Souls, Space, and Bestowal

Glimpses and speculations from *The Urantia Book*
ANZURA Conference Melbourne, 2024.
Nigel Nunn

The Urantia Book presents a cosmology that stirs the soul: a central perfect universe, fringed by spacetime shallows in which **Finaliters** are born. Finaliters, destined to launch from this cosmic continental shelf into oceanic depths, seeding the light and life of personality throughout nested levels of outer space.

Now as we know, in *The Urantia Book*, "**cosmology**" means literally the study of beauty, of pattern and harmony. But as we also know, the beauty and harmony in this cosmology are simply "too deep for words". But we're not left to flounder: a glimpse of these wonders, however faint, is even now made accessible by three innate and cosmic intuitions. From Paper 16:6.10,

> "And it is these three cosmic intuitions that give objective validity, reality, to man's experience in and with things, meanings, and values." **16:6.10 (192.6)**

> "It is the purpose of education to develop and sharpen these **innate endowments** of the human mind; of civilization to express them; of life experience to realize them; of religion to ennoble them; and of personality to unify them." **16:6.11 (192.7) emphasis added**

Paper 16 section 6 reveals that our human adjutant minds have an inbuilt "**reality response**" to these (quote) "scientific, moral, and spiritual insights" **(16:6.9)**. Paper 196 section 3 adds a little more. Concerning these insights, from Paper 196:3.10 **(2094.9)**,

> "…, all that the human mind can do is to discover, recognize, interpret, and *choose*."

So in the spirit of *discovering* and *interpreting*, I'd like simply to share a few thoughts about three aspects of this cosmology, this fresh universe frame in which to think. First, on the salvaging of premature baby souls. Next, on a pair of outer space levels astronomers have found. And finally, on the bestowal of space by Paradise.

1: Premature Souls and Morontia Humidicribs

First: On the salvaging of premature baby souls. What do I mean by "premature" baby soul? And why might they need special "salvaging"? To set the scene, let's begin at the beginning, when Michael and his beloved, the Divine Mins, arrive at their chosen place in space, and start to build their local universe. After a few hundred billion years enjoying family life – raising and training a family of angelic daughters and all types of descending sons, the time finally comes: from Paper 32 section 2,

> "And then, when such a universe has been so completely organized and so repletely manned, does the Creator Son enter into the Father's proposal to create mortal man in their divine image." **32:2.8 (359.5)**

"**Let us make mortal man in our divine image.**"

Readers of *The Urantia Book* will know the story: the Divine Minister (our local universe Mother spirit) works with her Life Carrier children **(36:5.0)**. Together, they evolve a sequence of animal types that can respond to her system of Adjutant mind, the Seven Adjutant Mind Spirits.

The first 5 animating the **animal** level of mind (Intuition, Counsel, Knowledge, Courage, Understanding)

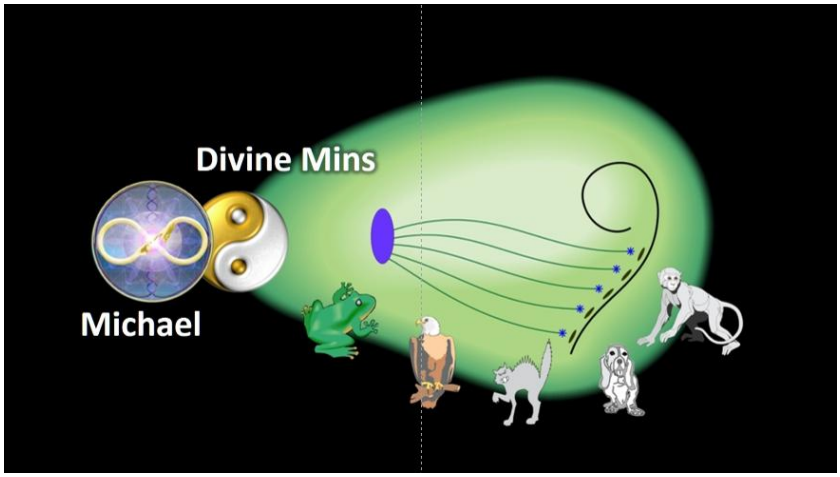


figure 1: adjutant animation of animals

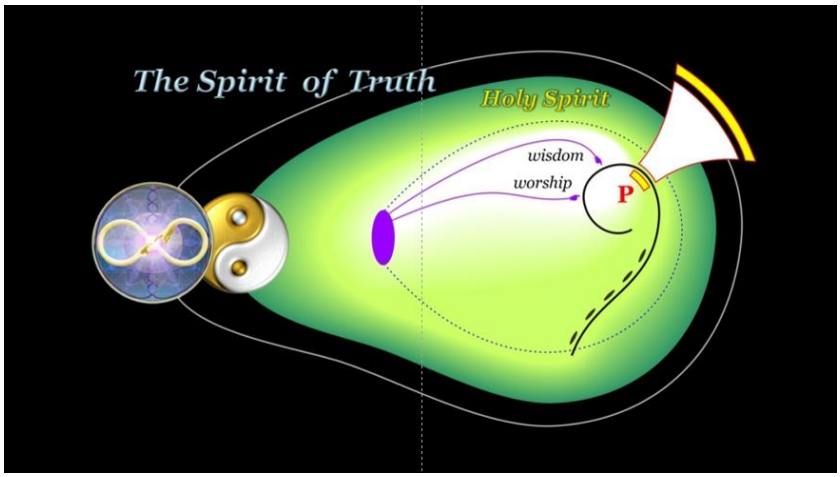


figure 2: a new order of mobilization

And then the game-changers: Worship and Wisdom make **first contact**, and humanity is born:

"There was an immediate and new order of mobilization of the seven adjutant mind-spirits." **(62:6.6)**

The planetary stage is set, and their work can begin: ***"Let us make mortal man in our divine image."***

To see how this is done, we need to shift perspective and zoom into that "**inner world**" (111:4.3). We need to make it **personal**. So let's imagine a brand new baby person:

Or rather, a ***potential*** person. For example, young William. Here's the brand new baby (Will) safely in place. A humanized animal mind in animal form, but blessed with that gift: **personality**.

Notice the outlines of this private inner world: the **personal embrace** of the Divine Minister, the **personal presence** of Michael, as Spirit of Truth.

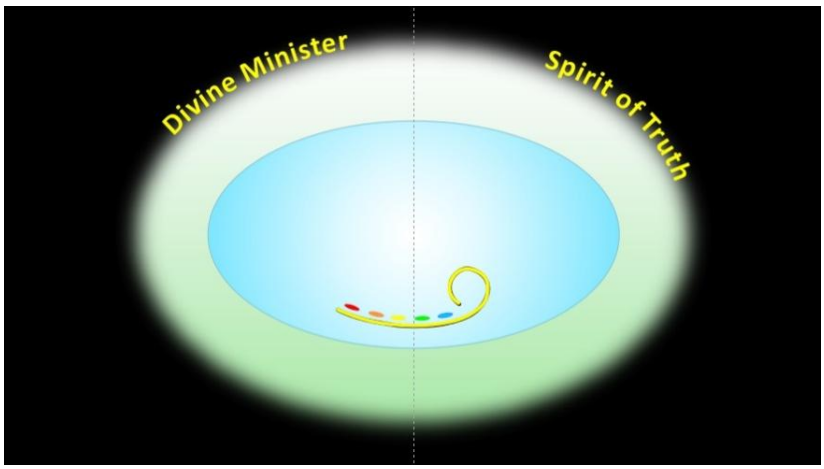


figure 3: our tadpole foundations

Notice also how this little figure looks a bit like a **tadpole**? Well, to anticipate what's to come, let's recall the quickest way for a **tadpole** to become a **frog**.

