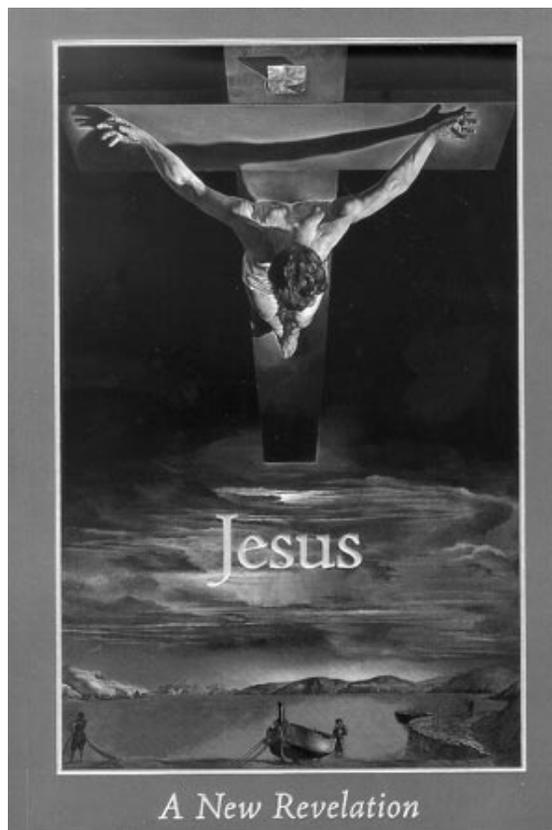


CONTROVERSY



SEPARATE PUBLISHING OF PART IV

Is Harry McMullan breaking copyright law? Or should these man-made laws not apply to a divine revelation? COMPILED BY SASKIA RAEVOURI

IN JULY 1999 IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT HARRY MCMULLAN, A LONG-TIME URANTIA Book reader, had published Part IV, *The Life and Teachings of Jesus*, as a separate volume entitled *Jesus—A New Revelation*. This action has stirred up controversy within the Urantia community. The Urantia Foundation has, in its Declaration of Trust, a mandate to preserve the text inviolate. As copyright holder it must fight to keep the revelation in one piece, and it claims that by splitting up the book Harry has broken the law. Another faction within the community voices the concern that the cover of JANR—a Salvador Dalí painting that portrays a dying Jesus on a cross—gives the false impression that *The Urantia Book* is a revelation for Christians only, thus diminishing its universal appeal. Others see it differently. They believe that a divine revelation cannot be owned, that it must be freed up for the world to share, that offering the life of Jesus as a separate volume can help to advance our planet closer to light and life. They testify that with JANR as a tool they have had greater success introducing the

revelation to others. From another corner comes the challenge that the Foundation does not need a copyright to preserve the text inviolate, that there are enough first editions in the world now and on the Internet to secure the integrity of the revelation. Harry also has other reasons for believing what he has done is not illegal. What follows are communications from both sides. This is not a simple, cut-and-dried issue of breaking the law. Who is right? Or are they both right? You be the judge.¹

URANTIA FOUNDATION TO HARRY McMULLAN, 8/5/99:

The trustees of the Urantia Foundation want to express the Foundation's disapproval of your decision to print Part IV of *The Urantia Book*. As you recall, certain trustees of the Foundation advised you last year that you should refrain from taking this step. (You well know the Urantia [Foundation] has a copyright on *The Urantia Book*, and your splitting up and printing Part IV of the revelation violates international and national copyright laws.)

The Foundation now formally asks that you refrain from printing, distributing, or selling Part IV.

Thank you for your immediate attention to correcting this legal matter.

Sincerely,

Trustees of Urantia Foundation



McMULLAN TO FOUNDATION, 8/25/99:

This is in reply to your certified letter...in which you demanded that I refrain from distributing Part IV of *The Urantia Book*. Though the letter was addressed to me, I am answering it in my capacity of President of Michael Foundation, Inc., the publisher of *Jesus—A New Revelation*.

What I know regarding your copyright to *The Urantia Book* differs markedly from what you assert that I know. It is the following:

The original decision by Judge Urbom² invalidating Urantia Foundation's copyright to *The Urantia Book* by summary judgment was based on a correct analysis of the facts and the law concerned. While ruling—most significantly—that revelation is uncopyrightable, Judge Schroeder's 9th Circuit reversal of the District Court decision relied upon the fact that members of the Forum posed questions to the revelators, a situation which she deemed supplied sufficient human involvement for copyright protection (ignoring, among other things, the fact that Urantia Foundation was not even the successor in interest to the Forum).

