruin it for others. I do, however, think it is perfectly all right for the Jesusonian Foundation to handle the distribution, since they specialize in works that are by-products of our revelation. Everybody is aware that those are secondary works, and I believe that is where my chart belongs.

This has led me to consider the current tragic state of affairs, and I would like to offer my insights and ideas. The Urantia Book is such a great revelation that converts are already coming along with derivative works, excerpts, abridgements, and knock-off copies, not to mention channeled "additions." The Foundation cannot expect that this expansion will all take place under its guidance. The only way to guarantee future generations the privilege of having the full, unadulterated text of The Urantia Book is for the Foundation to focus on keeping it in print and to continue to sponsor translations. Let others spread the teachings any way they see fit. The story of "The Strange Preacher" (page 1764) says it all. When John approached Jesus informing him that a man was preaching strange doctrines in Jesus's name, Jesus said:

"Forbid him not. Do you not perceive that this gospel of the kingdom shall presently be proclaimed in all the world? How can you expect that all who will believe the gospel shall be subject to your direction? Rejoice that already our teaching has begun to manifest itself beyond the bounds of our personal influence. Do you not see, John, that those who profess to do great works in my name must eventually support our cause? They certainly will not be quick to speak evil of me. My son, in matters of this sort it would be better for you to reckon that he who is not against us is for us. In the generations to come many who are not wholly worthy will do many strange things in my name, but I will not forbid them."

Picture a person from the distant future: He finds a distorted version of the book. He is intrigued. He wants to know more. He then discovers that there actually exists a book, *in print*, that contains the complete text, word for word, of the original revelation that was first published in 1955. Not only that, it is put out by a highly-reputable Foundation that has never wavered - in two hundred years - from its mission of keeping the book available and in print in its entirety, and has steadfastly devoted itself to sponsoring top-quality translations. It has never been involved in controversy or sensationalism, nor has it reacted one way or the other to criticism; it has no church, no dogmas, no rituals, no creeds and no hierarchy - these are for offshoot organizations that have developed as different personality types have grouped together. This organization has never interfered or competed with others who tried to disseminate the teachings. It has never published interpretive works that might taint the purity of the revelation. For centuries it has remained neutral and stuck to business, nose to the grindstone, working with a small, dedicated staff and low overhead. It has remained faithful to its trust. (Just writing this makes me want to

give up my job and dedicate my life to helping this organization!)

Having been uninvolved lately in Urantia affairs (due in part to the infighting and divisions that had repelled me) I was shocked last week to learn the depth of division between the Fellowship and the Foundation. This gap must be bridged before it widens, and the wound cannot be allowed to fester. I believe the damage can be mended by sitting down together and dividing up the responsibilities: the Foundation keeping the unadulterated book in print (including an affordable, attractive paperback version) and sponsoring first-rate translations, and the Fellowship dealing with secondary works, seminars, conferences, and any activity that is an outgrowth of the revelation. Let anybody who feels he has a grasp on the teachings produce a secondary work to inspire his fellows. Jesus wouldn't forbid him; why should you? When the instructions were given to preserve the text inviolate, was that mandate handed down to everybody in the world, or only to the Foundation? As I see it, the Foundation deals with revelation, the Fellowship and like organizations with evolution. If the Foundation attaches itself to the evolutionary aspect of the revelation, it would be akin to Jesus starting his own church with only Jews as members, thereby alienating the Greeks, the Romans and anybody who did not identify with the Jews.

“The gospel of the kingdom was to be identified with no particular race, culture, or language.” p. 2064

“No revealed religion can spread to all the world when it makes the serious mistake of becoming permeated with some national culture or associated with established racial, social, or economic practices.” p. 2064

There are many people in the world who are incapable of reading a 2100-page book but who may respond to a watered-down version; these people need to hear the message also. If all we have to offer them is a massive blue book that frightens them away, we are burying our talents. As word of the revelation spreads over the world, you will have an impossible task trying to control what happens with it, just as parents cannot control the lives of their children once they leave home. And by putting yourself in such a no-win situation, it will become harder and harder to find reasonable people to work with you and see your point of view. With so much to be done, why not split up the work instead of everybody vying to do the same job? I am confident that with God's help this can be worked out.

Since I have already purchased my ticket and booked my hotel for July 13-20, I would still like to come to Chicago to meet you and the rest of the staff. Ever since I found the book twenty years ago I have wanted to visit the Foundation. Perhaps I can do some volunteer work for you - if nothing else I can wash the windows or mop the floor. I hope you understand my reasons for pulling out, and that you will agree it is the wisest course of action for all of us.

Sincerely,

cc: Tom Burns  
Richard Keeler  
Pat Mundelius  
Georges Michelson-Dupont  
Kwan Choi  
Paula Thompson, Jesusonian Foundation

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