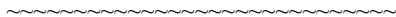


CHAPTER EIGHTEEN  
Pipeline to God

(With Commentary)

For the sake of accurate reporting I include here the complete text of Harold Sherman's chapter he called *Pipeline To God* in his book *How To Know What To Believe*. This was his account of events which took place in Forum meetings in Chicago in 1942. I skip the section which I reproduced verbatim in Chapter Nine and note that missing section. Because Sherman's statements were so clearly biased I felt it necessary to offer detailed commentary. Sherman's title, *Pipeline To God*, is used in derogation, implying that Sadler felt he had a direct line to God. Also, the reader should know the actual identity of the individuals mentioned by Sherman through alias. The use of alias betrays his objectivity. An honest man would not have felt a need to use such guises. Where known to me I show the true identities. To simplify presentation Sherman's text is in a different font style. Where Sherman quotes Sadler I show that in still another font. I place a line between sections and the respective commentaries to simplify recognition of the separations.



While every incident and experience in this chapter is true, as reported, we have decided to give fictitious names to those directly concerned and to let the story speak for itself, illustrating as it does the fallacy of accepting so-called revelation, however received or supported by sincere believers, as the infallible word of God.

The evidence of written documents and other eyewitness report shows that this statement is untrue. Sherman's account was not accurate. It demonstrated a clear bias toward his concerns. Sherman spent much effort on this chapter to show how strongly he felt about *The Urantia Papers*. He had to write about his experience; he could not relegate it to oblivion. While giving Sadler and the Papers this attention on one hand, and casting aspersions on the other, he showed the personal feelings he never resolved. We do not know what portion of his concern was motivated by his desire that the contents of the Papers include material on psychic phenomena, and what portion was his regret that he did not have a personal contributing hand in the content. His phrases about the fallacy of accepting so-called 'revelations' as the infallible word of God clearly demonstrate his profound confusion. He personally promoted psychic 'revelations' and cer-

tainly must have thought them to be genuine; otherwise he would not have placed his reputation upon them. On the other hand, we must assume that he did not believe them to be 'infallible'.



Today there are many spiritual leaders who have attracted large followings and who profess to be inspired by God or Jesus or other Celestial Beings, even representing themselves as new messiahs.

This is an aspersion on the character of Sadler who, in his efforts to disassociate his name from the Papers, left the historical record in considerable confusion. Sadler would have considered it a fraud to pretend to a personal hand in the actual revelation of the Papers.



This chapter, describing our personal experiences, is characteristic of many, demonstrating as it does the opportunity that always exists for human error, and sometimes deliberate falsification.

Again he cast ambiguous and unspecified aspersions on Sadler's character. He implied and wanted his audience to believe that Sadler deliberately altered and falsified the text of *The Urantia Papers*. As I shall show, Sadler did alter the Papers after they were competed and certified in 1935, but he did so under the belief that he had instructions from celestial authority. Unfortunately, the 'celestial authority' was no less than the Devil himself.



**Martha and Harold Sherman**

I have received scores of manuscripts (and continue to receive the same) from people who felt they had been chosen as special agents of God to be channels for the reception of spiritual knowledge. Many had aroused great anticipation in us but had only ended, upon examination, in disappointment.

Here Sherman clearly describes the considerable time and energies he invested in his pursuit of psychic phenomena — as a believer, not as an objective observer. And he sets himself up as an expert judge.



Somehow Martha and I felt that this project in Chicago was different — that it was, at last, what had been claimed for it. A true revelation, presented by a Corps of Higher Intelligence, designed to serve humanity's needs for the next thousand years.

Sherman's familiarity with phrases from *The Urantia Papers* is demonstrated. The importance of the 'next thousand years' is mentioned several places.



Undoubtedly, it was Harry's feeling for it that had conditioned us. Our close association with him and our confidence in his own demonstrated higher powers of consciousness had caused us to accept the New Revelation manuscript sight unseen, as something really super.

The influence of Harry Loose upon Sherman is openly admitted. This influence not only was in the original fervor for the Revelation, but also in the detracting course which followed.

Through Harry's former connection as detective at Hull House, we had made arrangements with the attorneys in charge of the estate to permit me to dramatize the life of Jane Addams, world renowned Social Settlement woman, which gave us the excuse to come to Chicago in May of 1942 after having written the screenplay on the life of Mark Twain for Warner Brothers.

At a time in my writing career when practicality dictated that I should have taken advantage of the recognition and opportunity that had come to me on the coast, we might have stayed on in Hollywood and continued to write for pictures. Certainly it would have been much more lucrative than the gamble of this new creative assignment, but we were willing to put everything else aside.

Not only that, but to free our minds as much as possible for concentration on this massive New Revelation manuscript, we sent our younger daughter, Marcia, to stay with relatives in Traverse City, Michigan, for the summer, and our older daughter, Mary, to a position as a receptionist at Hull House. We had been told it would require a number of months to thoughtfully go through the manuscript once, and as a consequence, we mapped out a schedule of four to five hours of reading a day.

How much Harry knew about what we were to encounter, we perhaps will never know. He had been careful not to color in advance any impressions we might have of the Great Book and the people behind it by any comments he might make while in our presence.

The Shermans appeared at 533 for the second time in the spring of 1942. How much Loose may have biased them through their meetings in California is unknown. Certainly, his chicanery in astral projections thoroughly converted Sherman to his psychic abilities.

In retrospect, he must have been aware of things that were happening to the manuscript in its preparation which was not going according to plan or as originally intended. What he may have thought that we or anyone could do about certain practices, which, if discovered, would need correction for protection of the integrity of the material, is likewise an open question.

Upon his joining the Forum in 1942, Sherman soon recognized that a process in alteration of the Revelation was taking place. Although he had great respect for the Papers, this led him to believe that the celestials were in close contact with Sadler, as indeed they were, and that changes were underway. Unfortunately, the real source was unsuspected.

With this build-up we had received, we were totally unprepared for our entrance upon one of the most challenging periods of our lives — a period that would test our mental and physical endurance to the utmost, as well as our faith in human nature.

It should be stated here that Martha and I had stopped off in Chicago in July of 1941, en route to Hollywood, to meet Dr. Henry Norton, noted psychiatrist, at which time we were accepted as Forum members upon signing a pledge of secrecy. This permitted us to return to Chicago, when possible, to read the New Revelation papers on the premises, but we were not allowed to mention or discuss them with anyone outside the Forum members until the New Revelation Book itself were published.

Dr. Henry Norton was Sherman's alias for Dr. William Sadler.

The contact with Dr. Norton and the New Revelation paper had been arranged by phone by his cousin, Mrs. Susan Sanders of Marion, Indiana — who, with her doctor husband, Herbert, had engaged in psychic research with us during the time we had lived in Marion in the early 1920's.

Either Sherman's memory was faulty, or he was trying to hide the actual details of the contact. Herbert and Susan Sanders were Merrill and Josephine Davis. In Martha Sherman's 1992 account she denotes Sadler's relationship as uncle, not cousin. The introduction was through a letter, not a phone call. Clyde Bedell confirmed the latter fact. See following chapters.

Later, when we arrived on the coast and told Harry we had joined up in Chicago with those in charge of the Great Book manuscript, which he had written us about, Harry was delighted. It was perhaps because of my profession as a writer, the recent Mark Twain work, and the reputation that had come to me through the experiments in long distance telepathy with the Arctic Explorer, Sir Hubert Wilkins, that the presence of Martha and myself in Chicago to study the New Revelation papers caused quite a stir among the Forum members.

This gave us an immediate personal contact with the doctor and his secretary, Miss Cynthia Frederick (Cindy) and the members of the doctor's family: his son, Henry Junior, and his son's wife, Loretta; a brother-in-law and wife, Alfred and Lucy Buxton. There was also the financier Raymond Stafford, with his wife, his son, Ray Junior, and wife, Marjory. It was somewhat embarrassing for us to be placed in such a favored position at the outset against so many old time members, especially at social occasions when we were invited to sit at the great man's table. However, all members seemed to accept any mandate of the doctor without question or complaint.

Cynthia Frederick (Cindy) was Emma L. Christensen, (Christy). Henry Junior was William Sadler, Jr. Loretta was Leone Sadler. Alfred and Lucy Buxton were Wilfred and Anna Kellogg. Raymond Stafford was G. Willard Hales, and Ray Junior was William Hales, first President of the Urantia Foundation.

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As new members, Martha and I had to do a vast amount of catch-up reading, which necessitated our spending some hours in the library of the three-story brick building each day. The papers were brought to us from the vault in typewritten form by Cindy, in chronological order — ninety two in all — and it required almost three months for the entire New Revelation manuscript to be completed, with Martha and I reading it together. We were told that the original script had been burned after typed copies had been made to preserve the anonymity as well as the identity of the human instrument through whom the revelation had come.

Ninety two papers could not be a correct number. The ninety-second paper falls in the middle of Part III on *The History of Urantia*. Either the Shermans were not given all Papers, or Sherman’s memory was faulty. The Papers were identified by number; Sherman would certainly have noted missing Papers.

The preliminary materials, containing the hand writing of SS, were burned. The actual revelation appeared and disappeared miraculously. Refer to preceding chapters.

**{This section of text was reproduced in Chapter 9}**

Sherman now proceeds to quote Sadler, in that important interview.

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One night, when we were called to his new address, as we sat by the bedside, Dr. Ruth noticed that he was moistening his lips as though he were preparing to speak. She said, ‘Perhaps he wants to talk to us. Maybe if we ask him a question, we will get an answer.’