The 9th Circuit decision was given without citing any

precedents, because none exists. The concept that individuals who merely pose questions to an author are entitled to copyright protection would create the ludicrous situation of giving anyone who talks with an author about his upcoming book a claim to copyright. Such a legal theory would open to challenge the copyrights of 99% of authors to claims by, for example, friends and neighbors with whom they might have bounced around ideas regarding their upcoming books, not to say copy editors whose job it is to rewrite the books themselves. *Amicus curiae* against such a ludicrous position would likely be filed by any number of individuals and publishing houses who would not want the entire concept of authorship in copyright law so radically overthrown.

Quite apart from the issue of Forum questions, the "History of the Urantia Movement," which Urantia Foundation introduced as having been written by Wm. S. Sadler, trustee [Editor's note: Dr. Sadler was never a trustee of Urantia Foundation] and former contact commissioner, forecloses Urantia Foundation from now claiming any other species of that human involvement which would be necessary in order to qualify *The Urantia Book* for copyright protection. That document states unequivocally that the contact commission "had no editorial authority. [Its] job was limited to spelling, capitalization, and punctuation."

Further, Urantia Foundation is on record admitting that "no human being wrote any portion of the text of the Papers." This testimony (made when Urantia Foundation was basing its copyright claim on a different theory) supplies a mortal blow to the weak "compilation" copyright which is all that now remains of the original "full" copyright which Urantia Foundation obtained based on the false claim that it had authored the Urantia Papers.

And there are other grounds on which Urantia Foundation's copyright to the entire *Urantia Book* is defective. It is quite certain that the poorly thought-out, indeed absurd, Schroeder opinion will be reversed upon any serious challenge.

However, even if the Schroeder opinion were upheld, its very terms preclude the enforceability of the copyright with respect to the material contained in *Jesus—A New Revelation*. This is the case because all evidence reveals that Part IV of *The Urantia Book* was delivered to the contact commission as a completed document without any of the Forum involvement which Judge Schroeder stipulated as the basis for copyright protection.

In short, gentlemen, your chances of prevailing in a copyright challenge to the entire *Urantia Book* are very slim; and with respect to Part IV—at least against someone whom you can neither successfully intimidate nor financially exhaust—you will most certainly lose. *Jesus—A New Revelation* will remain on the market until such time as a court of competent jurisdiction finally rules that it must be removed, an event which we are confident will never occur.

However, for me there is far more to this issue than the legalities involved. I believe that in the world to come I will have to account for what I did with respect to the "greatest of all human knowledge" which according to *The Urantia Book* is "to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it." (196:1.3) Other statements by Jesus are equally compelling, such as, "And now I declare to you that I, if I be lifted up on earth and in your lives, will

¹In reproducing the correspondence between the two parties, spelling and style have been standardized for ease of reading, except when referencing quotes from *The Urantia Book*. The Foundation cites page numbers from the 1955 version, while Harry McMullan cites Paper, paragraph and line according to the Uversa Press edition.

²This refers to the Maaherra case, full details of which may be found at <http://www.geocities.com/~nduval/crimes.html> or <http://www.ubook.org/legal/>

draw all men to myself and into the fellowship of my Father." (174:5.13)

The only arguments I have heard against proceeding forward on those and similar imperatives are based on the so-called "mandates," which, since they were given to none of us now alive, have no more than the status of hearsay. I find it easy to obey the direct words of Jesus in situations where they conflict with so-called "mandates" which by their own terms were supposed to be burned 20 years ago. I see the relationship of the so-called "mandates" to the revelation itself as no more than a twentieth-century version of the oral traditions which the Sanhedrin taught were more sacred and binding than Scripture itself (153:3.7), and against which oral traditions Jesus was in "constant collision." (124:1.13)

Michael Foundation is doing no more than the work you yourselves are called to do. Yet instead of pursuing the many worthy activities open to you in furtherance of the kingdom of God and brotherhood of man, you are contemplating allocating a significant fraction of your resources toward legal action in order to suppress the dissemination of Jesus' gospel.

Any such effort, you must be aware, will consume many years and immense resources, and ultimately will prove futile. While I would much prefer to spend my time and energy promoting the gospel, if it becomes my duty to defend the free access of people to God's (not your) revelation, be assured that I will consider it the highest honor to do so. This is true notwithstanding the fact that two of you are among my dearest friends.

Freedom of religion is inseparable from freedom of religious expression. People like myself who believe that *The Urantia Book* is a divine revelation will no more submit to controls on its dissemination than Christians would to controls on their ability to use the texts of the original manuscripts from which the Bible was compiled. The fifth epochal revelation should and will be free.