From Paper 100:1.4,

> "The quickest way for a tadpole to become a frog… is to live loyally each moment as a tadpole." **100:1.4 (1094.6)**

Now let's add the full complement of components for this private inner world: the rhythmic pulsations of 7 adjutant urges, providing a system of mind, the Divine Minister as Holy Spirit, providing a safe and secure womb, The Father's love incarnate, and Michael's Spirit of Truth.

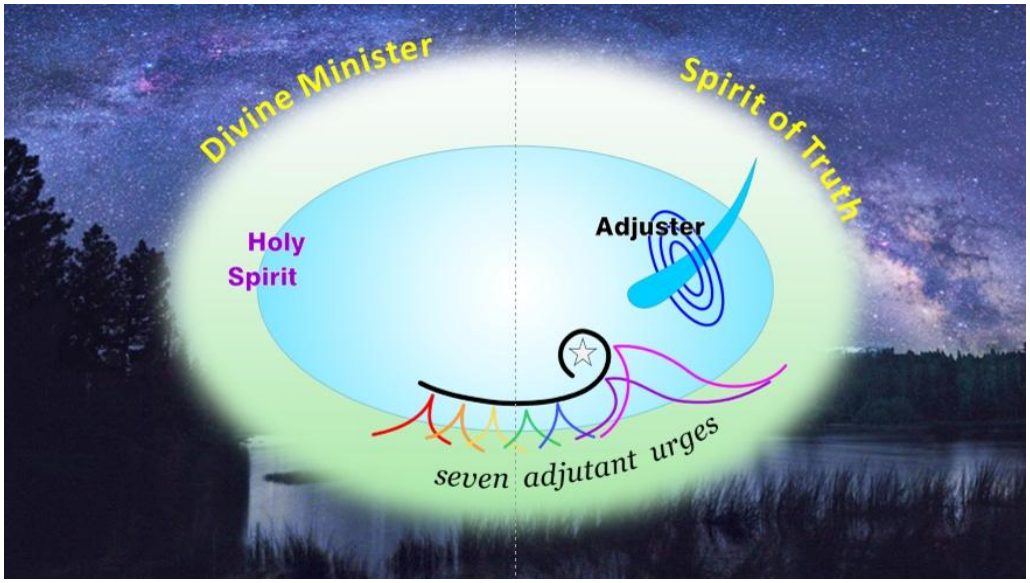


figure 4: enhancing those foundations

And now watch closely: tadpole (Will), happily waggling his adjutant tadpole tail, is about to make a **Choice**! Each choice, each moral choice, each deep, powerful choice for goodness, truth or beauty, becomes another **thread**. A **thread**, spun by our Adjuster, to be woven into those first faint **outlines** of our future self.

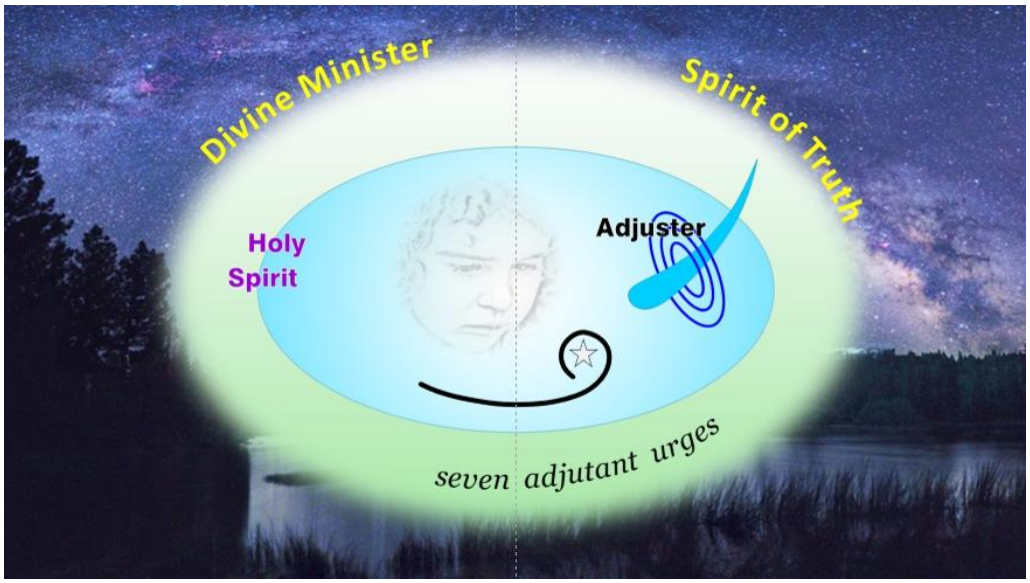


figure 5: those first faint foundations of our future self

And it's here that, for most of us, the story takes that sad turn.

Rather than baby (Will) reaching full term, and enjoying a breathtaking **Birth**, death dissolves this well-nigh perfect womb. And just like premature babies are rushed off to hospital to be cared for in some high-tech humidicrib, we premature baby souls are salvaged in the "**morontia humidicribs**" of the first mansion world, that special place where premature baby souls can finish off their prenatal growth.

On the other hand, Jesus demonstrated the potential of a human life well-lived:

- full gestation in this perfect womb,
- transferring his identity to his soul,
- then living for a time as **Soul Dweller**, effectively in personal **Light and Life**.

The moral of this story? By working our little tails off – by working off that adjutant tadpole tail – we too can become the frog were meant to be.

But then again, things are not always straight forward. Regarding insight, and those 3 cosmic intuitions, recall the revelators' warning.