Sadler’s remarks confirm that SS had now moved to be near the Sadler’s in their home at 56 South 6th Avenue in La Grange. Dr. Ruth is Lena Sadler.

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She did so, and to our great astonishment he did reply; but it was not his voice. It was that of what we afterward learned to be a student visitor on an observation trip here from a far distant planet! This being apparently conversed with us through this sleeping subject and expressed ideas and philosophies which struck us as entirely new.

A change in voice tone and timbre is noted in many psychic oral communications, when Caligastia takes over the mind of his subjects and pretends to be a different personality. This item is another reason many persons believed SS was

channeling. However the process in the first case is through spirit entry into, and control of, the human mind. In this case it was through mechanical manipulation of his throat and lungs, while he was asleep, without using his mind.

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I had been led to believe, through previous study and research, that all such manifestations, however phenomenal, were the work of the subconscious. I therefore got this man in my office several days later, since other entities were apparently coming through him, and secured his permission to submit to hypnotism that I might explore his subconscious. It was difficult to get him under, but when I finally did so, I was amazed to find no consciousness whatsoever of the subjects discussed by these purported beings, which we had all, by this time, started to record in longhand and later combined.

Sadler makes an important comment. His inability to locate any remnant of the material in the subconscious mind of SS shows that material was not present in the man’s mind. It did not come through his mind, and did not originate in his mind. It also appears that the persons in the room were trying to take hand notes of the pronouncements coming out of the man’s mouth, which they later combined into a more coherent form.

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I now felt that I needed help in solving the causes behind this mysterious phenomenon, and I called in other doctors and scientists, friends of mine, as well as Houdini and Thurston. They were equally unable to furnish any explanation. Finding by now that we could communicate by direct voice with different student visitors and other beings, we began to look forward to each ‘contact,’ as we came to call them, and enjoy the opportunity of asking questions, which always brought the most stimulating and unexpected answers.

Sadler recognized that he had a phenomenon on his hands which went beyond his experience as a medical doctor and psychiatrist. He could not isolate the behavior of SS to the subconscious or marginal consciousness of the man. This inability continued for more than twenty years, long after his study under Freud, and after his greatly varied experience with other patients. To convince himself that it went beyond any natural explanation he consulted magicians and other individuals expert in various forms of psychic performances and in public deception.

It can be seen that Sadler was becoming attracted by the quality and cosmic content of the material.

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We took to writing questions in advance about the universe and asking them verbally whenever given the chance. Finally, as a test, I worked out fifty-two questions privately and had them in my own mind. (The doctor was noted for his photographic memory), deciding to wait and see whether those so-called student visitors might be able to divine what was in my own consciousness.

One night, a particularly electrifying personality seemed to be present from a distant planet and had greatly excited us by his comments. As he was about to go, I addressed him, saying, 'How can you prove that you are who you say you are?' He replied, 'I cannot prove it — but you cannot prove that I am not.' He then stunned me by continuing, 'However, I have just received permission to answer forty-six of the fifty-two questions you have been holding in your mind.'

If this record is accurate it would demonstrate the remarkable ability of Sadler to hold a large number of questions, in catalog order, in his mind. It would also demonstrate the ability of spirit beings to read our minds, and to know our thoughts. We traditionally place such powers in the hands of God, but this suggests that such powers exist at all levels of spirit operations.

Sadler truly must have been stunned. He would have immediately recognized that no human mortal could have read his mind in such detail. SS, asleep, certainly could not have done it. Only invisible spirit personalities would possess such power. Quite likely, this was the first of Sadler's introductions to the miraculous nature of the phenomena unfolding before him. Our visitors were taking initial steps to convince him of their authenticity.

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Dr. Ruth spoke up and said, 'Why Henry, you haven't any such questions, have you?' And I had to admit, 'Yes, Ruth, the exact number.'

This personality then proceeded to give me the answer to the forty-six as promised. When he had finished, he said, 'If you people really knew what you had here, you wouldn't take up our time asking silly, trivial questions like this. You would ask something really significant and important.'

We got home around one-thirty that night, but there was no sleep in the Norton household. We stayed up the rest of the night discussing and formulating questions so that we might be prepared for the next contact.

Sherman's account of the sequence of events, either through Sadler's confusion, or Sherman's, contradicts other anecdotal evidence. The circumstance of the remark about asking important questions to elicit elevated information, the episode of more than 400 pages of written material appearing in the apartment of SS, and associated details — all vary from one anecdote to another. If this episode actually took place, as described, then another, similar, episode took place after the Forum members began asking questions. This seems hardly possible, but the circumstances may have been repeated.

The heavy impact of the episode upon the Sadlers is plainly evident

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At this point I must go back and tell you that a few months previously I had made a lecture trip to the University of Kansas; and while there, I wrote a letter to my son, Henry, suggesting that since we seldom went to church, though I often talked in churches, I thought it would be a good idea if he and his mother would consider inviting others in regularly for Sunday afternoon tea, about twenty or thirty friends with whom we might discuss religion or any other subject of mutual interest, and perhaps I would give them

a little talk to stimulate these discussions. When I returned home the following Sunday noon, I found Dr. Ruth and Henry had already acted upon my suggestion and were having about thirty people in that afternoon. This was about the first of October, 1923, as I recall.

The first of October, 1923 fell on a Monday. Therefore, Sadler is off by one day; the first meeting would have been on a Sunday.

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It was in November that I was asked by some members of this little social group, which we had come to call the Forum, if I wouldn't tell of some of my experiences in abnormal psychology. And since we had not been prohibited from talking about the phenomena we had been witnessing, I related to them my encounter with this sleeping subject and the strange communications we were receiving through him, and told of our being challenged to ask real questions. It suddenly occurred to me as I got to this point — why not enlist the service of this group in the asking of such questions, and I called upon them to help me. I said, 'Come back next Sunday with all the profound questions you can think of, having to do with God and the universe, and we'll see if these intelligences can answer them.'

If the Sherman record is accurate, the members of the Sunday afternoon meeting did not get around to serious psychic discussions until a month later.

This was an example Sadler's usual habit of making use of circumstances to further his work, getting other people involved, and broadening his base of research.

The sudden occurrence in Sadler's mind may not have been accidental, but may have been influenced by the spiritual forces which surround us, and which, if we are listening, may lead us on to deeper insights into God and his operations.

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The following Sunday the group arrived with over four thousand questions! Dr. Ruth and I spent several days sorting and classifying them. Then we held them in readiness, hoping for the opportunity of 'calling the bluff' of the higher intelligences. We were, as we thought, 'loaded for bear.'

Some weeks went by and nothing happened. We thought we had them stumped, and then one morning at 6:00 A.M., the phone rang. It was the man's wife calling, 'Come over, quick!' she said. 'What happened?' I asked. 'Is he still asleep?' 'Yes, but that's not it,' she replied. 'Please get over here — hurry!'

We dressed like volunteer fireman and arrived out of breath. She led us to the desk in his study and picked up a voluminous manuscript of 472 pages, written in his own hand. I said, 'Where did this come from?' She said, 'I don't know. He made some strange noises in his sleep and woke me up, and I saw it here on the desk.' I asked, 'Has he been out of bed?' She said, 'Not to my knowledge. I don't see how he could have gotten out without waking me — and he's not awake yet.' I said, 'Is this his handwriting?' She said, 'It's his handwriting all right — but I don't see how he could have done it.'

A strong possibility exists that Sherman confused the several episodes described by Sadler. When he consulted his notes thirty years after this meeting with Sadler he could not separate the earlier events from the later.

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I took a look at the manuscript and saw to my great astonishment that it was in answer to all of the questions that had been formulated by ourselves in our Forum group!

As I indicated in the previous comment, this episode may be confused with the first miraculous event for the Forum, and also the start of the material of the precursor Papers.

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I couldn't wait any longer. I took this bulky manuscript into the bedroom and wakened the subject. I said, 'Do you know what you have been doing in your sleep?' He said, 'I haven't been doing anything.' I said, 'Oh, yes, you have — look at this! Isn't this your handwriting?' He stared at the manuscript. 'Yes, it's my handwriting,' he identified, 'but I didn't do it.'

I estimated that it would take a normal individual seven to eight hours, writing at top speed, and the subject matter was so profound and yet so intelligently set down that I knew it was beyond human capacity to achieve. I phoned Cindy and told her to bring over at once a 'grip device' for testing muscular fatigue. I reasoned, if he had physically written all this, his right arm would give evidence of it — but the device registered no fatigue what-so-ever.

We took the papers home and had them typed. They concerned the Universal Father, the Supreme Being, The Central and Super Universes, and the Isle of Paradise. It was an unforgettable occasion when I appeared before the Forum group and announced, 'Well, we got the answers to our questions all right,' and they sat awestruck and speechless as we read the papers to them. This was all we needed. Reading of these papers led to hundreds and thousands more questions, and more papers commenced coming through.

The details of this transmission tend to confirm my suggestion that this event with the Forum involved the Precursor Papers, and not merely the 472 pages of material presented more than ten years earlier in La Grange.

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We found there seemed to be an organized group of high intelligences on 'the other side,' prepared to present to us the whole astounding story of the universe, leading from God, the Universal Father, down to the origin of the human creature, man, and his ultimate glorious destiny beyond the reaches of time and space.