You can learn this lesson voluntarily or you can let life itself teach you. Your misguided control/suppression approach is doomed because human religious expression cannot lastingly be squelched. Instead of experiencing consternation over the passing of your unjust control over the fellowship of believers, you should rejoice that a new day is dawning in which all sorts of new creativity will be unleashed in work for the Father's kingdom. There's nothing to be scared of. For example, in the short time in which

Jesus—A New Revelation has been out, significant numbers of individuals who previously had been unreceptive to *The Urantia Book* in its totality have encountered and benefited from the truth of Jesus' God-revealing life on earth through that work. And that is just the start.

Urantia Foundation has a limited future so long as it attempts to play religious dictator over the family of believers. Cooperation with the fellowship of believers, instead of misguided attempts to maintain unjust control over them, will serve the world—and yourselves—much better. Why not use this opportunity to make a clean break with Urantia Foundation's traditional control/suppression approach and give cooperation/support a try? I predict you would be most delighted with the support you in turn would thereby receive.

Sincerely,
Harry McMullan, President

Michael Foundation, Inc.
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IN RESPONSE to demands that The Urantia Book Fellowship take a stand on the issue, the President, Janet Farrington Graham, in a letter dated 8/30/99, stated:

"The General Council feels it is very important for the membership—and the readership at large—to understand that The Fellowship, as an organization, does not pass judgment on the dissemination efforts of private individuals. In addition, the clause in our constitution that states The Fellowship will be "...ever obedient and subservient to the laws of this country..." relates to the activities of the organization, not to individual members. We would remind the community that in keeping with this constitutional requirement, The Fellowship immediately ceased printing and selling the Uversa Press edition of The Urantia Book when the copyright was returned upon appeal to Urantia Foundation in June of 1997.

"We consider the Michael Foundation's publication of Jesus—A New Revelation to be a private matter between the Michael Foundation and Urantia Foundation trustees."

FOUNDATION TO McMULLAN, 8/13/99:

Many readers have tried in past years to dissuade you from printing Part IV of *The Urantia Book*. The General Council of the Fellowship wisely rejected to do the same in 1996. Now groups of readers from around the world have, and are planning to, circulate petitions asking you to cease your efforts to distribute or give away *Jesus—A New Revelation*, which is Part IV of *The Urantia Book*, minus the first paper. We know from Eve's folly that one's own personal plans for improving mankind can miscarry and retard, instead of stimulate, growth.

Every epochal revelation has been part of a plan and its purveyors have been given "instructions." This fifth epochal revelation came with the Declaration of Trust, which tells us to keep the text inviolate in all media, and to disseminate the

teachings and doctrines to the world. It does not sanction splitting up the book, printing parts of the book separately, or printing, as you have done, Part IV of the book without Paper 120, "The Bestowal of Michael on Urantia."

Persons from all quarters of the Urantia community, in addition to Urantia Foundation and at least one trustee, have pleaded with you to cease your action, and we now do so again.

We are sad that you chose to print *Jesus—A New Revelation*, and that you chose to disregard the Foundation's copyright in *The Urantia Book*. Also, we are troubled that in the front of your

publication of part of *The Urantia Book*, you indicate you intend to translate it into other languages.

From your recent "open letter" to us, it is clear that you believe you will prevail in court if the Foundation pursues a claim against you for copyright infringement. We urge you to consider the following:

1. The decision in the Maaherra case is the law.
2. Judge Schroeder is a well-known and well-respected judge.
3. The historical documents and living members of the Forum agree that some human creativity was associated with the formation of the text of the book.
4. Some level of creativity is all that is required for a work to surpass the extremely low threshold of copyrightability. As Dr. Sadler said, "No questions, no papers."

We know that your attorneys objected, in the Fellowship's *amicus* brief, on very technical grounds to some of the documentary evidence.

The real question is whether your decision to reproduce, as a separate work, the final 76 papers of *The Urantia Book* constitutes an infringement of the copyright. We believe that, after a careful review of the applicable defenses you may articulate, you have infringed the copyright by copying such a substantial portion of the book without engaging in any transformative use of the quoted material.

Litigation is, as we have learned, an expensive mechanism to resolve disputes and effect justice. *"The Master, when on earth, admonished his followers that justice is never a personal act; it is always a group function. Neither do the Gods, as persons, administer justice. But they perform this very function as a collective whole, as the Paradise Trinity."* (p.1146)

It is our considered opinion that you have infringed the Foundation's copyright and thereby broken the law.

We, the Trustees, have taken a solemn oath (which we also regard as sacred) to preserve, protect, and defend *The Urantia Book* as those duties are assigned to us by the Declaration of Trust. We are as resolved to do our duty as, it appears, you are resolved to purvey your publication—without our authorization or the support even of your organization, the Fellowship.