From Paper 16:6.10,

> "These three basic factors in reflective thinking may be unified and co-ordinated in personality development, or they may become disproportionate and virtually unrelated in their respective functions." **16:6.10 (192.6)**

Imagine a **Materialist**, who discovers and takes delight only in the first of these three insights, the scientific-mathematical; or a **Religionist**, who discovers and recognizes only the third, the reverential-worshipful form:

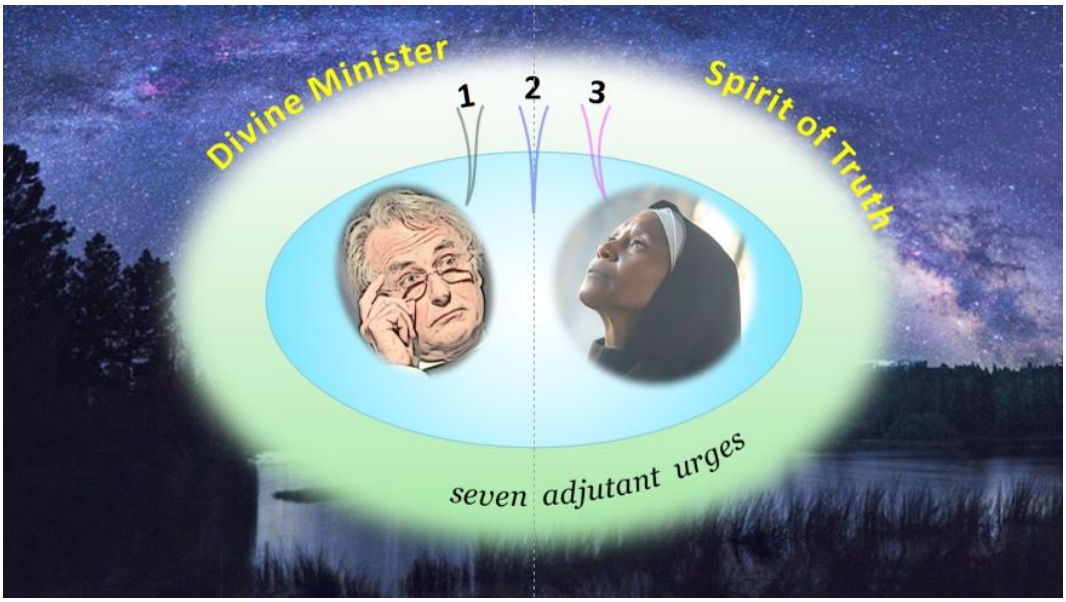


figure 6: "disproportionate and virtually unrelated"

But paragraph 16:6.10 goes on:

> "But when [**those three basic factors**] become unified, they produce a strong character consisting in the correlation of a factual **science**, a moral **philosophy**, and a genuine **religious experience**." **16:6.10 (192.6) emphasis added**

In other words, a human life well lived:

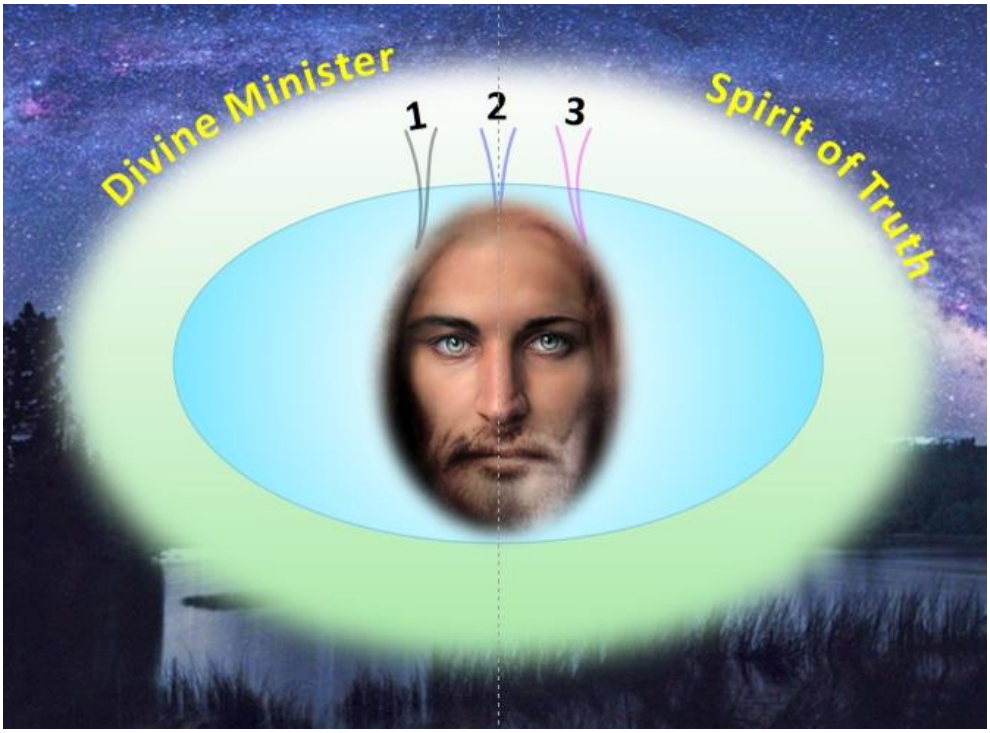


figure 7: a human life well lived.

2: Dark Matter, and outer space levels

Ok, so much for tadpoles and morontia frogs. Let's now pause to consider two of *The Urantia Book's* most unexpected, and unappreciated, revelations: about **dark matter**, and about **levels of outer space**. First, dark matter (invisible mass).

Part 3 of *The Urantia Book*, "**The History of Urantia**", begins by describing the Andronover nebula, and the origin of our world. As the story goes, an Associate Master Force Organizer (**MFO**) discovers a patch of ripened space potency ("segregata") and submits a request to be allowed to "do his thing". This request is approved, so he sets to work.

As described in the papers, these Associate MFO's, simply by their presence, can cause the forces and energies of space to rotate and condense. And this Force Organizer has been busy!

From Paper 57 section 2,

> "800,000,000,000 years ago the Andronover creation was well established as one of the magnificent primary nebulae of Orvonton." **57:2.2 (652.5)**

One of the magnificent primary nebulae of Orvonton. But at this stage, there's no **atomic** matter, so no electric charge, and thus… no visible, electromagnetic light.

> "As the astronomers of near-by universes looked out upon this phenomenon of space, they saw very little to attract their attention."

However,

> "Gravity estimates made in adjacent creations indicated that space materializations were taking place in the Andronover regions, but that was all." **57:2.2 (652.5)**

For astronomers in near-by universes (see 32:2.12) using normal telescopes, there was literally "nothing to see here." But to the physicists of Uversa, to the planning department of the minor sector involved, and of course to that Associate Force Organizer, this vast halo of mass-energy was plain to see: "one of the magnificent primary nebulae of Orvonton" (57:2.2).

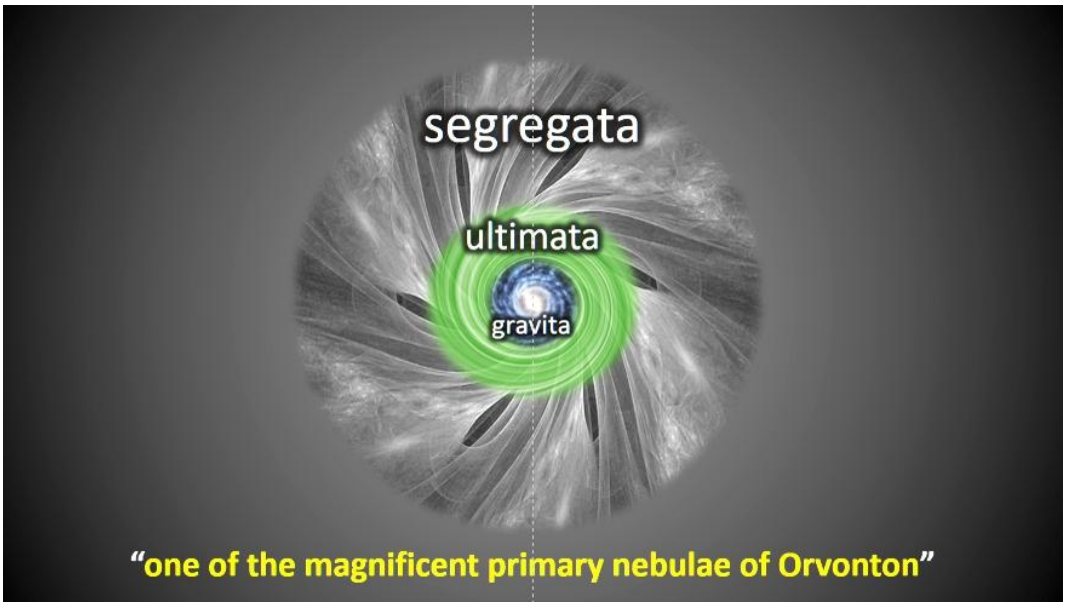


*figure 8: a spiral matter, evolving from a disk of **ultimata**, within a halo of **segregata***

