

Chapter 6

The Expanded Text, 1930 - 1934

“Missing Links in Our Understanding”

During the period the revelation was received, the contact commissioners received instructions to maintain strict confidentiality about the mechanics of transmitting the Urantia Papers. Everyone knew not to ask or to speculate about these matters. In their 1960 *History of the Urantia Movement*, regarding the techniques by which written information transferred from the revelators, the contact commissioners explained:

[A]ll of our observations and investigations utterly failed to reveal the technique of reducing messages to writing.¹

They never understood the process by which these messages came to be handwritten. The contact commissioners explained:

There is much connected with the appearance of the Urantia Papers which no human being fully understands. None of us really knows just how this phenomenon was executed. There are numerous missing links in our understanding of how this revelation came to appear in written English. If any one of us should tell all he really knows about the technique and methods employed throughout the years of our getting this revelation, such a narration would satisfy no one—there are too many missing links.²

A few years after publication of *The Urantia Book*, the surviving contact commissioners were given latitude to confide information about the history of the revelation to those who they believed would exercise good judgment in how they used the knowledge. The revelatory commission even instructed the contact commissioners to begin writing the history of how the revelation began and evolved.

“How We Did Not Get the Urantia Papers”

Dr. Sadler wrote a twenty-page paper in 1959, *Considerations of Some Criticisms of The Urantia Book*, in which he included a section addressing the technique of receiving the Urantia Papers. It actually discussed “how we did not get these documents.” The paper excluded such techniques as:

1. *Automatic Writing*
2. *Automatic Talking—trance or spirit mediums*
3. *Automatic Hearing—“voices”*
4. *Automatic Seeing—visions; hallucinations*
5. *Automatic Thinking—a variety of delusions, neuroses, compulsions, or psychoses*
6. *Automatic Remembering—clairvoyance, telepathy*
7. *Automatic Acting—hysteria, manic episodes*
8. *Automatic Personalization—dissociation, schizophrenia*
9. *Combined and Associated Psychic States*³

The words spoken by the superhuman personalities through the contact personality were heard by everyone who was in his presence. The voices heard were not those of the subject.⁴ None of the celestial beings were visible to the human contact commissioners.⁵

How the Papers Expanded

In the **third phase**, from 1930 until 1934, the papers of the first three parts of the book expanded. For example, excepting the “Foreword,” the first three papers in the original series of fifty-six papers became ten papers. Entirely new papers were added—the so-called “Religion Papers.”⁶ Papers dealing with the Supreme, Ultimate, and Absolutes appeared in response to Bill Sadler’s probing questions. These expansions were in answer to further questions posed by Forum members.⁷ Katharine Harries recalls that her father spent “hours and hours typing questions to be submitted to the [revelatory commission] so that they could give us new information that would be especially meaningful to humans.”⁸ Another Forum reader noted in his diary that he was “writing questions on the papers” as he read them. Further, it has been hinted that the language of the first series was quite basic, with little literary style. It was only

after the later revisions and expansions, and with the addition of human concepts and re-phrasing of those contemporary human writers by the midwayers, did the text take on more color.⁹ All early drafts were destroyed upon orders by the revelators.

Ruth Renn mentioned that there were no meetings of the Forum in 1932 because of the Great Depression, which caused difficulty for people to travel distances on public transportation. Hard times affected even an epochal revelation. But the work moved forward:

*The first three Parts of The Urantia Book were certified to the Contact Commissioners in 1934.*¹⁰

The group assumed this to mean that *The Urantia Book* revelation was complete. In 1934 the contact commission had no inkling about the soon-to-arrive Part IV. The checking of the text by the contact commission and review by the Forum continued. Last minute additions were inserted by the revelators, and final technical corrections made in the text by the contact commissioners before permission was granted to send the typed manuscript to the printer of choice. The general body of the revelation, the first three parts, was completed in 1934, or so the commissioners thought.

The Master Seraphim and the Destiny Reservists.

The master seraphim of planetary supervision are superangels, graduates of the Central Universe, who are assigned to special planetary service on Urantia. They are just one of several unseen orders of beings based on our planet who oversee the spiritual and cultural welfare of our world. Human destiny reservists are chosen to work with these groups of seraphim.¹¹

In 1935 the revelators delegated the task of long range oversight of the Urantia revelation to the Angels of Progress for a period of 500 years from the year 1935. This is one of the twelve super angel groups, the Seraphim of Selection.¹² The leader of the progress angels was also a member of the revelatory commission who became a frequent advisor to the members of the human contact commission. He was the author of several “white papers” concerning world events which were issued periodically over a period of seventeen years, and also *Some Problems Confronting a New Religious Organization*.¹³

At the same time, the religious guardians, the “Angels of the Churches,” were assigned to the immediate oversight of the revelation for one hundred years, from 1935 until 2035.¹⁴ The contact commissioners were not formally made aware of the two groups’ assignments until 1951.