As is customary, until we reach Havona, courts are one means to resolve disputes between imperfect creatures. Since you and we, as representatives of the Foundation, cannot agree, we may have no choice but to ask the court to settle our disagreements and to effect justice, according to the rules of law. As the book states:

"If one man craves freedom—liberty—he must remember that all other men long for the same freedom. . . . Freedom is the gift of civilization made possible by the enforcement of LAW." (p.1490)

He [Jesus] taught them not to resist evil, not to combat injustice or injury, but he did not teach passive tolerance of wrongdoing. And he made it plain on this afternoon that he approved of the social punishment of evildoers and criminals, and that the civil government must sometimes employ force for the maintenance of social order and in the execution of justice. (p.1579)

"...it has been committed to your hands that you should maintain temporal order in the kingdom on earth . . . Although you cannot determine the eternal fate of the individual you may legislate regarding the conduct of the group, . . ." (p.1763)

We prefer to resolve this matter without going to court. If there is something that you believe we are overlooking, we would appreciate hearing from you about it and would welcome discussing it with you.

Is there a possibility that we could convince you to stop distributing your publication of part of *The Urantia Book* and to put your energies into working with us? Together we could present a unified front to those individuals, cultures, and countries that are not yet familiar with *The Urantia Book*. Printing and distributing Part IV of *The Urantia Book* may result in immediate results, but we have reason to believe that in the long term, patience will reap a more plentiful harvest.

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McMULLAN TO FOUNDATION, 10/28/99:

This responds to your letter dated October 13, 1999, in which you seek to dissuade me from my efforts to share Jesus' gospel with the world. As you know, the Master gave clear instructions—more than twenty times—that his followers do exactly that. An example:

"If you would obey me, go then into the lands of the gentiles and proclaim this gospel. . . . There is but one law to obey—that is the command to go forth proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom. Cease to fear men; be unafraid to preach the good news of eternal life to your fellows who languish in darkness and hunger for the light of truth." (192:2.11)

Notwithstanding your theories about my motivations, you should understand that in assisting Michael Foundation in publishing *Jesus—A New Revelation*, I am determined to obey Jesus by carrying out his instructions as given in his statement above. I will do this for the remainder of my life according to my best understanding of his instructions, with all the energy, purpose, and resources available to me, and regardless of the consequences.

In your attempt to provide a Urantia justification for legal action against me you cited four situations in which legal action is supposedly justifiable. The first concerned the universe spiritual government, the second and third referred to action by civil government, and the fourth had reference to action within one's religious group. As we know, however, Urantia Foundation is neither the universe government nor the civil government, and I do not belong to your religious group, the IUA. The distinction between a voluntary religious group and civil government is elementary to serious students of *The Urantia Book*. Is it possible that you are unaware of this?

The Creator of our universe spoke plainly and repeatedly on the issue of believers seeking to forcefully compel one another. Should you decide to initiate legal action against me, it will be you, not I, who choose to ignore the Master's instructions concerning this matter. Here is some of what he said:

"Never should a righteous cause be promoted by force." (159:3.2)

"In the kingdom of heaven true believers will not resort to the employment of physical force. . . . [N]either should you employ the physical forces of earthly governments, whose rulers may sometime become believers, in the work of furthering the mission of the spiritual kingdom." (178:1.2-3)

"[You] should not employ temporal power in the furtherance of the spiritual kingdom. . . ." (178:1.6)

"You must not seek to promulgate truth nor to establish righteousness by the power of civil governments or by the enactment of secular laws." (178:1.12)

"Be willing to suffer injustice rather than to go to law among yourselves." (140:3.14)

"We clashed with these established leaders and recognized rulers only when they threw themselves directly in the way of the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom to the sons of men. And even now, it is not we who assail them, but they who seek our destruction. Do not forget that you are commissioned to go forth preaching only the good news." (178:1.16)

Have you so far misunderstood and perverted the spiritual mission of Urantia Foundation that you now seek to prevent by threat of force a serious attempt to bring the true gospel of Jesus to the world? Jesus made it clear that his gospel belonged to all who believe it, not to any self-appointed group seeking to control it. I believe that your attitude is manifestly inconsistent with the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Said Jesus:

"That which my Father sent me into the world to establish belongs not to a race, a nation, nor to a special group of teachers or preachers. This gospel of the kingdom belongs to both Jew and gentile, to rich and poor, to free and bond, to male and female, even to the little children." (191:6.2)

"As the Father sent me into this world, even so now send I you. You are all called to carry the good news to those who sit in darkness. This gospel of the kingdom belongs to all who believe it; it shall not be committed to the custody of mere priests." (191:6.3)

You say your only concern is for the integrity of the revelation. I and Michael Foundation are equally concerned. *Jesus—A New Revelation* is completely faithful to the original text; not a single word has been changed. Furthermore, it is puzzling why you are so concerned here when you do nothing to stop J. J. Benítez, who copies large parts of *The Urantia Book* and interweaves it with commercial fiction. Why do you do nothing when the integrity of the book is truly at stake, and now threaten a lawsuit to stop a non-profit work which is altogether faithful to the revealed text? Truly, you "strain at gnats and swallow camels."