This continued for perhaps seven or eight years when what we considered the first edition of the papers was finished. At that time, the Forum received its first direct message, and its members were advised that now, since their knowledge had been expanded, they should be able to ask more intelligent questions and that if they would do so, as they commenced a rereading of each paper, these intelligences would completely revise the entire, tremendous manuscript.

One of the difficulties Sadler and the Forum faced was lack of adequate vocabulary to express their experiences, or to describe their relationship with celestial beings. "On the other side" is a phrase commonly associated with physic phenomena and channeling. This phrase was used for lack of anything better.

Seven or eight years would take the activity into 1930 or 1931. At this point Sadler felt they had the complete revelation, but it was limited to the first three parts, without the Jesus Papers. Also, we see that the celestial agents proceed through reiteration of questions and answers to bring the Forum members into closer intellectual, emotional, and spiritual attachment to the Revelation. The Forum apparently received revised editions of the Precursor Papers to further develop this bond.

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This job was finished about two to two and a half years ago, and again we all thought the manuscript was finally complete; but we were told, at this time, that the world events for which this revelation was designed were rapidly culminating (this was in 1939 before Hitler started his assault on the countries of Europe), and we would begin to see that those who had this revelation in charge did not intend to make it public until after the Second World War.

By "this job" Sadler does not mean the process of revelation which was completed and certified in 1935. He means the total task, including typing, making copies, and proofreading, in preparation for publication. Two years ago would take the completion of that task to 1939 or 1940.

The phrase 'world events for which this revelation was designed were rapidly culminating' carries heavy portent. Sadler, living in the context of events of the first part of this century, would naturally believe that World War II was just those events. After all, that episode in world history left an indelible imprint on all who lived through it. Little did he, or anyone else at 533, recognize the true meaning of world events. Nuclear power had yet to appear, with its threat of total world destruction.

There could be no greater error than to place the purpose of the Revelation in the context of transient events. This world has been, for more than a century, experiencing events leading to the culmination of age, and the actual purpose for which the revelation was intended.

Furthermore, the phrase 'those who had this revelation in charge,' is strongly suggestive of forces which then appeared in Sadler's life to destroy the revelation. This phrase comes from messages channeled by Christy.

I shall discuss these several elements in later chapters.

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It was finally decided by those controlling transmission of The New Revelation Book to permit seventy-five papers giving a detailed and comprehensive account of Jesus's life on earth, from His birth to His death, to be added. The book is eventually to be published without any human personalities to be identified with it in any way and no authorship ascribed to it. These higher beings have refused to use their own names and have only specified their type of being in the universe.

Again there is a mistake on numbers. The Jesus Papers number 77, not 75. Whether Sadler made this mistake, or if Sherman is not clear on his recall, cannot be determined.

There are only a few of us still living who were in touch with this phenomenon in the beginning, and when we die, the knowledge of it will die with us. Then the book will exist as a great spiritual mystery, and no human will know the manner in which it came about.

As much as Sadler would have preferred to keep all details from the public eye, *The Urantia Papers* loom much to large in the future of our world, and are far too important to not attract research and examination of their history. Sadler himself left too many important clues and statements. Those clues and statements merely excite attention. Of course, the actual mystery of the transmission of the revelation will forever be closed. We can only speculate, but we can engage in intelligent and informed speculation, not in mythical fancy.

Sherman now returns to his personal commentary.

Different Forum members had heard different versions concerning the origin of the papers. One of them was to the effect that a young stockbroker, name withheld, was found by his wife sitting at his writing table in his bedroom one night in a trance state, simultaneously writing two different papers of deep philosophic content, one with each hand. The wife, unable to rouse him phoned their friend, a psychiatrist, who arrived in time to witness the psychic phenomenon, and who read the stack of type-writer sized pages that had been pushed off onto the floor, sheet by sheet.

This remark by Sherman shows how myth, lack of first-hand knowledge, and folk story all contribute to the uncertainty of the origins of the Revelation. It would have been far better if Sadler had provided a more complete written history, but he was under instruction not to do so.

Impressed as well as mystified, the doctor expressed the opinion that some passing psychic influence had taken possession of the sleeping subject, and it would probably never happen again — but if it did, he was to be called. A few nights latter, this phenomenon reoccurred, and the amazed doctor was told that he was to be the custodian of this incoming material, which was beyond the knowledge of the human instrument; and that a book, which would startle the world, was to be dictated by higher intelligences.

This began a strange and dramatic human saga which started in 1911 and continued for almost half a century, with paper after paper of this voluminous manuscript appearing, each containing a chapter describing the nature of creation and the unthinkable great God behind it; the Seven Super Universes in which were countless

inhabited planets; various classification of beings, including guardian angles and ending up with a new life of Jesus, one of numberless Creator Sons who had the power to create worlds and all life thereon.

As I showed in a pervious chapter, the date of 1911 is wrong. Sherman was probably borrowing this date from *The Mind At Mischief*. A little thought on his part should have alerted him to the contradiction of dates within his account.

We also see how folk stories twist events and facts to the pleasure of human imagination. Here Sherman was repeating a version recounted by Forum members.

Some one to two hundred fascinated Forum members, exposed to these papers, one by one each week, were purportedly observed in the Invisible by the higher intelligences who had dictated the material, their reactions studied, and papers edited accordingly if some sections were not apparently understood. In any event, papers were corrected from time to time, and sometimes magically appeared, they were told, even typed, on the desk in the doctor's office.

We observed that the Forum members accepted these stories without question. This blind acceptance of everything associated with the New Revelation made it difficult for Martha and me to properly evaluate the New Revelation material. As we became acquainted with more and more Forum members, they confided that after the death of the doctor's wife, Dr. Ruth, they had noticed a growing tendency for the doctor to be irascible and adamant, whenever anyone associated with him showed indications of not conforming to his thoughts and ideas. They said he could be agreeable and even charming at times, until he felt himself to be crossed in any way or questioned about his conduct of the New Revelation affairs. We were to have ample evidence of this developing side of his nature as time when on.

Sherman was not giving credit to the fact that when he appeared on the scene nearly two decades had passed from the beginning of the Forum. By that time there would be few permanent members who would be in serious doubt.

This is one of Sherman's overt attempts to influence the thinking of his audience against Sadler. He portrayed Forum members as mindless individuals, but then later described Clyde Bedell as an individual with a strong independent mind, who would not accept any story without question. See following chapters.

The notion that higher intelligences had to study human reaction to help them design the papers is far short of recognition of their superior abilities. Interplay with the Forum was to condition the human members, not to teach those superior intelligences.

One of our basic observations that really disturbed us, after finishing the first reading of the papers, was the fact that The New Revelation Book purported to give a specific description of the appearances and nature of the physical universe but presented no program for individual spiritual development.

This is pure balderdash. It reflects Sherman's attempt to deny the value of a work in which he could not place his own interpretation of psychic reality. He could not have known the Papers in any depth to make such remark. From the very first Paper on the Heavenly Father, to the last on the Faith of Jesus, the Papers are filled with religious exhortations, admonitions, and advice on more noble spiritual living.

We wondered what service to humanity a book could be — however profound and expansive with its precise mathematical statements of numbers of planets and universes and various classifications of intelligent beings — if it did not deal with the mind qualities of human creatures and how they could be employed to advance their soul development on earth.

True, an entire section was devoted to a description of a neutral entity called a Thought Controller, which the Creator supposedly assigned to dwell in each human consciousness, and whose duty it was to sort out the thoughts and deeds of the individual and help him develop survival values. If this happened, the TC, as it was abbreviated, took on personality and survived along with its host. If the entity had not lived a sufficiently good life, the TC was then free to dwell in some other human consciousness at birth, carrying over the now nonexistent entity's experiences for use by the new host — to give him a running start on possible survival. On this basis, the individual could not accomplish survival on his own and was dependent on this in-dwelling influence.

This is an inaccurate description of the Thought Adjusters, the spirit fragments of the Father. See Papers 107 through 112.

Martha and I could not accept this. We could accept the concept, which we had long believed, that a part of God, the Great Intelligence, does dwell in each human soul, and that man can become aware of this Higher Power within him through right thinking and meditation — and secure guidance and protection by adherence to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual laws of his being.

The more we thought about The New Revelation Book, the more we came up with more questions than answers. Since we had social access to the Nortons, father and son, we took our questions to them, sometimes in written form. Henry Junior, like his father, had a photographic memory and could discourse on different chapters of the book, quoting them at length.

Some of the questions raised were:

(1) Why, with the detailed descriptions of super beings and lines of communications existing between planets, was there no chapter in the book which explained the psychic phenomena taking place on earth?

Here Sherman touches on a crucial element in the policy conditioning the presentation of *The Urantia Papers*. It was critically important in unfolding planetary mortal decisions that this area be left open for each person to decide.

(2) How did it happen that the Jesus Papers came through after the book itself was announced as completed — a book which had no mention of Jesus as such?

As Sadler admitted, the Jesus Papers came as a surprise. He was already making plans for publication before the actual revelation was complete, and before the Jesus Papers arrived. I earlier indicted some possible reasons. But Sherman is badly in error about the mention of Jesus in the first three parts. The Papers were available to the public for some twenty years when he wrote this; he had to know of the many references to Jesus in those Parts. Why make a fool of himself with such bald falsehood? Again we can see his emotional state, a condition from which he never recovered.

(3) Why, since the knowledge was supposed to be universal, applicable to all humanity, did it limit its scope and appeal and interpretations by adding a new life of Jesus, tying it in with the Christian religion, after The New Revelation Book was declared finished as of 1934?