Over the next few hundred billion years, a disk of **ultimata** evolves. And slowly, at the core of this (quote) "phenomenon of space", a spiral of stars appears. Then about 400 billion years ago, our Michael chose this "disintegrating nebula" as the site for Nebadon. "Almost immediately the architectural worlds of Salvington and the one hundred constellation headquarters groups of planets were begun" (57:3.8).

So why does all this matter ?

Well, by 1933, just before Paper 57 was presented, astronomer **Fritz Zwicky** realized that for his data—about the motion of galaxies—to make sense, either our ideas about gravity would need to be revised, or those galaxies must be embedded in some kind of halo of invisible mass. As a place-holder, he called this invisible mass "**dark matter**".

Then in 1978, **Vera Rubin** noticed that one way to explain why spiral galaxies rotate the way they do, would be to embed them in some kind of disk of… "**invisible mass**".

And from 2013, **Lisa Randall** and **Justin Khoury** presented models which put all this together. This created a stir among astronomers—for a year or two—until their scheme was deemed to be "**a bit contrived**". But their model was almost identical to what *The Urantia Book* reveals.

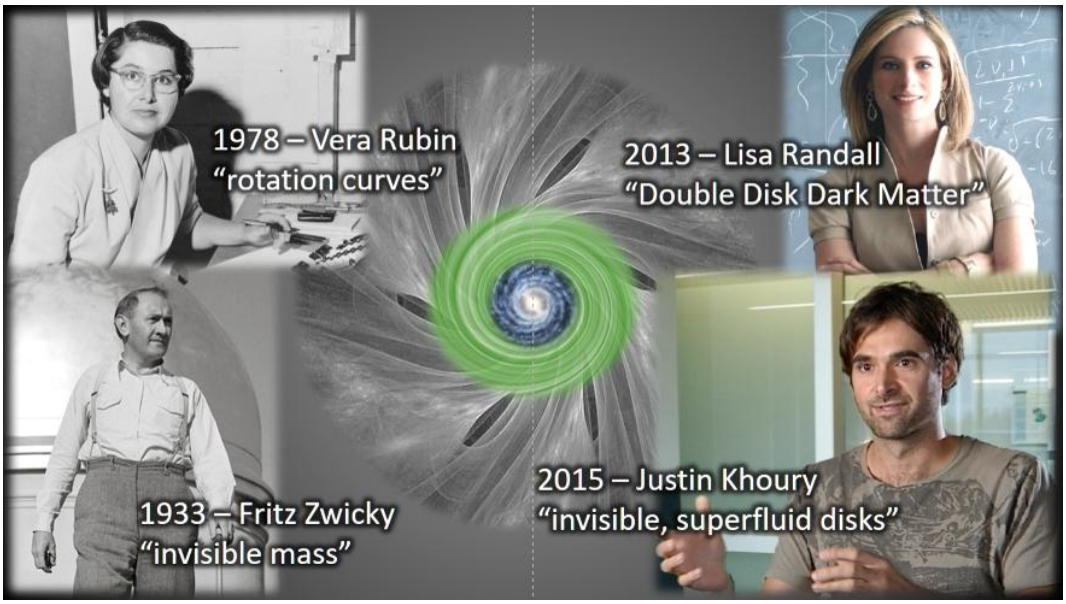


figure 9: Zwicky (1933), Rubin (1978), Randall (2013) and Khoury (2015)

For those of us who have the chance to study both modern science **AND** *The Urantia Book*, something wonderful happens: we find that three short sentences in Paper 57:2.2 appear to solve one of the central mysteries of modern science: the cause of that invisible gravitational effect, so-called "**dark matter**".

And one more thing: what makes this "magnificent primary nebula" *magnificent* is not its little spiral of a million stars, but rather, this **vast halo and disk** of invisible *"force manifestations"*.

Hold that thought: in a moment, we'll see how the ability to detect **invisible force manifestations** will help to shine light on another issue: those **outer space levels**.

Regarding the first of these levels of outer space, from 12:1.14 we read:

> "But about one-half million light-years beyond the periphery of the present grand universe we observe the beginnings of a zone of an unbelievable energy action which increases in volume and intensity for over twenty-five million light-years."
>
> "These tremendous wheels of energizing forces are situated in the first outer space level, a continuous belt of cosmic activity encircling the whole of the known, organized, and inhabited creation." **12:1.14 (129.12)**

A view from the side (cross-section) might look like figure 10 below:

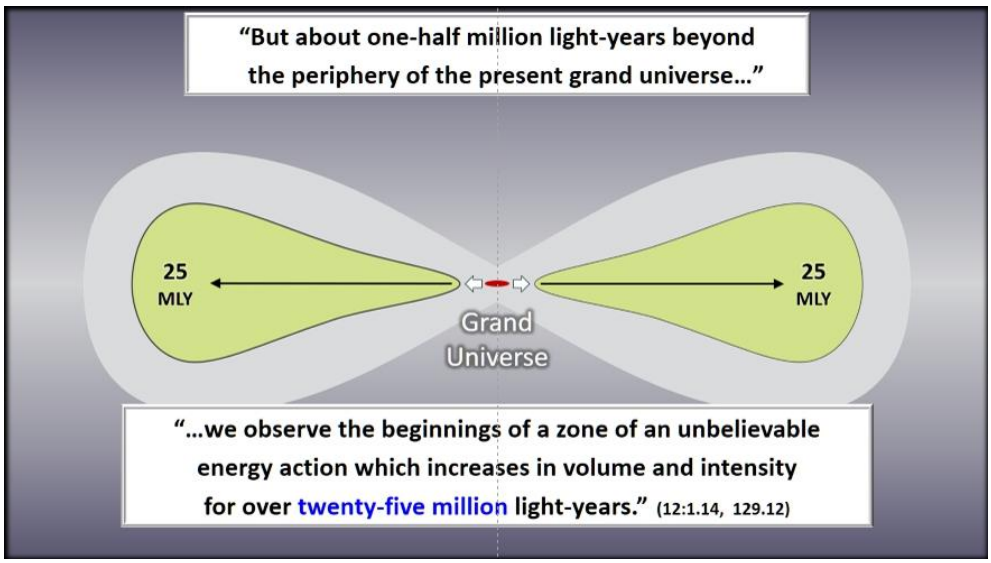


figure 10: the first outer space level surrounding the grand universe (cross-section)