Your letter attempts to make the case that I am isolated from the Urantia community in this project. While this may seem so to you, it is the absolute contrary of my experience. I assure you that I have never received so much support from the Urantia community for anything I have ever done. But of course that's not the point. Even if I received no support whatever for this effort, my determination to accomplish it would be undiminished. I am attempting to carry out Jesus' instructions

as I understand them and I fully intend to do that regardless of anyone's approval or disapproval. Whose instructions do you seek to obey? Here, for example, is an important one:

"Had the followers of Jesus taken more seriously his injunction to 'go into all the world and preach the gospel,' and had they been more gracious in that preaching, less stringent in collateral social requirements of their own devising, then many lands would gladly have received the simple gospel of the carpenter's son, Arabia among them." (95:7.3)

Should you initiate legal action to stop the publication and dissemination of *Jesus—A New Revelation*, it will be you, not I, who will become increasingly isolated from the Urantia community. Have you learned nothing from your past experience? Your self-serving justifications will not fool sincere students of *The Urantia Book*. They will not look favorably upon your refusal to follow the Master's repeated instructions about using force against fellow believers. Nor will they approve of your self-deceived effort to prevent me and others from following his

instructions to take his gospel and the true account of his life to the world.

Your letter compares the printing of *Jesus—A New Revelation* to the miscarriage of the second epochal revelation. You said: "We know from Eve's folly that one's own personal plans for improving mankind can miscarry and retard, instead of stimulate, growth." I agree with you and strongly encourage you to take your own advice. It is you who are following your own personal plans, whereas I am only doing precisely what Jesus so

"The price you demand of me is that I abandon not only my personal convictions of what Jesus requires of me, but also the Master's express instructions, [and] my obligation to carry out Jesus' instructions as I understand them supersedes all other considerations."

—Harry McMullan

explicitly and repeatedly commanded.

Through arrogance and presumption you have deluded yourselves into thinking that there is only one way to obey the Master's instructions—your way. Worse still, you seek to impose your personal convictions, even by force, upon all believers. There are many ways to follow Jesus' command to bring his gospel to the world, of which *Jesus—A New Revelation* is one. Jesus was clear on this point:

"Many times during the training of the twelve Jesus reverted to this theme. Repeatedly he told them it was not his desire that those who believed in him should become dogmatized and standardized in accordance with the religious interpretations of even good men. Again and again he warned his apostles against the formulation of creeds and the establishment of traditions as a means of guiding and controlling believers in the gospel of the kingdom." (141:5.4)

Regarding the benefit of bringing the true life and teachings of Jesus to the world, *The Urantia Book* clearly states:

"Jesus understood the minds of men. He knew what was in the heart of man, and had his teachings been left as he presented them, the only commentary being the inspired interpretation afforded by

his earth life, all nations and all religions of the world would speedily have embraced the gospel of the kingdom.” (149:2.1)

This perfectly describes what *Jesus—A New Revelation* is intended to accomplish.

You speak of your desire for peace. I also desire peace, as do all sincere believers, but we are not told to seek peace at any price. The price you demand of me is that I abandon not only my personal convictions of what Jesus requires of me, but also the Master's express instructions. Further, you inform me that if I refuse to comply with your demands, you will employ legal means to force me into submission. The price you demand of me for peace is too high. Your narrow and obstinate insistence that yours is the only way is the true source of discord and the destroyer of peace. How do you square your attitude with the Master's direct teachings?

“Only when one religion assumes that it is in some way superior to all others, and that it possesses exclusive authority over other religions, will such a religion presume to be intolerant of other religions or dare to persecute other religious believers. . . . Religious peace—brotherhood—can never exist unless all religions are willing to completely divest themselves of all ecclesiastical authority and fully surrender all concept of spiritual sovereignty. God alone is spirit sovereign.” (134:4.3-4)

“The kingdom of heaven in the hearts of men will create religious unity (not necessarily uniformity) because any and all religious groups composed of such religious believers will be free from all notions of ecclesiastical authority—religious sovereignty.” (134:4.6)

“There can be no lasting religious peace on Urantia until all religious groups freely surrender all their notions of divine favor, chosen people, and religious sovereignty. Only when God the Father becomes supreme will men become religious brothers and live together in religious peace on earth.” (134:4.10)

Your recent letter states, “The real question is whether your decision to reproduce, as a separate work, the final 76 Papers of *The Urantia Book* constitutes an infringement of the copyright.” I disagree. From Michael's standpoint—the only one that counts for me—the “real question” is our relationship to him, to his gospel, and to his unmistakably clear instructions as to what we must do with his gospel. Once again I repeat the words of Jesus:

“There is but one law to obey—that is the command to go forth proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom.” (192:2.11)

I do not relish the prospect of a protracted legal contest with Urantia Foundation. I much prefer and pray that all believers live in peace with one another, each pursuing the truth and serving the revelation as they best understand it. But my obligation to

carry out Jesus' instructions as I understand them supersedes all other considerations. I trust this letter will make both my purpose and unshakeable determination clear to you. Jesus has commanded us to take his gospel to the world. I am simply trying to obey him in this as best I know how. I will not—cannot—do otherwise, regardless of the consequences.