The reason for the presentation of *The Urantia Papers* in the United States, and in the continuum of Christianity, is conditioned by God's plans for this planet. His program has unfolded through the Western white nations because of genetic endowments, and because of a spiritual heritage not found in the other mortal races.

Psychic productions are universally derogatory of Jesus, in one subtle form or another. Sherman is here reflecting that influence in his thinking.

The declaration of the finish to the Papers was strictly in the mind of Sadler. The Jesus Papers were a complete surprise to him also.

Or Sherman may have been confusing 1934 and 1935.

Martha and I received no satisfactory answer to these questions. Instead, Dr. Norton characteristically showed a flare of temper, to which we now had become accustomed, when any member asked him a question he considered impertinent or uncalled for.

Once again Sherman attempted to cast aspersions on Sadler's character. No medical doctor and psychiatrist, with Sadler's extensive experience and background, would be subject to flares of temper. On the other hand Sadler may have become impatient with impertinent or thoughtless questions.

The loss of Lena may have set him on edge. He no longer had her wise council.

But the more probable cause of his irritation was the sudden appearance of another celestial regime when Christy started channeling. At that point Sadler began to have misgivings, but he never formulated them into a concrete or discerning analysis.

Had it not been for our great and almost overwhelming interest in the New Revelation papers at the time, we would not have persisted. The interest of all Forum members had been heightened by the doctor's telling us in recent Forum sessions that we should be thinking and preparing for a time in the fall when he had been instructed to surrender his custodianship of the New Revelation project to the Forum. When this happened, we must assume the responsibility for financing, publication and distributions of The New Revelation Book.

This statement adds a mysterious note to Sadler's expectation of the custody and publication of the Papers. It may be that Sherman created a crisis in Sadler's current acceptance of continuous small changes in the revelation which cast doubts on their origin. Perhaps it was dawning on Sadler that Sherman's persistence for including psychic material might be a warning about the "new" celestial authority. Perhaps Sadler wanted to rid himself of that influence. Thus his remark about turning the Papers over to the Forum.

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One night we invited Cindy to our apartment as a dinner guest. During the evening we quite naturally discussed The New Revelation Book. I pointed out to her that when it would be published, people would wonder why no mention was made of telepathy or other psychic phenomena as a preparation for the existence of such powers in higher realms. Then came the shocker. Cindy said she agreed with my contention, and since Sir Hubert Wilkins and I, as a result of our thought transference tests, had perhaps as much knowledge as anyone, why didn't we write a chapter explaining them. The doctor could submit our paper for consideration of the higher ups, and if they okayed it, it could be inserted in the New Revelation Book!

Those of us who had contact with Christy, and who had an opportunity to experience her methods of response to questions, recognize this reaction as part of her personality and her policy. She never argued with anyone, nor did she ever outright reject various proposals and schemes. Invariably, she would deflect all such propositions with neutral and innocuous replies. Since Sherman carried more weight by his social reputation than most other persons, Christy would have been even more careful in her response. Personally, I am sure Sherman's description of her response is fairly accurate; however, his deduction of the reason is grossly false. Christy was putting him off, but his intense emotional concerns prevented him from recognizing her method.

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"Why, I wouldn't pretend to have the authoritative knowledge the intelligences behind this book have," I replied, trying to conceal my astonishment. "Why don't you call this significant absence of needed connective material to their attention and let them supply the information?"

Cindy indicated that they would think about it, and the subject was dropped. But for Cindy to have made this suggestion clearly revealed humanly written insertions had been put in the manuscript, and later evidence came to light when member Floyd Winters, one of Chicago's prominent businessmen, confronted the doctor with exten-

sive almost word-for-word quotes from author Emery Reeves' well-known book, A Democratic Manifesto, which were contained in a New Revelation chapter. The explanation: Occasionally, when the intelligences dictating the New Revelation papers came across something expressed on a subject by a human, as well as they could express it, they authorized its inclusion.

Floyd Winters was Sherman's alias for Clyde Bedell. Indeed, Clyde had opened this issue with Sadler, and it left an unsettling concern in the minds of many members of the Forum, with Sadler, and many students of the Papers since that time. The Authors openly stated that they used this method in the formatting of the Revelation but no one until now fully understood the reasons. This was one of Martin Gardner's main bones of contention with the integrity of the revelation. He could not understand it except to accuse Sadler of outright plagiarism, although careful study of the passages reveals that the material is never used verbatim, is paraphrased, and is modified to elevate and ennoble concepts. Matthew Block has catalogued many sources used by the Revelators, but to date has not offered a more fundamental explanation of the reasons for this policy. Refer to later discussions.

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As a result of this disillusioning experience with Cindy, I felt I should make one last attempt to impress Dr. Norton with the seriousness of the matter, so I sent him a registered letter, hoping to command his personal attention. It read as follows:

Dear Dr. Norton,

Some several months after we came here and had carefully read the New Revelation papers, I questioned you concerning the glaring absences of any paper on psychic phenomena — such as humans have veritably experienced on earth in times past and are experiencing now. And yet the book deals authoritatively with many phrases of spiritual phenomena beyond the grasp, sensing, and actual understanding of average man.

Eventual readers of this great document in public form are going to be expected to accept the existence of all these higher phenomena on faith. But, since man is an experiential being, and we must consider him on the basis of his present development and enlightenment, he is going to be sorely perplexed at finding no mention or explanation of psychic experiences which he KNOWS he has had - which give him evidence that TELEPATHY, under certain conditions, is a fact; that there are such things as ASTRAL visitations on occasion; and that the so-called dead are permitted to return on certain missions and under certain circumstances. I am not talking spiritualism when I make this latter statement.

You decided, personally, long years ago on your own admission to me, that there were no genuine phenomena except that of the nature you had encountered with the instrument and the other sleeping contacts reported to you.



Millions of humans now living and still to be born will challenge this attitude as reflected in the pages of *The New Revelation Book*, for too many psychic experiences are occurring right along to which they can testify. And no scientist can laugh these experiences off or explain them away.

It is a great error and will arouse great controversy, confusion, and dissension for *The New Revelation Book* to indicate positively that no one can communicate with the dead and that the dead, under no circumstances, can or do return to this earth. This is a deliberate wrong statement — and untruth — and cannot have been made by higher intelligence, for they KNOW better. With *The New Revelation Book* containing such false inferences, many humans who have had genuine experiences are not going to know what sections of the book to believe or disbelieve, and they are apt to end up by doubting it all.

I submitted a series of questions covering the entire subject of psychic phenomena months ago. Were they carefully gone over by you and the other contact commissioners and presented for consideration and possible answering in the former regular manner, or were they pigeon-holed arbitrarily by you because you have a set human conviction that none of the psychic phenomena are actually existent?

Have you, by your attitude, altered or excluded any material or truth which should be in this *New Revelation Book*?

You know, in your own mind and heart, the steps you have taken which have not been authorized by higher intelligences. You will have to answer for each one of these steps . . . but there is still time for you to clear up much.

It should hardly be necessary for me to remind you that, if any material intended for *The New Revelation Book* has been withheld or wrongly interpreted or purposely misunderstood or altered for personal or biased reasons, or because of a closed mind attitude — you will be held responsible as trusted custodian for centuries yet to come.

My only interest, as always, is in the purity, unadulterated genuineness, and complete authenticity of *The New Revelation Book*. I shall know, and others will know, if when it is published, any of the papers have been tampered with for any human reason whatsoever.

Sincerely

(signed)Harold Sherman

#### COMMENTARY ON SHERMAN'S LETTER

It is obvious that Sherman accused Sadler of the very thing he himself wanted to do — place into *The Urantia Papers* material dear to his heart. Hence, he failed utterly to recognize the nature of the phenomenon with which Sadler was dealing. Sadler had no control over the contents. Questions could be asked, points raised, but the final content was determined solely by celestial agencies. Unfortunately, it was evil celestial agencies which got their hands into the revelation, and led Sherman into his confusion.

If the true Revelators chose to not place explicit descriptions or explanations of psychic phenomena they would not, and did not, include it. Sadler could not alter that fact. But Sherman believed that somehow Sadler could determine the

content. The ultimate, of course, is that Sadler was writing the Papers. But Sherman, by his own admission, realized that the material was far above what he would expect from a human mortal.

Sherman thus worked from a confused and unclear mind, as someone deep into psychic channeling. Because of the confusion in the mind of everyone, including both Sherman and Sadler, how rebel spirit personalities could use human mind for evil purposes was unclear.

In numerous ways Sherman betrayed the cloudiness of his mind.

*TELEPATHY, under certain conditions, is a fact . . .*

Telepathy is not a fact, and objective experimentations demonstrate the uselessness of such imaginary hope.

*. . . the so-called dead are permitted to return on certain missions and under certain circumstances. I am not talking spiritualism when I make this latter statement.*

The dead do not return. Only evil spirit personalities, impersonating dead human mortals, enter mortal minds for malicious purposes and to defraud the human race of spiritual promise.

*. . . far too many psychic experiences are occurring right along to which they can testify. And no scientist can laugh these experiences off or explain them away.*

Sherman was absolutely correct. The phenomena do exist, and no objective scientist worthy of investigation, can laugh it away. His deadly fault was that he did not recognize the origins.