From above, imagine an elliptical donut. So we have a first outer space level surrounding our place in space, radius roughly **25 MLY**. Now let's zoom out a bit. From Paper 12:1.15,

> "Still greater activities are taking place beyond these regions, for the Uversa physicists have detected early evidence of force manifestations more than fifty million light-years beyond the outermost ranges of the phenomena in the first outer space level." **12.1.15 (130.1)**

"Early evidence of **force manifestations**", beginning about **75 MLY** away…

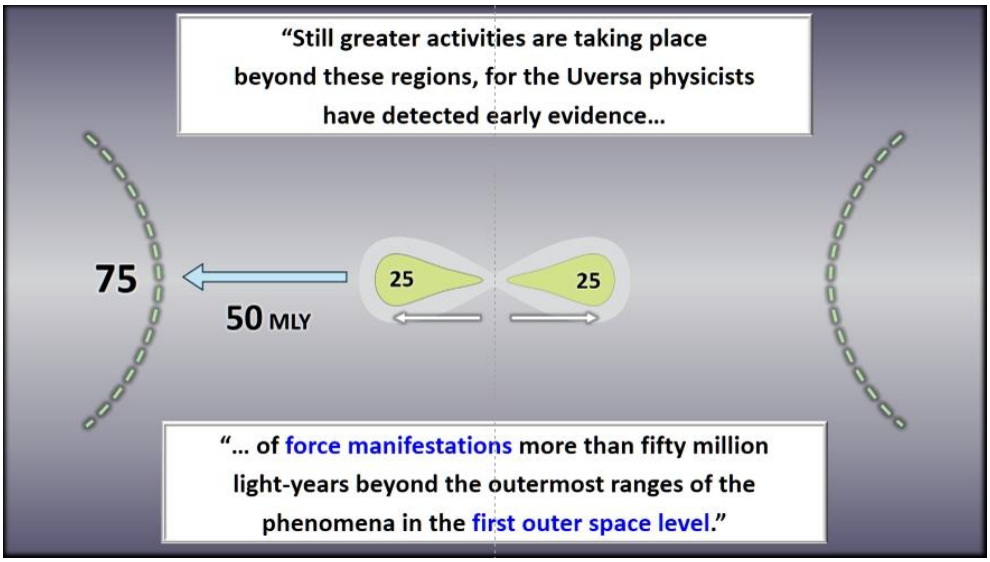


figure 11: the inner edge of a "second outer universe of galaxies"?

> "These activities undoubtedly presage the organization of the material creations of the second outer space level of the master universe." **12.1.15 (130.1)**

All this seems pretty clear: outside the first outer space level, there's a gap of about 50 MLY, beyond which those "Uversa physicists" detect "early evidence of force manifestations".

Now "early evidence of force manifestations" is *very* different to "well-formed spirals of stars".

So are they saying that any "well-formed spiral of stars" our telescopes can see must be in this "first outer space level"? Hence less than about 30 MLY away? And that beyond this, there's nothing but (quote) "early evidence of force manifestations"? A few sections later the revelators reveal a bit more: From Paper 12:4.15,

> "It appears that the **second outer universe** of galaxies, like the seven superuniverses, revolves counterclockwise about Paradise." **12:4.15 (134.4) emphasis added**

Second outer universe of galaxies? Now, "**uni-verse**" (from the Latin) means literally "one-turning". So a "second outer universe of galaxies", revolving counterclockwise, implies a second shell of galaxies, rotating (as a unit) about our place in space. In other words, a second outer space level. But hang on, does this mean that that the second outer space level is already full of galaxies? Let's take another look at paragraph 12:1.15:

> "[…], the Uversa physicists have detected **early evidence** of force manifestations more than fifty million light-years beyond the outermost ranges of the phenomena in the first outer space level." **12.1.15 (130.1) emphasis added**

If we read this to mean that beyond the first outer space level, there's nothing but "**early evidence of force manifestations**", then what are we to make of that "**second outer universe of galaxies**"? On the other hand, if we take this paragraph literally, the story becomes more interesting, and goes something like this:

About 50 MLY beyond the outer edge of the first outer space level, so at about 75 MLY, those Uversa physicists begin to detect (quote) "early evidence" – the first hint – of those force manifestations, those invisible forces and energies indicating the inner edge of that "second outer universe of galaxies", the second outer space level.

When we read it like this, changing not a single word, but simply revising the way we read those words, then once again, something wonderful happens. Let's say that, in cross section, a second "outer universe of galaxies" looks something like *figure 12*, a second "zone of unbelievable energy action", a distribution of mass-energy "increasing in volume and intensity" for, say, 150 MLY:

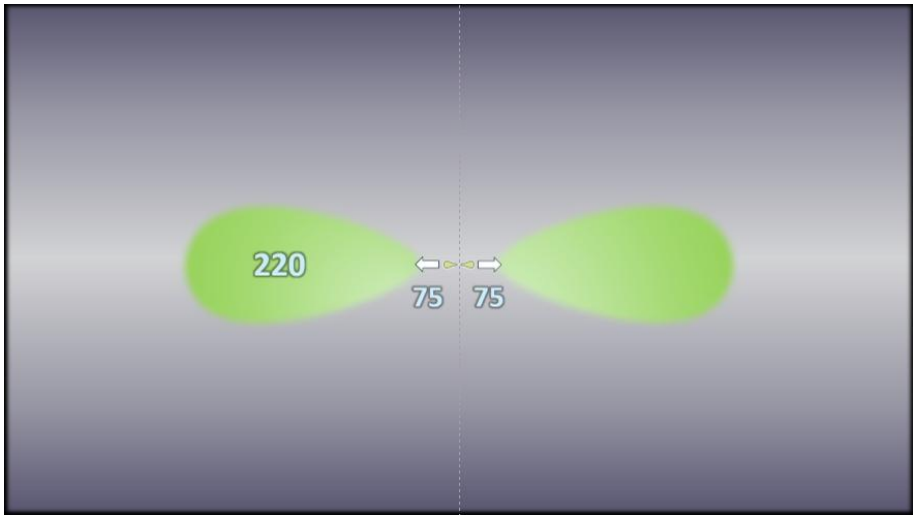


figure 12: a second "zone of unbelievable energy action"

As it turns out, this fits PERFECTLY with what native astronomers have actually discovered:

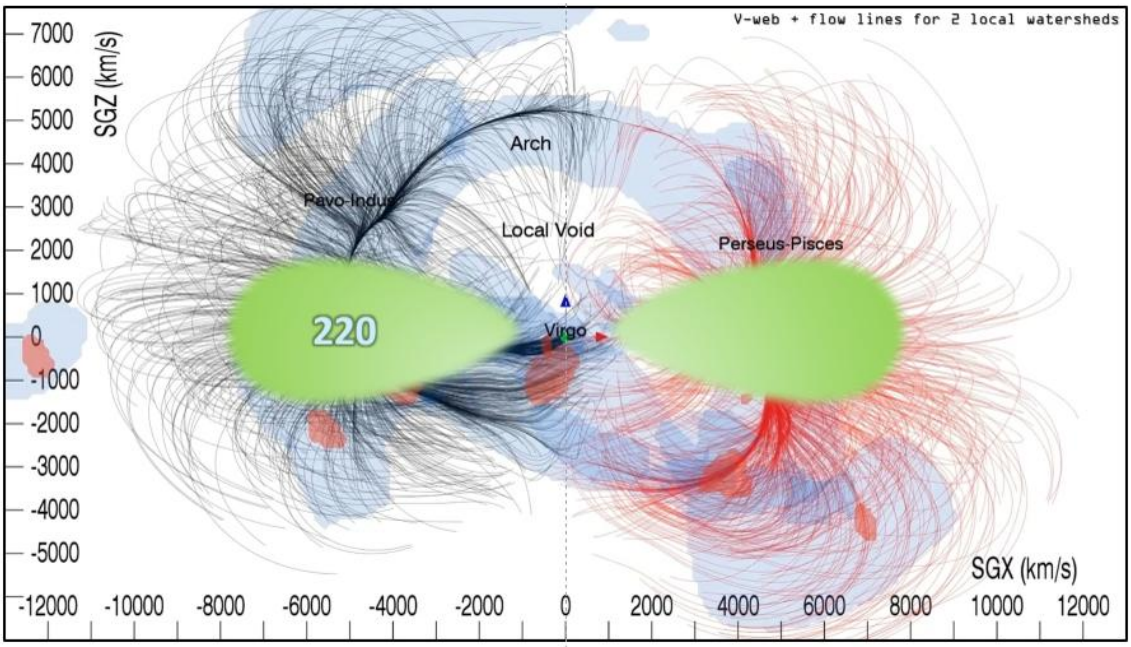


figure 13: the local dark flows of the energies of Laniakea

The map in *figure 13* was made by Brent Tully's group in 2014. It shows not the distribution of visible galaxies, but a prediction of the **motion of those galaxies** when they add the gravitational effect of a distribution of **invisible mass**, or "dark matter". Astronomers call this the **Laniakea supercluster**. But for students of *The Urantia Book*, it's VERY tempting to call this *"second outer universe of galaxies"* the second outer space level.

The point here is that astronomers have actually identified candidates not only for the first outer space level (the so-called "**Local Sheet**" within the so-called "**Local Volume**"), but also for that "second outer universe of galaxies" (12:4.15), our so-called "Local Supercluster."

But wait, there's more. Beyond Laniakea, astronomers are mapping what they call "**the Local Hole**", a surprisingly under-dense region or *void* surrounding this supercluster. This zone begins at about 300 MLY, extending out to an estimated 1 billion light years. While this outer estimate is "wholly unreliable" (12:4.14), the fact remains that astronomers have found that a "second outer universe of galaxies" is surrounded by an utterly unexpected **quiescent zone**.

In Paper 101:4.2, the revelators make a now famous comment about many of their *"statements regarding the physical sciences"*. As it turns out, the more we learn about science, the more interesting, and **revelatory**, those statements become.

Now, about that "**Bestowal of Space**"…

3: Paradise, and that bestowal of Space

And so we come to number 3: the **bestowal of space**. Before we dive in, let's return to that issue of *"insight"*. That paragraph (16:6.9) about the 3 cosmic intuitions, about our potential *"reality response"* to these scientific, moral and spiritual insights, concludes with the following comment:

> "But it is sad to record that so few persons on Urantia take delight in cultivating these qualities of courageous and independent cosmic thinking." **16:6.9 (192.5)**

What do they mean by "**courageous**" and "**independent**" cosmic thinking?

Remember that, with regard to these insights, *"all that the human mind can do is to Discover, Recognize, Interpret, and **Choose**."* So let's say that by "courageous and independent cosmic thinking", they mean courageous **Discovery** and **Interpretation** of these scientific, moral and spiritual insights. Which makes a good excuse for indulging a little discovery and interpretation, about **Space**, and about that absolutely unimaginable **Cosmology**.

Space, as presented in *The Urantia Book*, is very different to the old idea of a 3D Newtonian "now", or the simple 4D fabric *"faintly glimpsed"* by Einstein (195:7.5). In Paper 11, space is revealed to be (quote) "a bestowal of Paradise" **(11:7.4)**, and its cosmology takes us far beyond the reach of either scientific discovery, or religious experience.

So, given the shortcomings of Science and Religion, to help us begin to imagine their cosmology, the authors point us to **Philosophy**, and to that "premier philosophic postulate" (105:1.3).

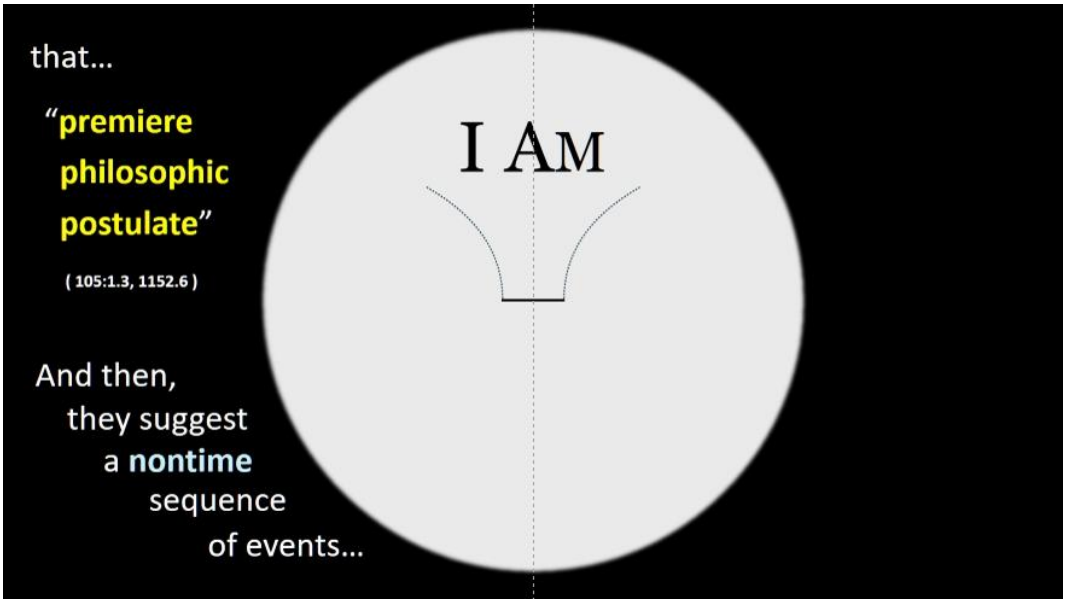


figure 14: a postulate to help us to imagine

And they suggest a "**nontime** sequence of events" in which the **I Am** Qualifies a center, a center with two sides,