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EXCERPT FROM LETTER FROM OKLAHOMA LAW OFFICES OF
McAFEE & TAFT TO URANTIA FOUNDATION, 10/29/99:

Nature of a “composite work.”

You refer in your letter to the Maaherra case. Michael Foundation carefully studied the evidence presented in that case before deciding to publish *Jesus—A New Revelation*. An important issue to bear in mind in determining the copyrightability of the material in *Jesus—A New Revelation* is the nature of the copyright you were left with as a result of the 9th Circuit ruling. As you know, the court found that you were the proprietor of a “composite work.” By definition, the process of creating a composite work presumes that the creator began with certain “building blocks” consisting of original works by others. The compiler of a composite work is not entitled, merely because he compiled the composite work, to claim copyright as to the original works by others—the building blocks with which the compiler started.

“We [Urantia Foundation] desire to make peace—but not peace at any price—not at the price of standing by, while the copyright is broken and the book fragmented. Recall that the Master admonished his apostles and disciples to *‘proclaim the whole truth of the good news, not just a part of the saving gospel.’ (2052:4)*”

—Tonia Baney

Urantia Foundation

admissions that no human sources were involved.

Your copyright was affirmed only because of supposed human input in its creation. We are confident that a future court will not ignore the direct evidence of your own testimony to the effect that no human sources were involved; for example:

1. “The History of the Urantia Papers,” a document you attributed to Dr. Sadler, and on which you relied, after describing the process by which papers were received, states that the contact commission “had no editorial authority. [Its] job was limited to spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.”

2. “I can categorically assure you that no humans decided the content of *The Urantia Book*. The Book is as the revelators gave it to us.” (*Emma Christensen, contact commissioner and trustee of Urantia Foundation*)

3. “*The Urantia Book* was not written by Urantia Foundation. It is a revelation given to this world by superhuman personalities.” (*Emma Christensen*)

4. “*The Urantia Book* was published precisely as it was

given to the people of this planet. Not a word has been added or deleted.” (*Emma Christensen*)

5. “No human scholars edited the book.” (*Emma Christensen*)

6. “*The Urantia Book* is arranged and assembled exactly as revealed.” “No human ever edited this material.” (*Thomas Kendall, Urantia Foundation trustee*)

7. Further, in your own responses to Requests for Admissions, Urantia Foundation is on record admitting “no human being wrote any portion of the text of the Papers.”

It would serve no useful purpose to continue to recount the mass of relevant evidence developed in the Maaherra case in this case, all of which indicates that no human creativity was associated with the formation of the text of *The Urantia Book*, which of course includes the material contained in *Jesus—A New Revelation*.

Singular origin of Part IV

The court ruled that your copyright in the entire book does not extend to any single “revelation” contained in *The Urantia Book*—i.e., any portion of the book to which no human creativity was applied. With respect to the court’s ruling that a particular revelation in *The Urantia Book* is not copyrightable, the aforementioned “History of the Urantia Movement” is most illuminating. It states, “What has just been recorded refers more particularly to Parts I, II, and III of *The Urantia Book*. Part IV—The Jesus Papers—had a little different origin. They were produced by a midwayer commission and were completed one year later than the other Papers. The first three parts were completed and certified to us in A.D. 1934. The Jesus Papers were not so delivered to us until 1935.”

Moreover, we have in our possession an affidavit from an individual to the effect that Wm. Sadler, Jr. personally told him on several occasions that the entire Part IV arrived at the same time, already typed, and that no changes were made. The forum question and answer process was not involved in Part IV.

In publishing *Jesus—A New Revelation*, Michael Foundation firmly believed, and still believes, that the contents of that book constitute a single revelation—albeit a large one—unadulterated by human input. The testimony is clear that even if the remainder of *The Urantia Book* is copyrightable, the material in Part IV constitutes a “single revelation” not subject to copyright.

Adulterations of the text of The Urantia Book by “human creativity.”