*. . . to indicate positively that no one can communicate with the dead and that the dead, under no circumstances, can or do return to this earth. This is a deliberate wrong statement — and untruth — and cannot have been made by higher intelligence, for they KNOW better.*

Again Sherman failed to see the deep contradiction of his remarks. The only beings dictating *The Urantia Papers* were celestial beings, and therefore he brought this accusation against them. If the Papers, originating from celestial beings, say outright that the dead do not come back to communicate with the living, then the absence of explanation lies on their shoulders, not on Sadler. Again he assumed that Sadler must, somehow, be able to influence the content of the Papers.

*I submitted a series of questions covering the entire subject of psychic phenomena months ago. Were they carefully gone over by you and the other contact commissioners and presented for consideration and possible answering in the former regular*

*manner, or were they pigeon-holed arbitrarily by you because you have a set human conviction that none of the psychic phenomena are actually existent? . . . by your attitude, altered or excluded any material or truth...*

Sherman just simply could not get it into his head that Sadler did not control the content of the Revelation. If the Revelators wished to reveal materials Sadler need not ask them to do so, and that if they did not want to reveal materials, Sadler's request would be refused.

*You know, in your own mind and heart, the steps you have taken which have not been authorized by higher intelligences. You will have to answer for each...*

Why could Sherman not realize that Sadler was acutely aware of the source of his contact, and that Sadler would not enter into a relationship of deception when he had a vivid experience of their ability to read his mind and his heart?

I now continue with Sherman's text.

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This communication, addressed to the doctor, brought no reply. But Martha and I were in for another disturbing factor when, upon reading the legal papers condemning the incorporation of the New Revelation Society, we found provisions for a self-perpetuating board of directors who never intended to give up custodianship, who could vote themselves any salaries they wished, or invest any monies received as desired, rather than putting the resources behind further exploitation and publication of the book itself. These stipulations ran counter to the directions purportedly received from the higher intelligences, as well as the assurances the doctor had given the members who had contributed monies to the books of his own that he had published, as well as toward the financing of the forthcoming New Revelation Book.

Sherman's reference to "condemning papers" probably meant a letter written by Clyde Bedell in 1933. See following chapters. Bedell held a strong and vocal opposition to Sadler's proposed autocratic legal structures. The monies contributed by members of the Forum for publication of the Papers made them sensitive to Sadler's policies, which were certainly not democratic. Sherman is exaggerating.

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For a man with the distinguished background of Dr. Norton, who was one of the great pioneer psychiatrists of his day, and outstanding authority on comparative religions, who presented theological seminars to assemblies of the United Protestant ministers, it is readily understandable why he had been chosen as custodian by higher intelligences in charge of the reception of these spiritual messages. Old-time Forum

members said that Dr. Ruth had been the balance wheel in this unusual medical team, but with her passing, the doctor seemed to become less tolerant and more impatient with Forum members who disagreed with him.

Without question Lena brought a balance to Sadler. She was his alter-ego. But Sherman was ignorant of other elements which may have caused Sadler to be less patient with opposition to his policies. Did Sherman bring to focus the dangers in the changes that were gradually being introduced into the text of the revelation? Did Sadler suddenly become aware how he was being used?

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With the closing down of the Sunday afternoon Forum meeting for the summer recess, the doctor again announced that he was surrendering his custodianship at the first fall session, which announcement was greeted with a fever of excitement and anticipation. The membership-at-large could hardly wait for a gathering shortly thereafter at the home of Ben and Beatrice Deane for the purpose of exchanging thoughts and ideas.

At this meeting, I enquired if they knew, of course, that the charter for the New Revelation Society did not permit any turnover of custodianship, that it was held in trust for the doctor, his family, and the Staffords, and that the rank-and-file member actually had no voting control or participating rights. This was news to all present, although some recalled the doctor having read the charter straight through, when first drawn up, allowing no questions and calling for a vote of approval, which was unhesitatingly given.

Floyd Winters, one of the most active members, volunteered to go to the doctor's office, read a copy of the charter, and report back.

Within a week, the Deanes phoned the Forum members and invited them to come to their home again, stating that Winters had read the charter and had a report to make.

'Harold was right,' he said, 'and I think something should be done about it.'

He then produced a petition to be presented to Dr. Norton, which he had personally drawn up, based on some of the points I had raised in my letter to the doctor. The petition was ready for signing. It called in a friendly way for a discussion of the charter as a first order of business when the Forum reconvened in the fall.

I shall discuss this situation in the next chapter. I do not know the real identity of Ben and Beatrice Deane.

If Sherman's report is correct, the Forum members were not aware of the autocratic nature of the corporate charter, but Bedell had written a letter to Sadler in 1933, decrying such structure. His pleas went unheeded.

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After some discussion, the petition was passed around and all except Fred and Elsie Egberts signed.

'Come on,' urged Winters, 'let's make it a hundred percent!' And the reluctant Egberts signed.

Then a volunteer committee of Larry Bolton, Ben Deane, and Nancy Dietrich was formed to call upon the doctor and present the petition.

The identity of these several Forum members is unknown to me.

The Egberts suffered pangs of conscience intermingled with fear as they contemplated what they had done in putting their signatures on the petition. They didn't sleep that night, and when morning came, they were of one mind — they must go to the doctor and privately inform him of what was getting ready to happen.

The doctor listened to the Egberts' account and told them they had been moved to protect the New Revelation project by 'the higher intelligences,' that they would be rewarded for their actions, and that he was 'now receiving instructions' as to just how to handle this 'uprising.'

When the committee of three arrived later that day, the doctor surprised them by stating that he knew what they were coming to see him about, that he had been taken out of his physical body the night before and transported to the Deane home in his spirit form, where he saw and listened to everything that was said in the invisible.

That William Sadler would have made such a statement is highly doubtful. If he did so it was in humor or sarcasm.

He told the astonished committee that it had been revealed to him that Harold Sherman was under the influence of Lucifer for the purpose of destroying this New Revelation by planting the seeds of distrust and revolt in the Forum minds. The doctor went on to say that Martha Sherman was an innocent dupe of this evil influence manifesting through her husband, but that Sherman would be dealt with; and that every Forum member who had signed this petitions must come in, ask forgiveness, and personally scratch out his or her signature. Otherwise, they would run the risk of ex-communications, even loss of eternal life.

We do not know the emotional elements which may have moved Sadler. Concern over changes to the text, in which he was then engaged, and what they might portend for the integrity of the revelation, may have been triggered by Sherman. Sadler may have suddenly realized that all was not well. This may have created confusion and uncertainty for him. Thus his irascible behavior.

The committee members retreated in utter confusion and bewilderment, leaving the petition in the doctor's keeping. He told them that every member who had affixed his or her signature would be given a chance to undo what he had done before a sentence would be pronounced upon them.

Martha and I, situated in the Rutledge Hotel across the street, had previously been kept informed of all Forum interests by various members. Knowing the time the committee was to meet with the doctor, we awaited word as to the outcome. It did not come. A day passed, and then another, no phone calls, complete silence from every front. We finally phoned several members at whose homes we had been dinner guests

and had enjoyed the friendliest of relationships. All we could learn was that something terrible happened, and that we would hear about it later, probably from the doctor himself. No one was talking.

Finally a telephone call from the hotel lobby. A woman Forum member whom we had not yet met introduced herself. 'My name is Anna Gobler. Could I come up and speak with you a moment?' She appeared to be in her fifties, soft-spoken, apparently deeply concerned.

'I've been told some awful things about you, especially Mr. Sherman,' she said. 'I just couldn't believe them, so I decided to come and see for myself.'

Then she informed us for the first time of what had occurred — and the wrathful action the doctor was now taking. Cindy had been phoning and setting up appointments with each Forum member, at fifteen minute intervals all day and into the night, and the doctor had been telling Forum members individually of the attempted Lucifer rebellion. Each had been required to ask forgiveness, and then take his or her name off the petition, following which the women members had received a kiss from the doctor as a symbol of their forgiveness. The great majority of signers were bowing to this decree. Mrs. Gobler said that she, herself, had taken her name off the petition, but she didn't know why. But she refused to let the doctor kiss her and told him she would have to know more about both sides of this issue before she could make up her mind. She went on to say that she had never met the Shermans; but that they seemed like nice, honorable people, and she found it hard to believe that Mr. Sherman had been animated by the Lucifer spirit.

It might very well be that Sadler suddenly found himself in the very situation he feared from Sherman. Perhaps he suddenly realized he was dealing with dark forces which had penetrated into the revelation. Perhaps he placed upon Sherman his own psychological reaction to that threat. Or, more likely, he was given "instructions" through Christy's channeling which warned him against Sherman.

When she told us that she knew of only four others of the entire group of signatories who had resisted the purported command from the spiritual authors of the New Revelation Book to have nothing to do with the Shermans, we commended her for her courage and forthrightness. Mrs. Gobler said Forum members were being instructed to ostracize us completely, not to speak to us by phone or in person or have anything to do with us directly or indirectly. We were to be treated as though we didn't exist: and members were led to believe that they were being spied upon in the invisible and that the doctor would be made aware of any infraction of this mandate, which would result in punishment.

By dealing with the members singly, rather than facing them as a group, the doctor was able to exercise his authority without challenge, and each was given to understand that when all names had been expunged from the petition, the doctor would call in Harold and Martha Sherman and dispose of them in line with the special instructions from higher sources.

Mrs. Gobler went on to say that Forum members, talking among themselves, privately referred to Dr. Norton as the little Pope, and his specially selected board of control as the Vatican, but all admitted their helplessness in speaking out against his rule, however such a protest might be justified. 'We've got to go along with him like it or not,' Floyd Winters conceded. 'I don't know what to make of his charges of Sherman being animated by the spirit of Lucifer, but maybe the doctor has access to knowledge not possible to us. He's certainly taking radical action, and he told me that he had been instructed not to turn over custodianship at the fall meeting — that until the Lucifer rebellion had been put down, the destiny of the New Revelation project was in peril and needed every protection.'

