



Thinking About the Foreword

Thinking About the Foreword

What do YOU think?

What is it?

What are we supposed to do with it?

How has that worked out?

The Tradition...



The Tradition: We know little about the history of the writing of the Foreword but a few pieces of evidence:

- March, 1926: The first mention of a “Foreword” in the available records about the Forum. [Because of other events recorded in the timeline, whatever this was, it cannot have been the Foreword published in 1955.]
- 1935-1945: At some point, Dr. Sadler and Bill Sadler tried writing an Introduction, but were told by the revelators not to bother,
- 1941: The last human source used by the revelators in writing the Foreword was published.
- 1942: “No more questions.” The questions asked by the Forum had to have been a key factor in the composition of the Foreword.
- 1945: The last human source used anywhere in the Urantia Book (Part IV) was published.
- 1950: The printing plates were completed (and therefore all of the text finalized, set, and proofed)
- 1954: Bill Sadler writes his Simplification of the Foreword
- October, 1955: The Urantia Book is published.

Thinking About the Foreword

Questions & Challenges : What to do with the Foreword...

1. What is the Foreword? What was the Divine Counselor trying to accomplish? Why did he write it and why did he put it here?
2. How do we approach it? How do we study it? How do we use it?
3. How can we guide a newer reader in their approach (struggles) with the Foreword?

Questions & Challenges : What to do with the Foreword...

1. What is the Foreword?

It's a Glossary

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1. What is the Foreword? What was the Divine Counselor trying to accomplish? Why did he write it and why did he put it here?

What IS the Foreword?

- In the hope of facilitating comprehension and of preventing confusion on the part of every mortal who may peruse these papers, we deem it wise to present in this initial statement an outline of the meanings to be attached to numerous English words which are to be employed in designation of Deity and certain associated concepts of the things, meanings, and values of universal reality. (0:0.3)
- But in order to formulate **this Foreword of definitions and limitations of terminology**, it is necessary to anticipate the usage of these terms in the subsequent presentations. **This Foreword is not, therefore, a finished statement within itself; it is only a definitive guide** designed to assist those who shall read the accompanying papers dealing with Deity and the universe of universes which have been formulated by an Orvonton commission sent to Urantia for this purpose. (0:0.4)

Questions & Challenges : What to do with the Foreword...

What was the Divine Counselor trying to accomplish?

It's a Glossary and...

What IS the Foreword?

- Partial, incomplete, and evolving intellects would be helpless in the master universe, would be unable to form the first rational thought pattern, were it not for the innate ability of all mind, high or low, to form a *universe frame* in which to think. If mind cannot fathom conclusions, if it cannot penetrate to true origins, then will such mind unfailingly postulate conclusions and invent origins that it may have a means of logical thought within the frame of these mind-created postulates. And while such universe frames for creature thought are indispensable to rational intellectual operations, they are, without exception, erroneous to a greater or lesser degree. (115:1.1)

Questions & Challenges : What to do with the Foreword...

What was the Divine Counselor trying to accomplish?

It's a Glossary that not only defines words but creates a "universe frame within which to think" (also where words are associated – classes/categories of terms)

Questions & Challenges : What to do with the Foreword...

Why did he put it here?

Why not an Appendix? – The Data

Well...maybe not...

Believe me, they're all
REALLY IMPORTANT!

Project Name	Year	Value
University of Illinois	2010	10,000
University of Illinois	2011	10,000
University of Illinois	2012	10,000
University of Illinois	2013	10,000
University of Illinois	2014	10,000
University of Illinois	2015	10,000
University of Illinois	2016	10,000
University of Illinois	2017	10,000
University of Illinois	2018	10,000
University of Illinois	2019	10,000
University of Illinois	2020	10,000
University of Illinois	2021	10,000
University of Illinois	2022	10,000
University of Illinois	2023	10,000
University of Illinois	2024	10,000
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University of Illinois	2096	10,000
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University of Illinois	2099	10,000
University of Illinois	2100	10,000

Why is the Foreword here—at the beginning? – An Analysis

Let's try this...

NOTE ESPECIALLY:

Just under **40%** of the terms are found in Paper **1**

Just over **40%** are first encountered in Papers **2-12**

Description	Count	%	Total %
Selected Concepts Found in the Foreword			
First Text Instance Found in Paper 1	41	38%	38%
First Text Instance Found in Papers 2-12	44	41%	79%
First Text Instance Found in Papers 13-31	6	6%	84%
First Text Instance Found in Parts 2-3	12	11%	95%
Not Found Elsewhere in Urantia Book	5	5%	100%
Total Selected Concepts Found in Foreword	108	100%	100%

Questions & Challenges : What to do with the Foreword...

2. How do we approach it? How do we study it? How do we use it?

Questions & Challenges : What to do with the Foreword...

2. How do we approach it? How do we study it? How do we use it?

Use it the way you use any other Glossary or Dictionary! Know what's in there and look up words when you need to...as you read the rest of the text!

Questions & Challenges : What to do with the Foreword...

3. How can we guide a newer reader in their approach (struggles) with the Foreword?

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Try weaving it in with the first Papers –
Read section 1 then Paper 1
Section 2 then Paper 2
... to Section 12 and Paper 12

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