Michael Foundation has no interest whatsoever in publishing anything other than the fifth epochal revelation. To Michael Foundation, what you are calling “human creativity” (by any alleged predecessors in interest of Urantia Foundation, Urantia Foundation itself, or anyone else) is nothing more than an adulteration of the true text as it was given. Rest assured that of all people or entities, Michael Foundation is most interested in knowing where (if anywhere) in the text of Part IV such adulterations might exist, so that in a subsequent edition Michael Foundation may edit them out and bring the true fifth epochal revelation to the world.

In printing *Jesus—A New Revelation*, Michael Foundation has relied on your own testimony to the effect that no human input was involved. It was Urantia Foundation that made the above-quoted statements to the effect that the entire book is an unadulterated revelation, not Michael Foundation. Therefore, we feel that Michael Foundation is entitled to continue to rely on your statements and admissions until such time as we are presented with credible evidence (not merely general assertions that human beings were involved in the process) that establishes the following:

1. The precise words that were added, deleted or changed from the original revelation;
2. The precise changes that were made in the order of the original revelations;
3. The persons who made the changes; and
4. When the changes were made.

Of course, any such evidence must be considered in light of the testimony and statements of those past trustees who were physically present at the time the revelation was given, such as those cited above. Nevertheless, if we are convinced that any changes you identify are actually changes by you or your predecessors, Michael Foundation will make haste to delete your changes in the revealed text so as to conform with the genuine uncopyrightable revelation.

Sincerely,
Ross A. Plourde
Attorney for Michael Foundation

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OPEN LETTER TO HARRY McMULLAN AND THE READERSHIP FROM TONIA BANEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE URANTIA FOUNDATION: 11/8/99:

It is with sadness that we write this letter.

We, the undersigned, are united in our grave concern over the recent actions of Harry McMullan III, who published Part IV of *The Urantia Book* (except for the first paper, Paper 120) under the title *Jesus—A New Revelation*.

Many of Harry’s friends and associates from Urantia Foundation, the Fellowship, the International Urantia Association, and the general readership have tried privately, patiently, and lovingly to dissuade Harry from his plan, both before and after he published Part IV, but to no avail.

In compliance with Jesus’ grievance procedure, many have spoken with Harry one-on-one and in small groups. By this letter, we take the third step of the Jesus grievance procedure and go “to the congregation.” (1763:0)

We, as leaders, former leaders, and members of the community of readers, seek to bring peace and good will to our movement regarding this controversial issue. We did not initiate this disagreement and seek no unnecessary confrontation. Both our time and energy, and Harry’s time and energy, would be far better spent on dissemination, not litigation.

On page 1570 Jesus says, “*Happy are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.*” We desire to make peace—but not peace at any price—not at the price of standing by, while the copyright is broken and the book fragmented. Recall that

the Master admonished his apostles and disciples to “*proclaim the whole truth of the good news, not just a part of the saving gospel.*” (2052:4)

Harry’s publication violates copyright law. It violates the processes of duly constituted group wisdom. It violates the unity of *The Urantia Book*. It violates the spirit of the unity movement afoot within our community. And it violates the idea that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and that readers need the whole book to understand the parts. In short, it violates the wisdom with which this fifth epochal revelation was delivered to the peoples of this planet.

Although the trustees of Urantia Foundation have the fiduciary duty to preserve the integrity of the text of *The Urantia Book* for future generations of readers and for accurate translations into other languages, they do so, not simply because their trust requires it of them. They also discharge these responsibilities out of the deep, personal conviction that we are all human stewards of this revelation, entrusted with the responsibility to preserve the integrity of the text as expressive of our certainty that its transforming power resides in its inviolate wholeness.

As one of the few tools at the trustees’ disposal to do this, the copyright must be maintained to ensure that translations are as true as possible to the original text. This is not a simple matter of choosing between competing groups of equally qualified translators, who may have different styles of translating. If the copyright in the English text is lost, enforceable copyrights could be obtained on translations of poor quality and on translations which amend, abridge, embellish, or purposefully distort the text. Once obtained, such a copyright could be enforced against all other translations, even against a translation of the original text. Only by maintaining and enforcing the copyright can we ensure that the inviolate text will reach as many of the world’s peoples as possible.

We urge Harry to retract this illegal printing of copyrighted material and to agree in writing not to print or distribute any more volumes of *Jesus—A New Revelation* or any other materials infringing Urantia Foundation’s copyrights and registered marks, with unsold copies to be turned over to Urantia Foundation.

If Harry fails to comply with this request, the trustees of Urantia Foundation will have no choice but to exercise their fiduciary responsibility and their legal obligations under the Declaration of Trust.

While we prefer to have this matter resolved privately, if Harry fails to comply with this request, the trustees of Urantia Foundation will—in order to defend, protect, and preserve the Foundation’s copyright in *The Urantia Book*—exercise their legal option and request that the courts resolve this matter. The legal process, while unpleasant, is used throughout the imperfect and evolving universes to resolve conflicts between beings. Such proceedings can and should be conducted in a dignified and gracious manner that reflects positively on how the revelation transforms human behavior.