Clearly, not all is well. Clyde Bedell's remark may have been close to the truth. Sadler was receiving instructions, but not from benign sources.

It required a little over a week for every Forum member who had signed the petitions to be contacted and put through the ritual of removing their signatures. Then Dr. Norton had announced, it would be the Shermans turn to face judgement.

When Cindy phoned us, Martha answered. She was crying as she told her that we were to see the doctor at four o'clock that afternoon without fail. Martha assured her that we would be there.

It is highly probable that this behavior assigned to Christy was once again sheer fabrication by Sherman. Christy was much more mature than to act in such immature fashion.

At the fateful hour of four, we were ushered into the presence of the great man by Cindy, who gave evidence of being under high nervous tension. The doctor sat in the meeting room, his short, pudgy frame giving the impression of a little Napoleon, as he gazed at us severely through thick lensed glasses. He held some note papers in his hand, containing penciled scribbling.

'Sit down!' he ordered, waving the papers. 'What I have to say applies mostly to Harold. I was told before Susan Saunders sent you to us, to *beware of a writer who will make application to join the New Revelation Society — because he might be under the influence of Lucifer, without his knowledge, and might try to disrupt the Forum.*'

The doctor then referred to the notes, which he said he had made at the time and put in his file and never thought of again until this incident occurred. He said he had never ever told Cindy of this happening until now. He then implied that Harold needed Psychiatric treatment to free him from this Lucifer influence and expressed sympathy for Martha who should be relieved to have Harold's mental condition corrected.

This warning may have come directly out of the episode through Christy's channeling. Sadler may have here used psychological force to persuade Sherman of its authenticity.

Martha and I looked at one another, and we both stood at the same time.

'We don't believe a word of this!' I challenged. 'Do you mean to say you would have had a warning from higher intelligences in whom you profess to have such faith, and would have forgotten it, and not immediately associated it with us when we appeared on the scene? Those notes you made were phony!'

With this we walked out.

Sherman's challenge was a sound one. Why would a sensible person not remember such an important warning? This contradiction tends to confirm my suggestion that the warning was contemporary, and not previous.

It was mid-summer by this time, and in the weeks that followed few members got in touch with us; and if any members chanced to see us on the street, they hastened to the other side or turned in the opposite direction to avoid any possible confrontation. At one time, I boarded a bus and saw John Grigsby seated at the other end. I moved toward him, and when John saw me coming, he leaped up and jumped off the bus with abject terror in his face. It was clearly evident that most Forum members had been completely dominated by fear.

Sherman's account shows how these matters developed over the summer months between his entry in the spring, and the formal assumption of meetings in the fall.

Sherman was exaggerating circumstances and behavior of Forum members to color his portrayal of events.

What should or could we do about it? Should we fold up our tent and quietly steal away, or should we remain, attend the Forum meeting in the fall, and challenge the doctor to make his charges against us in public so we could answer them? Would this prove to the Forum members that they, themselves, should not fear the doctor or anything he or his higher powers could do to them, and perhaps bring the members to their senses, cause them to realize how ridiculous and false this whole procedure was?

After thoughtful deliberations, we decided to remain and face the issue, even though almost everyone had been turned against us and we knew the doctor was confident we would not dare show up on his premises. This ostracism was his conceived method of driving us away and ridding the Forum and The New Revelation Book of the Lucifer menace. We could tell from the frightened and apprehensive attitudes of the Forum members that they were expecting some awful fate to befall us at any moment, even to the point of our being annihilated.

However, something happened to me about this time which gave Dr. Norton and the Forum members a severe jolt: I was contracted by the Goldblatt Brothers Department Stores to present a radio series six nights a week over Chicago Tribune Station WGN, based on my book *Your Keys To Happiness*, which I had presented over the

CBS radio network in New York City some years before. This made me a well-known personality in the Chicago area and the personal Philosophy, question-and-answer program proved highly popular, breaking all mail return records.

The eventful day for the reopening of the Forum meetings finally arrived. Meeting time was always three o'clock sharp when Dr. Norton would enter and take his position, a New Revelation paper in hand, ready for reading. While the Forum member were coming in, the doctor often followed a routine of standing at the top of the stairs, on the landing, with his secretary, Cindy, welcoming and shaking hands with the arrivals.

Just inside the door, on the lower level, it was usually the custom of the doctor's brother-in-law Alfred Buxton, to take his stand. Anyone who didn't belong, who might have thought, with the people going in, that this was a public meeting, could be screened out.

Five minutes before the starting time of three o'clock, (most of the forum members already were present), we made our appearance. As we entered the door, Mr. Buxton gave us a startled, unbelieving look and fled up the stairs to carry the news of our arrival to the doctor.

As we mounted the stairs, we caught a glimpse of the doctor hastily retreating from the stair landing, followed by Cindy, and Mr. Buxton, seeking to avoid direct contact.

As we stepped inside the small auditorium itself, we saw astonished Forum members wondering where we would elect to sit. We glimpsed a row with only two people in it, halfway back, two seats in the aisle, to which we headed. The Forum members in this row quickly vacated so that we had the whole row to ourselves. No one spoke; they looked towards the doctor, who was up front, as though expecting him to take some sort of barring action but this was a situation that the doctor didn't know how to handle at the moment.

The reading of the New Revelation paper began. Dr. Norton's hand shook as he read; he glanced uneasily from time to time at his audience and particularly at us. We were still alive and well and unafraid of him. This was a challenge to his entire authority.

When intermission time arrived and the doctor prepared to leave the room, I stood up and addressed him as startled Forum members seemed to freeze in their seats.

Two other records of the following events are available. The first is a letter to Harry Loose which Sherman prepared that same evening; the second is the memory of Clyde Bedell many years later.

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 'Dr. Norton — you have made charges against me behind my back, which I am prepared to answer. Will you now repeat these charges to my face?'

The doctor looked up as though he might be on the verge of a stroke.

'You can not speak!' he shouted. 'You are a guest in my house!'

For answer, I left my row and walked to the front to take position beside the frustrated doctor.

'I am innocent of your charges and I demand the right to answer them!' I insisted. 'Sit down — you can't speak — you are a guest in my house. Sit down!' the doctor kept repeating.

At this point, the two husky Herschel (Kulieke) brothers, just back from military service together, left their seats and rushed forward, seizing me by the arms and shoulders.

'Shall we throw him out?' they said to the doctor.

Forum members were now in an uproar. Some were begging Martha to urge her husband to stop — to go back to his seat before something awful happened. One man leaned over Martha's shoulder and whispered, 'Sit tight!'

Henry Junior, the doctor's son, also of husky build, entered the scene threatening violence. The doctor stood by, not knowing what to do or say, as I held my ground.

At this critical moment, a new figure entered the picture. He came from the annex-type room off to the side and was a new face to most of the Forum members. He was our friend, H. C. Mattern, attending a Forum meeting for the first time, and we had not known he was present.

'Take your hand off that man! he ordered,' pushing the surprised Herschel brother back and stepping between Henry Junior and me. The he grabbed me and pressed me against the side wall so no one could get behind us.

'What do you think you're doing?' demanded Henry Junior. 'You keep out of this!'

'Not until I know what this is all about!' said H. C.

'But I know Harold Sherman, and if he is trying to defend himself against whatever had been said about him, he has a right to speak. I'd like to ask you all — is God in this house?'

'I consider that an insult!' shouted Henry Junior.

'He can't speak — he's a guest in my house!' the doctor once more repeated.

I was watching the reactions of the Forum members. I wanted to see if this demonstration was revealing to them — was showing them how tyrannical the doctor was, that he must have something to fear, something he wanted to cover up, which he thought might come out in open discussion.

Amazingly enough, no one came to my defense. They sat petrified, as H. C. maintained his protective position, holding off the intended attackers.

Realizing that I had gone as far as I could in establishing that Martha and I had no fear of the doctor and no respect for the type of authority he was exercising over the Forum members, I went back to Martha, and the two of us left the auditorium.

Thereafter, for FIVE CONTINUOUS YEARS, we attended every Sunday Forum meeting, without exception, remaining only for a complete reading of the New Revelation papers, to show our continuing interest in the material itself, and then leaving at intermission. We did not stay for the doctor's question and answer period, indicating a total lack of respect for, or fear of him personally, and also demonstrating that he had no power to hurt or destroy us or anyone else — and the doctor and his ruling body did not know how to cope with this situation. Help was obviously not coming from any higher source. All threats had been the doctor's own conniving and pretense.

Clyde Bedell denied this assertion by Sherman. Other Forum members could not recall that the Shermans remained for meetings in the following years. It would have been highly unusual, almost unbelievable, that the Sherman's would have engaged in such effrontery.

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All the time we sat pretty much by ourselves, most members avoiding personal contact. They just could not understand why we had not been struck dead. In the interim, Ben Deane, disillusioned and threatened with blindness, committed suicide by shooting himself; the son of Henry Junior also committed suicide due to unhappy home conditions. There was no evidence that exposure to these spiritual messages had made the Forum members any better humans. Less than a dozen Forum members, including Mrs. Anna Gobler, made any friendly overtures towards us. But they kept us informed of Forum activities. They chose not to resign from the Forum in protest so they could keep in touch with the unusual Forum material.