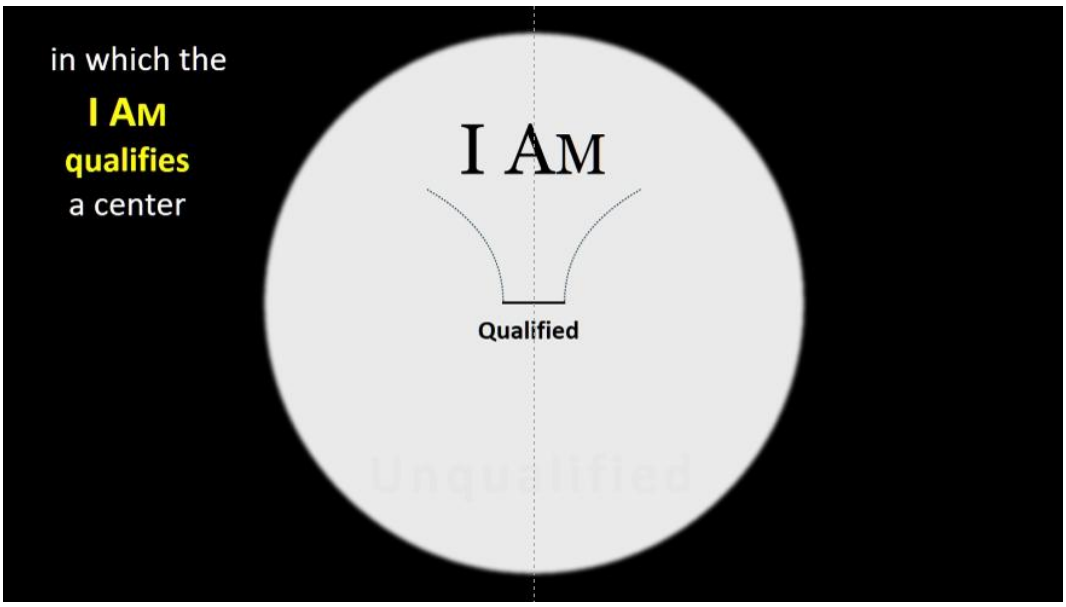


figure 15: the I AM acts

One side they call **Personal**, the other, **mathematical**. The **Personal** is pervaded by the qualified essence of **I Am** – **Personality**. The mathematical side, a base of operations, they call **Paradise**.

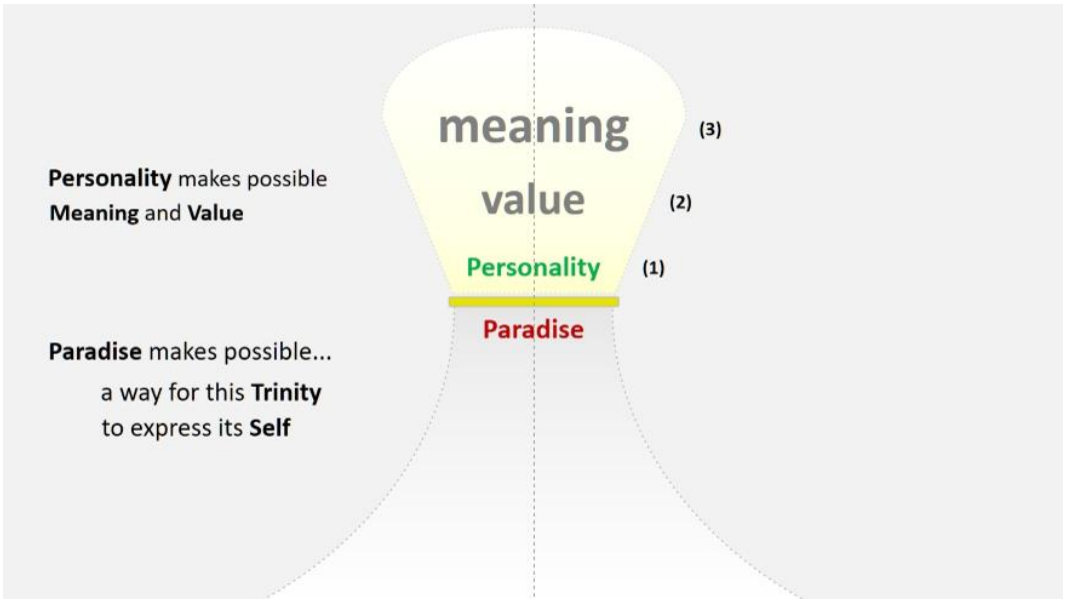


figure 16: the Trinity upon its base of operations

Personality (1) makes possible **Meaning** (3) and **Value** (2);

Paradise makes possible… a way for this Trinity to express its **Self**.

Notice, at this stage, **Space** does not exist. In this "nontime sequence of events" **(11:2.11)** all those potentials that unfold in the master universe age, are somehow folded up in this relationship between **Personality** and **Paradise**.

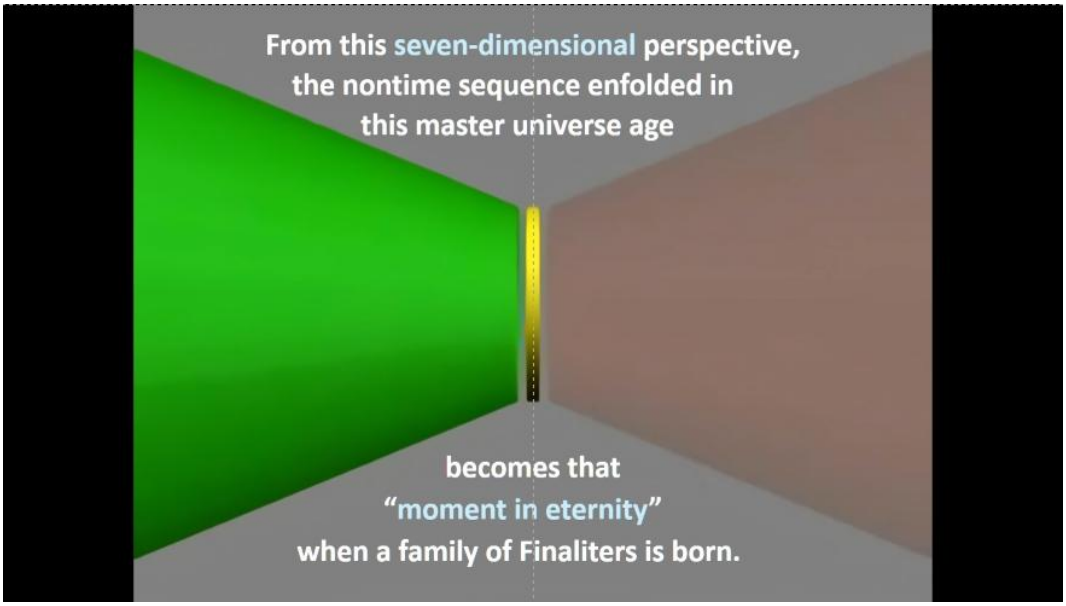


figure 17: from seven-dimensional perspective…

With all these potentials in place, things take a surprising turn…

[**Link to movie]**: https:// …

Space unfolding from within that edge-on seven dimensional gold disk.