Status of the Contact Commissioners

When Dr. William Sadler died in 1969, two memorial services were held, one which the public attended, and the other, a private service, at 533 Diversey Parkway. Emma Christensen made an announcement to Dr. Sadler’s friends and associates in attendance at the private service: “In case any of you were wondering, Dr. Sadler was indeed a member of the reserve corps of destiny.”¹⁵

Many believed that all of the contact commissioners, including the contact personality, were members of the reserve corps of destiny in view of reports that all of them conversed with the celestial beings who chanced to visit. The commissioners had the opportunity to hear how the names of beings and universe headquarters were pronounced, a point mentioned by Sadler in one of the Forum meetings.

The six contact commissioners were “hearers” only, not “writers.” The revelators could transmit handwritten text only by means of the unconscious contact personality. The status of the subject as a member of the reserve corps is confirmed:¹⁶

Personal Sacrifice and Dedication

The Sadler family dedicated so much of their lives to the evolving revelation that they took little leisure time for themselves. In 1928 the husband of a female patient was so grateful to the doctor for having cured his wife that he paid the doctor an additional \$10,000 beyond his fee. Dr. Sadler considered taking his family on a grand tour of Europe but was uncertain about suspending work on the revelation for three months. The revelators sent word that the family members should continue with their plans to take a vacation and enjoy themselves. They offered a list of priorities that the family could apply to their lives:

1. *Your health,*

2. *Your work—how you make a living,*
3. *Your religion—in your case, the Urantia project, and*
4. *Everything else--the trifles of living.*¹⁷

Custody and preservation of the papers was not the only responsibility of the contact commissioners; they had the responsibility to remain alive. While on vacation in Colorado a few years later, the brakes in the Sadlers' car failed while descending Pikes Peak and the car and occupants plunged down the side of a mountain. Drs. William and Lena and Christy were injured, though they recovered after a few weeks in a hospital.¹⁸ Afterward, their celestial friends issued a strong recommendation that none of the contact commissioners fly in an airplane since it would be impossible to extract them from a potentially fatal crash.

It should be remembered that the information imparted to these human contact commissioners over a period of years was unique, and no one else on the planet had this knowledge. Much of it was in writing but much was also retained solely in the minds of the human associates of the celestial beings. Bill's advice to the Forum when the possibility of being "miraculously" saved in an accident, was:

*If you survive a serious accident, don't think it is because of your self-importance, rather, it might be because of the information you're carrying around in your head that nobody else has.*¹⁹

END NOTES FOR CHAPTER 6, THE EXPANDED TEXT.

¹ Contact Commissioners' 1960 History of the Urantia Movement. See Appendix II

² [Ibid.]

³ Sadler, William S., M.D., *Consideration of Some Criticisms*, 01/25/59. Dr. Sadler practiced general medicine until 1930 when he changed to psychiatry.

⁴ Christensen, Emma L., contact commissioner, oral recitation of experiences.

⁵ Sadler, W.S., M.D., oral interview with Forum applicants, 1951 – 1955.

⁶ Bowman, C.N., Forum member (1923-1959), diary.

⁷ Sadler, W.S., M.D., oral interview with Forum applicants, 1951 – 1955.

⁸ Harries, Katharine "Ticky" Jones, daughter of Katharine and Lee Miller Jones, Forum members.

⁹ Bowman, C.N., Forum member ("old series" 3/29/30), diary.

¹⁰ Contact commissioners' 1960 *History of the Urantia Movement*. See Appendix II.

¹¹ (p. 1253 & 1254) [114.03] by the Chief of Seraphim stationed on Urantia

¹² (p.1255) [114.06.04]. by the Chief of Seraphim.

¹³ See Appendix IX

¹⁴ See Appendix X

¹⁵ Personal memory of author.

¹⁶ (p. 865) [77.08.05].

¹⁷ Sadler, W.S., M.D., oral remarks to author.

¹⁸ Kellogg, Anna, oral remarks to author.

¹⁹ Bill Sadler to Forum.