Sherman's memory and account is badly faulty. He confused two different episodes. William Sadler, III, son of William Sadler, Jr., did not commit suicide. He lost consciousness on Christmas day, 1955, probably due to a combination of alcohol and barbiturates, in association with undiagnosed diabetes, and shortly died in the hospital. He had been suffering partial blindness, which Dr. Sadler attributed to a brain tumor. Autopsy failed to find a tumor, or even the actual cause of death. I have a copy of the official Coroner's report.

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As for us, we felt that the extraordinary nature of some of the writings gave proof of a higher spiritual source, even though we now know we could never endorse the book when it was finally published, because of the editorial liberties that we were sure had been taken with it.

Those "editorial liberties" were due to the influence of Caligastia through Christy's channeling. Sherman's sense was correct, even though he was emotionally involved. Refer to later chapters.

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The mystery of the author of The New Revelation Book remained. It was published anonymously in 1955, as though dictated by a host of higher intelligences. We, however, came upon a clue to who the human instrument might be - and he was not a stockbroker, which story served as a cover for so long. He was a person very close to the doctor, one who might have been least suspected, a self-effacing, quiet individual.

Here Sherman entered into gross speculation on SS, proposing him as Wilfred Kellogg. It was a desperate attempt by Sherman to anticipate possible identity of that man. However, his letters to Harry Loose in 1942 show that he did not believe it was Wilfred at that time. This idea developed later from unfounded rumors circulating among some Forum members.

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We left Chicago in May, 1947, to take up residence in the wilds of the beautiful Ozark hills. It was a great release from the tension-packed years of dedications to a project that may or may not have been worth all the pain and sacrifice. Then again, it may well have been, if the telling of this experience helps stabilize the thinking of others who have been involved in similar psychic adventures.

This was a rather pathetic position for a man of Sherman's background and age. It demonstrates the emotional state he never resolved, brought on by his psychic delusions and deep disappointments with Sadler. I could find no independent confirmation that the Sherman's continued in Chicago until 1947. They lived in a hotel with no individual phone number.

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So as not to depend on our judgement alone, when the book was published in 1955, we sent copies to a number of people we considered outstanding metaphysical authorities, well qualified to evaluate its content.

Sir Herbert Wilkins, whom we had interested in joining the Forum in our first enthusiasm for the material and who had been impressed, as had we, during the time the book was in preparation, distributed twelve copies to special friends. His report to us was that he had received only one interested response — some seem to think it is a joke — novel — or something of the kind. Anyway, the response is a good criteria of their real mind ability.

This response is typical of many people over the years. A vast majority of individuals simply did not know what to do with the revelation.

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We found that most readers who attempted to study the book did not get beyond the first few pages, saying, 'I don't understand it. It's too much for me,' and 'Who cares how many planets or ascending mortals there are? What can that mean to us?'

Christian S. Ronne (real name), a brilliant Frenchman, who has lived in this country for many years and who was formerly associated with Brentano's New York, as the head of their metaphysical book department, and the head of a similar department in Pickwick Bookshop, Hollywood, had this to say after a careful study of The New Revelation Book:

*Since you asked for my opinion on this book, I can truthfully say, after a great deal of time spent in meditation — one year — most careful and disinterested thought and study of many other similar books ... that I cannot subscribe to the authenticity of these superhuman entities that seemingly were responsible for its inception. It is an impressive and powerful work and evidently brought together a group of influential people, no doubt men of good will, to finance its publication, in its present form. It is in the same class as many other inspired books that have resulted in bringing forth a new religion, or sect, due to the faith of tormented humans who crave to learn the TRUTH.*

*How much, if any, of the original script was edited, I can not venture to say. It is one of the very few books published in the United States that is absolutely free from typographical errors, and that is exceptional indeed in these times of hurry and stress and great imperfection in the printing of books, even so-called fine edition.*

Sherman probably had requested Ronne's commentary on possible editing of the text. Of course, this would have put Ronne into an impossible position. Thus his neutral reply. The original printing was not free of typographical errors, but the number was amazingly small.

*Having read every word of its contents, I am convinced that the uniformity of its style denies the large number of its purported AUTHORS. This is aggravated considerably by the fact that there were so many differently constituted superhuman entities from vastly separated worlds and cosmoses who were employed to dictate their special messages. Due to their tremendously different backgrounds from each world, they would have used contrasting styles of expression. There simply is too much uniformity in style, in vocabulary, and in point of view throughout the thousands of pages of this book that deal with such a multiplicity of various subjects. To counter this criticism by saying that it was due to the fact that all these messages had to be channeled through the one subconscious mind of the medium would be a lame excuse. I am firmly convinced there was but one author, regardless of how many entities may have inspired him or how far he might have traveled on the several planes.*

Many individuals, including Sadler, believed they could distinguish among the celestial authors of the Papers. Personally, I was struck by the uniformity of the style of writing. Linguistic analyses are too tenuous to subject the Papers to rigorous proof of possible differences.

*There are some interesting new theories that require a great deal of thinking out. The THOUGHT CONTROLLERS and the role they play in the conditioning of the first inhabitants on this earth, especially, are most arresting until one realizes that it is a faulty and complicated way of saying that all men can receive the spirit of God in their hearts when the time comes, and when they are ready for this momentous happening in their lives as mortals.*

Again this displays a direct inquiry from Sherman. Previous remarks in his Chapter show his concern about the Thought Adjuster, which he called Thought Controllers. Indeed, this term is used for God's Spirit which ministers to more mature members of the human race. Ronne failed to recognize the great religious and spiritual teachings contained in the Papers on the Thought Adjusters.

*The detailed delineation of other strange beings is attempted and fills many, many pages. As for the chronological history of the various races of mankind, it does not agree with many top authorities. The story of Adam and Eve, and the geographical location are also quite new and most original, especially in reference to Eve and the Serpent. It is ludicrous . . . gauche!*

Ronne obviously failed to grasp the realities of the several accounts within the Papers, especially those of Adam and Eve. He was clearly conditioned by mystical presentations from historical sources.

*In conclusion, this book with all its tremendous array of new facts, does not explain the First Cause, which still remains unsolved, and the intrinsic difference between the Absolute and the Relative worlds, the Kingdom of God and its Creation, and the Kingdom of Men and its creation.*

First Causes cannot be resolved by human logic. It was unfortunate that Ronne could not discern this philosophical impossibility.

*All wise men, inspired men of God, have always and will always learn and then understand the TRUTH is extremely simple and can never be found through intellect, but only through the Heart. It is far better to hold one's tongue than babble meaninglessly in the marketplace.*

The reader should know that when I employed Mr. Ronne to make an exhaustive study of The New Revelation Book, I gave him no information whatsoever except that it purportedly came through a sleeping subject. I wanted to make sure that he wouldn't be prejudiced in any way in forming his opinion. Dr. Norton had contended that The New Revelation Book would speak for itself, and I was determined to give it every opportunity to do so. The same procedure was applied in my arrangements with my scientist friend, Adolph Thies (real name), whose comments follow.

*So, I read The New Revelation and I could give my opinion in just one single word . . . but I dare not. Firstly, because I do not want to appear biased, and secondly, because I do not want to hurt your feelings. Honestly, Harold, I am very sorry to say to you that I failed completely to find the profundity and I cannot help it if this makes me feel like a heel.*

*On the whole, The New Revelation is of no help. All the revelations add to the already too great burden of compulsory belief which is now breaking the back of religion. Yet, assuming that all of the New Revelations presentation is true, what, then does it offer? There is a central autocratic authority hopelessly entangled in a conflict between the Infinite and the Finite, its nature being explained with a host of phrases of adoration. All of it is functioning in a mountain of bureaucracy loaded with orders of Over and Under and In-between Beings. The very few objectors in this set-up have been interned. All that ever was and ever will be, bearing a distinct flavor of English*

*terminology and sorry to note, ideology, bringing to mind the possibility that an Indian or Chinese patriarch might view the promise of his exalted future with considerable reservation.*

*The anonymity of the work puts its very birth under the onerous cloud. I think the work is not only erroneous, it is fraudulent. I think people behind this New Revelation movement are trying to impose a new religion on the masses and are attempting a piggy-back ride on the Christian religion with the new life of Jesus story to do it.*

*Strangely enough, not one of the 'whole gang' has the slightest inkling of the dawn of the atomic age. Please note how The New Revelation always comes up with precise figures when it is safe to do so. A cycle in the New Revelation can never be proved wrong if a phenomenon to which it applies cannot be proved.*

*At this point I am upset enough to point and point again, to the many samples of monstrous creations of wishful thinking which have deluded mankind.*

The emotional response of Thies to a work that threatened his scientific orientation is evident. Many minds, conditioned to materialistic explanations of reality, suffer the same dilemma when faced with revelation.

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All over the world there are psychics who, through use of the Ouija Board or automatic writing or direct voice or trance mediumship, are producing inspirational as well as factual material, which they interpret or have been told is coming from higher spiritual beings of sources, and which has led them to believe they have established an exclusive pipeline to God.

Here Sherman entered into a grand summary about revelation in general, without ability to distinguish that which comes from rebel spirits, and that which comes from God.

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Usually these people, many sincere and dedicated, have attracted a faithful following, who had been guardedly jealous of this knowledge that has been given them with a privileged feeling that they have been favored over most humans.