Therefore, in the larger interest of the revelation, we respectfully ask that Harry cease the distribution of *Jesus—A New Revelation* and cancel any plans for its translation or future printing.

Sincerely,

Tom Burns, *Past Member of the Board of Trustees, Urantia Foundation*

Hoite Caston, *Past Member of the Board of Trustees, Urantia Foundation*

Kwan Choi, *Secretary and Member of the Board of Trustees, Urantia Foundation*

David Elders, *Past President of the former Urantia Brotherhood and the Fellowship*

John Hales, *Past President of the former Urantia Brotherhood, Executive Director of the Fellowship*

Mary Lou Hales, *Forum Member, wife of former Trustee of Urantia Foundation and the oldest known living Urantia Book reader*

Gard Jameson, *Treasurer and Member of the Board of Trustees, Urantia Foundation*

Richard Keeler, *President of the Board of Trustees, Urantia Foundation*

Carolyn Kendall, *Forum Member, President of the First Society for Readers of The Urantia Book (the Fellowship).*

Tom Kendall, *Past President of the Board of Trustees, Urantia Foundation*

Georges Michelson-Dupont, *Vice-President of the Board of Trustees, Urantia Foundation*

Patricia Mundelius, *Past President of the Board of Trustees, Urantia Foundation*

Mo Siegel, *Member of the Board of Trustees, Urantia Foundation*

Paul Snider, *Past President of the former Urantia Brotherhood*

Neal Waldrop, *Past Member of the Board of Trustees, Urantia Foundation*

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11/30/99: URANTIA FOUNDATION INITIATES LAWSUIT AGAINST MICHAEL FOUNDATION:

Dear Readers of *The Urantia Book*,

Many of you are aware that Mr. Harry McMullan III has published and is now distributing all but the first paper of Part IV of *The Urantia Book* as a separate volume. This publication, with Salvador Dalí’s painting of Christ of St. John of the Cross on the cover, bears the title *Jesus—A New Revelation*.

All efforts, on our part and on the part of numerous individuals, to avoid a confrontation with Mr. McMullan have been unsuccessful. Mr. McMullan’s actions leave us with no choice but to defend the copyright in *The Urantia Book* through the United States legal system. The trustees have filed suit to enjoin the Michael Foundation, Inc. (which was established by Mr. McMullan and which publishes *Jesus—A New Revelation*) from its continued infringement of the copyright in *The Urantia Book*. This was a unanimous decision. In spite of this action, we are willing to continue to engage in dialogue to reach an amicable resolution if Mr. McMullan is willing.

We feel that failure on our part to defend the copyright in *The Urantia Book* would be a violation of our duty and our trust, to deliver *The Urantia Book* to the world as it was delivered to us by the revelatory commission—as a complete and integrated whole. The Foundation’s copyright in *The Urantia Book* makes possible the

preservation of the inviolate text for the next fifty years. By that time, quality translations will be available so the majority of the world's peoples can read the book in their native language. Failure to defend the copyright would place the translation project at risk, prematurely frustrating our attempts to deliver high-quality, accurate translations to our non-English-speaking fellows. This we cannot risk. After the copyright expires, the inviolate text will be identifiable by the registered marks: "URANTIA" and the concentric-circles symbol. These too must be protected.

If the Foundation fails to defend the copyright, there are individuals waiting to use, misuse, and abuse the text. Without the protection of copyright law during these years of the infancy of the revelation, distorted and fragmented text could reach the world, with bits and pieces of truth commingled with error or distortion, resulting in further confusion for Urantia. We doubt that even those who believe little harm may come from this separate publication would be pleased with the result were the

Foundation to surrender its copyright in *The Urantia Book*. There is much that readers can do to disseminate the teachings of *The Urantia Book* besides publish the book. Reader activities complement the Foundation's publishing and translation activities. We can work together cooperatively and in harmony. The fifth epochal revelation is a preparation for the sixth epochal revelation, and each of us has a responsibility to participate in preparing the soil for the implantation of this next epochal revelation.

We ask all readers to join us in supporting translations, printing, and worldwide distribution and in disseminating the supernal teachings of the book to our fellow man. Donated funds earmarked for projects such as these are not used on lawsuits. Let us move forward together as a unified, cooperative body of readers for the sake of the future stability of our young movement and for the sake of the Urantia revelation.

Sincerely, The Trustees of Urantia Foundation ■

For more information and updates on this issue, as well as viewpoints both pro and con from other readers, please visit The Fellowship's website for controversial documents: http://urantiabook.org/archive/history/index_controversies.htm or the Foundation's website: <http://www.urantia.org>.