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Dr. Sadler And The Urantia Book: The Historic Origins Of A Spiritual Revelation In The 20th Century

DR. SADLER AND THE URANTIA BOOK

The Historic Origins of a Spiritual Revelation in the 20th Century



Sioux Oliva

"A superb researcher fueled by scholarly discipline and spirited passion, Dr. Sioux Oliva daily uncovers historical nuggets." —Ezra Kennedy



Synopsis

Dr. William S. Sadler professed that a group of celestial beings began to communicate to him through a sleeping man in Chicago from 1911 until 1923. He and his wife, Lena Sadler, both well-known and highly respected local physicians, claimed there were "probably 250 night sessions," during which these celestials spoke through their patient. The identity of the patient was never revealed. From 1924-1934, the Sadlers held a Forum in their home to study the voluminous notes and to compose questions for the celestial beings about human origins and destiny. The result was The Urantia Book, which claims to be the fifth epochal revelation to humankind. Published in 1955, it has sold over 750,000 copies by word of mouth. Although translated into 17 languages, relatively few people know about it or the amazing story of its creation. The History Of The Urantia Book explores the professional lives and spiritual pursuits of the Sadlers and the extraordinary role that Dr. Sadler played in bringing this 2,097-page tome to the world. It compares the "origin story" with the scholarly discovery of relevant facts and circumstances that led to its publication. It also sheds new light on the fiercely protected identity of the "patient" and likely scribe for these revelations.

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Customer Reviews

The Urantia Book is both a compendium and a revelation. In its Forward the authors specifically state: " . . . we shall, in all our efforts to reveal truth and co-ordinate essential knowledge, give preference to the highest existing human concepts pertaining to the subjects to be presented. We may resort to pure revelation only when the concept of presentation has had no adequate previous expression by the human mind." •Dr. Sioux Oliva, in her well researched Dr. Sadler and the Urantia Book, presents a variety of competing theories about just how this has been achieved in the formulation of the 196 papers which comprise, what is often referred to as, The Fifth Epochal Revelation (5E). She notes that, in addition to numerous bible references, 5E features many statements that were contained in published works that would have been contemporaneous to those individuals who participated in the question and answer Forum that Drs. William and Lena Sadler hosted in their Chicago home between 1923 and 1942. The authors of the papers also had this to say about that: " . . . we have selected as the basis of these papers more than one thousand human concepts representing the highest and most advanced planetary knowledge of spiritual values and universe meanings. Wherein these human concepts, assembled from the God-knowing mortals of the past and the present, are inadequate to portray the truth as we are directed to reveal it, we will unhesitatingly supplement them, . . ." •It is this approach, one in which higher intelligences are willing to meet us where we live, that gives The Urantia Book so much of its wide ranging appeal.

This review is written partly in reaction to the reviewers of Dr. Oliva's book who are offended by her suggestion that Dr. William Sadler was the channeler of the Urantia Book. They try to cut her off at the pass by denying that the Urantia book was channeled. Here is the sentence in the Urantia Book itself that indicates it was channeled: 110:5:7 "The Adjuster of the human being through whom this communication is being made enjoys such a wide scope of activity chiefly because of this human's almost complete indifference to any outward manifestations of the Adjuster's inner presence; it is indeed fortunate that he remains consciously quite unconcerned about the entire procedure." The Urantia book is describing an ideal channeler. An ideal channeler is someone who doesn't let his or her ideas get in the way of the communications. If a channeler is "indifferent" to the messages he/she is channeling, then he/she is less likely to tamper with the messages or take personal credit for them. The channeler the Urantia book refers to could have been Dr. Sadler himself. Why not?

The fact that Dr. Sadler denied being the channeler is evidence that, if he was indeed the secret channeler, he held the messages higher than he held himself. He didn't let his ego get in the way. But channeling is not perfect. Dr. Oliva makes a case that Sadler's ideas about eugenics and race could have made their way into the Urantia text. She also shares research that showed a high correlation between some of Sadler's writings and some Urantia papers. Incidentally, I found the Urantia book eight years ago, in the channeling section of a New Age bookstore, next to A Course in Miracles and the Seth books. The Urantia book is a channeled book.

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