Mary Margaret Wilson (real name) of Albuquerque, New Mexico, a highly developed woman, wrote us recently her concern over the trend of things in the psychic world — the development of appealing but actually dangerous philosophies under the guise of Light and Truth, led by well-meaning and often deluded mediumistic men and women who are receiving messages and directions from high sources, even purportedly from Jesus Himself.

These followers and their leaders have been told that they are the chosen ones, selected to help save the world as well as themselves in the terrible destruction which is soon to engulf the earth.

*So many of the people involved in these groups have become caught up in a force which had taken a very strong hold on their lives. They don't make a move without 'consulting spirits.' They follow some of the most ridiculous instructions. While they may have good intentions, it doesn't prove anything as far as their spirituality goes*

*— it only proves that they will blindly follow instructions. These people are entrapped in an occult force — not a spiritual force. And this is a point which I think is very important to get across: how to recognize the difference between the occult and the spiritual force.*

*Quite some time ago, a psychic lady I know was caught up in such an occult force. Strangely enough, it was not a force which was received by her directly but by another person with whom she was friendly and sat in meditation. The entity came through the other person. It soon developed the wildest tale you can ever imagine by the time they were through. True, the messages were sprinkled with many wonderful thoughts and how much good would come when they traveled all over the world as missionaries of the Lord.*

*When I had an opportunity to read some of the messages, I learned the entity had introduced himself as the 'Lama Dalai.' I immediately mentioned that they should check the encyclopedia for the proper title usage. They even refused to do that. The entity also presented himself as a dazzling spiritual being who came without light, because since he was of the 'highest' of God's beings, they couldn't stand his light. They were so adamant that their messages were coming from just such a high spiritual being that without question they followed whatever instructions they were given.*

*They started to give away many of their possessions on the instructions of the entity. In fact, I still have an end table which was given to me by these people. I watched the situation develop to a point where the lady involved became nervous and distraught. She lost weight and looked haggard. When they were finally caught up in the heights of great expectation, the blow was struck and the moment of truth finally arrived. These people came to realize that they had been made the fool. No great amount of harm was done in this case, but I know of others where harm was perpetrated, and I am sure that your files reveal far more than I could even surmise.*

*But in this case, there was the same idea put forth. The entity tells that he is a very high spiritual force — they are chosen to perform a grand mission — they will receive instructions as they go along (almost like a soap opera) — and they all seem to have a common message that they are to go out and speak to people to get others on the right track. All of the non-spiritual experiences follow the same pattern.*

*Many years ago, when I first became interested in extrasensory perception, my guidance cautioned me not to become a 'lost soul of the mind.' I puzzled about that phrase and never really understood what point was being made until I observed what happens when people submit to these forces without using their own good sense and investigate. This is what you stress in all your books — for people to use caution and to investigate. How much wiser people would be if they just followed that advice.*

*It has always amazed me what people are willing to accept from an occult force. If a man walked into their living room and immediately started to tell them how great he was and spoke in lofty terms about himself, they would probably think he was an 'ass.' However, they don't have a bit of difficulty swallowing it from a nonphysical entity. It must be an ego trip, too, because the messages always have flattering words about the recipients of the messages. I strongly feel it is very necessary for people to sort out the real from the unreal at this critical time in our earth's history.*



*If some of these blind followers of these dubious groups would stop for a minute and reflect on what would happen if everyone in the world did just what they are doing — blindly following instructions which are given out piecemeal, not knowing why they are doing certain things — they could reach no other conclusion but that the world would be in a state of utter chaos. Of course, they usually come back with the retort that it is a way of life for them, but I have always thought that the essence of a spiritual life is for everyone. The result of their guidance also impinges itself on the lives of other people — sometimes to the point of meddling — so it never really is confined to a way of life for them only.*

Mary Wilson well summarizes the problems of blind acceptance of, and allegiance to, psychic revelations. She well describes the fraudulent morass of sources deriving from the insane mind of Caligastia.

Our mail, as M.M.W. has surmised, is increasingly filled with tragic reports of misguided men and women who have placed their faith in such occult practices as she has described and we have experienced, only to have suffered disillusionment, often resulting in impairment of health in body and mind.

Robert von Gunten (real name) of New Midway, Maryland, who has devoted many years to the counseling of men and women seeking self-development, had this to say:

*I believe the hardest thing on me as I endeavor to make a contribution to the field is the encounters with individuals and members of some group who are well meaning but SELF-DELUDED. Other than being direct and honest with them, I am many times not sure of their approval, for no one seems to want to be told of a delusion. It is difficult for me to understand why and how educated, sincere adults can be so deluded and blind. And what is just as bad is that others join with them in accepting and following the delusion. Certain things have been given me to know, but none of them need to be covered up in a maze of 'gobble-de-gook,' egotism, or Savior complexes.*

*I believe the same God force is in all people, and the difference in people is their degree of choice in the direction and acceptance of that Power.*

To all of which we agree.

### A SAD COMMENTARY

It must be said here that before Harry Loose passed on in the fall of 1943, he had sadly commented, in one of his last communications, that the Great Book, which he had originally recommended so highly, had been so altered because of mortal perversities and shortcoming that the project had become almost a total failure.

Harry Loose faulting of Sadler was on two grounds: a) Sadler's autocratic policies, and b) alterations taking place with the text after Lena died in 1939.

At that time, his statement was shocking to us and we were not yet ready to accept it. But, as things progressed, when we saw how little spiritual development came to the members and what dictatorship existed, we were forced to conclude that Harry had been right.

Now, thirty years later, as we view the unhappy aftermath, we have learned of what is happening and has happened to some Forum members who devoted time, money, and talent in an effort to have The New Revelation Book translated in foreign languages, to promote its sale, and to encourage the formation of study groups. They did this only to run into prosecutions by the autocratic board of directors of the New Revelation Foundation, overzealous in their determination to protect the copyright and the integrity of The New Revelation Book, even to the point of excommunicating those who offended them. It is possible that the copyright itself is not valid because it is not in an individual's name. This point may have to be decided, one day, in a court of law.

A devout believer in the Papers, Kristen Maaherra, was sued by the Urantia Foundation in 1991 for copyright violation. She had circulated computer disk copies of the Revelation when the Foundation ceased distribution. The suit resulted in denial of the copyright by United States Courts, but not directly on grounds of authorship. The Urantia Foundation had falsified facts in its application for copyright renewal. They could not establish that the copyright renewal protected the commercial rights of any identifiable human. This District Court ruling was later overturned by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on the grounds that Sadler and associates had determined the arrangement of the Revelation, but not its content.

Meanwhile, three Forum members, probably more, have already sampled the legal wrath of the New Revelation Foundation. Dr. Fritz Handel, Paris member, translated and had published a French edition. Jeff Bracken, one of the original Forum members, financed a Spanish translation and published pamphlets containing passages from the New Revelation Book for public distribution. Both men have become involved in litigation as a consequence, charged with violation of the copyright and other legal and ethical indiscretions. Their cases are still in the courts and Jeff Bracken has been made the victim of a kangaroo court proceeding, tried in absentia, and found guilty, and excommunicated from the New Revelation Society. He is still defying the mandate. Clayton Prince, on the west coast, who has quoted freely from The New Revelation Book, had a suit for copyright infringement brought against him, wherein he permitted the New Revelation Foundation to take judgement. All of this underscores the tyrannical nature of the board of directors and their fanatical religious procedures. If The New Revelation Book was hopefully designed to serve all mankind why this overprotection?

Through the years, many of the New Revelation followers have remained steadfastly faithful, held together more by fear than love — fear that severance from the New Revelation Society might mean loss of identity or existence in the Hereafter.

Sherman simply did not know what he was talking about. I personally have held to the Revelation out of my recognition of its holy nature, in spite of the faults of Sadler or the later autocratic misfeasance.

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Floyd Winters, who took the lead at one time in protesting against the things he felt to be wrong, and who capitulated at the time of the so-called Lucifer rebellion, has since then devoted himself to creation of a brilliantly conceived Concordex of The New Revelation Book. It is a colossal achievement, which had to have required some years in the making. To scan its amazing outline of subjects covered in The New Revelation Book would make one feel that this authoritative list of contents must refer to a truly revelatory Second Bible.

I have the deepest admiration for Floyd, whom I have not seen or heard from since we left Chicago, for the example he set in loyalty and the enormous energy he has expended in behalf of the New Revelation Project. I only regret for him and for all of us that this venture did not turn out as idealistically hoped for.

How Sherman arrived at such nonsense is impossible to say. He certainly did not hesitate in falsehoods to support his emotional reaction to a Revelation which outdistanced his mind.

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For some time after this disillusioning experience, Martha and I were disposed to look upon it as a love's labor lost, but the added prospective of more than thirty years has caused us to see compensatory values. We realized, for example, that this experience had freed us for all time from fear of religious persecutions and conceptual regulations laid down by other humans in an attempt to dictate our conduct and thinking. This type of fantastic psychic practice is widespread today and is enslaving many innocent people who have been seeking answers to their mental and spiritual problems.

While we, as stated, cannot accept or endorse the book and its contents, it is fair to concede that we found some of its material thought-provoking. Perhaps, you have had a similar experience with a group in support of a psychic revelation, who have also felt or still feel they have established a pipeline to God. If this is the case, it might be wise for you to remember that anything that comes through the mind of man is fallible and subject to possible error or fabrication. For this reason, we suggest that you question any purported revelation, however impressive, whose mediums or sponsors declare it to be the infallible word of God or His representatives.

This ends my commentary on Harold Sherman's chapter on his participation in *The Urantia Papers*.