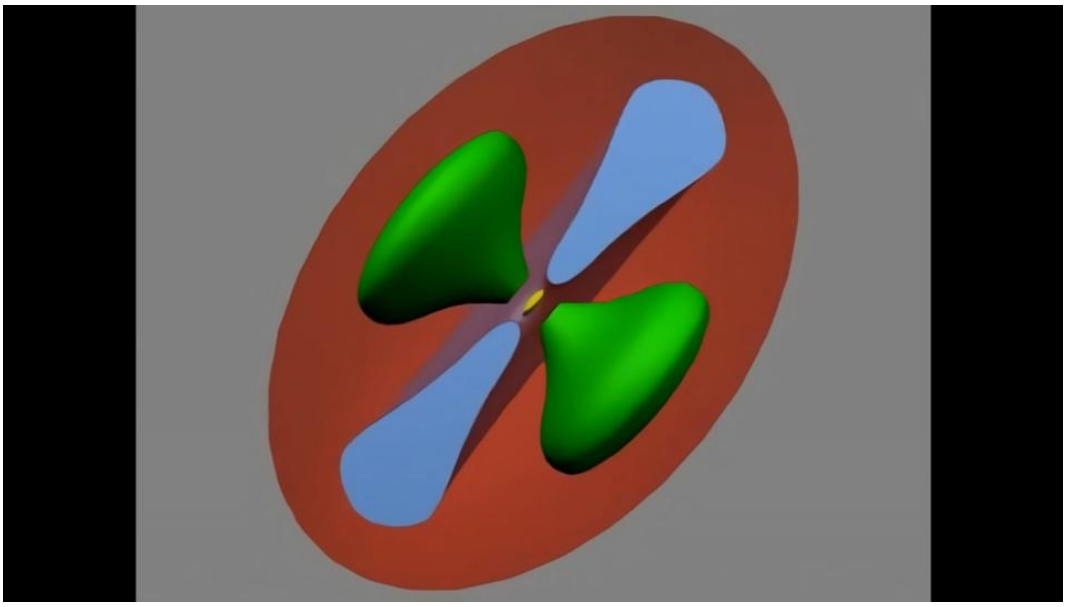


figure 18: the bestowal—Space unfolding from within Paradise extent

That "absolutely ultimate" **bestowal**… is **bestowed**. From this **seven-dimensional** perspective, the nontime sequence enfolded in this master universe age, becomes that "moment in eternity" when a family of **Finaliters** is born; when trillions of trillions of Personalized fragments of the **I Am** pause to consider… their "subinfinite penetration of the absolute" **(112:1.9)**.

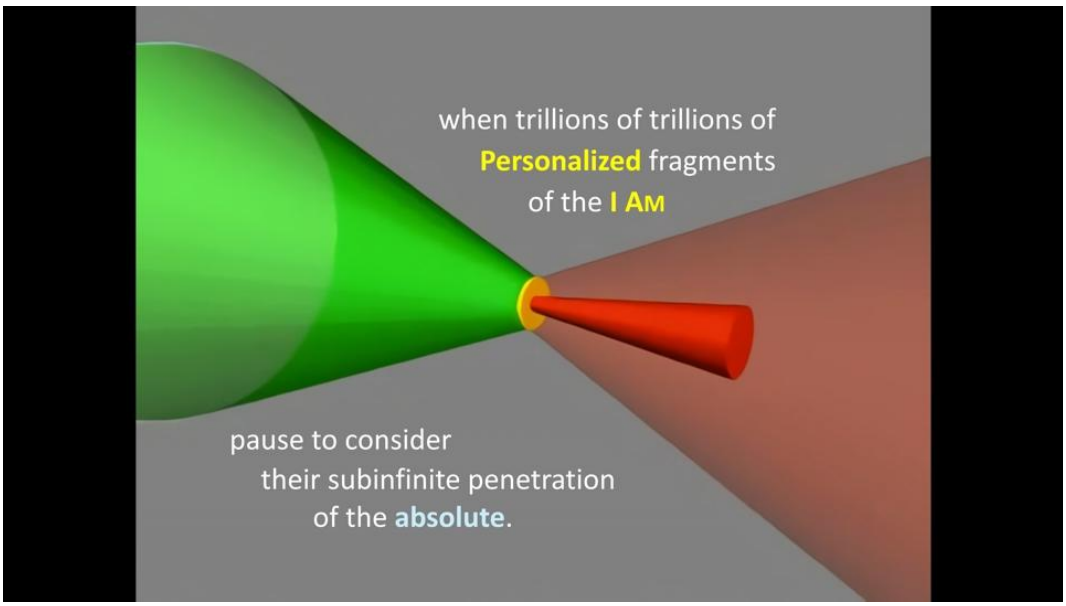


figure 19: a family of personalized fragments of the I AM

Conclusion:

The Urantia Book presents a cosmology that stirs the soul: a central perfect universe, fringed by spacetime shallows in which **Finaliters** are born. **Finaliters**, destined to launch from this cosmic continental shelf into oceanic depths, seeding the light and life of personality throughout nested levels of outer space.

The Urantia Book: presenting a larger frame in which to think. Freely available across the world, as audio or text.

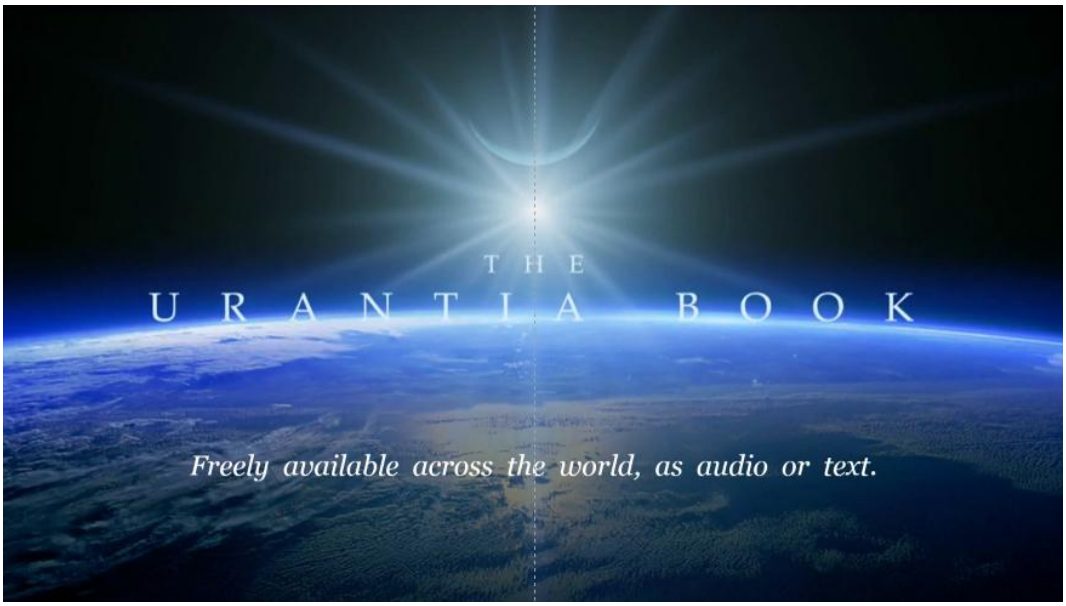


figure 20: The Urantia Book, freely available across the world.