

Excerpts from letter of Margie Harmon to Ruth Burton
dated July 5, 1965

You without doubt are aware that upon the conclusion of the course, and following your departure, the decision was made to employ the services of the very questionable personage Mr. King as the instructor and/or lecturer. He assumes the role of a dominating teacher, superimposing his ideas upon the group and the Book, binding the minds, and lulling the minds into complacency. Thereby disallowing and thwarting an interplay of thoughts and discussions. I am going to attempt to unfold to you in as much brevity as possible some of the events and discussions which have transpired first between Mr. King and I, then my mother, Mr. King, and I, and have eventuated in the decisions I have made regarding this bumptious and arrogant rascal.

With the onset of this so-called lecture series I became inquisitive about him, his purposes and his motives. I had already become rather skeptical of him through some of the statements he made (they smelled of occultism).....I accepted his invitation to dinner (with his wife and Doris). It was during his first discussion that he told me how Chicago had refused to grant him teaching prerogatives. Of course he refused to take their courses to earn this right as he felt himself a very qualified teacher. He laid some of his plans before me at this particular time..... I asked him "What if Chicago does not uphold these plans? What if they say you can't do it?" He said, "He don't need Chicago. They can't do anything to stop me." From this point on I spent many hours with him following his dictates and his bidding, pretending to be a very good potential adherent and pupil. Finally though, I felt that I had obtained enough data to be conclusive and undeniable evidence in proof and verification of my feared conjecture. This first invitation which he had extended did seem to confound me for a while, as I had not prior to this time met him. It seems, however, that I need not have been so mystified by his eagerness to discuss his ideas with me. Doris George had been at almost all of your meetings and she had overheard much I had to say to you, Bob, and Helms, and conveying all of these things to Mr. King. He pretended foreknowledge and character analysis until the source was isolated. By way of explanation, I will add, Doris lives in the trailer house next to his. She has been an avid apostle of his since she met him in Boston quite a number of years ago, where he was preaching in a room at the I.M.C.A.

The second meeting with Mr. King was at his home and Doris's in their trailer houses. Here, things began to take a more definite form.....He took me through the school he plans to open (when he gets the teachers). It is in the garage under apartments -- three garages which he has converted. He plans to incorporate the "best" teachings of the metaphysical, occult, and Urantia. He has several paperback instruction books which simulate the study books that Dr. Sadler has prepared. He would not allow me to peruse them at any length. He told me of his difficulty in securing a reproducing process which would be accepted by the post office as books for purposes of mailing. He now has perfected this and has in his home all the equipment necessary for this printing. The book to which I referred seemed to contain diverse truths from the various sources--things from the Urantia Book included--at random and some paraphrased. All of this vast knowledge is the property of Mr. King. In addition to the reproducing equipment he has every imaginable type of camera and his own dark room. As I know nothing about photography and the terminology connected with it, I am in no position to adequately describe it. I know he has developed several techniques whereby he can reproduce and enlarge almost everything which has ever been printed, including picture plates found in books. One of his prize possessions is a yet unprinted copy or manuscript kept securely in a make-shift vault, "The Chemical Marriage," by Christian Rosenkrutz. I imagine it is a new translation and interpretation of it. This book means to him a possession of some of the highest mysteries available to man. He wouldn't allow me even a second to look it over, therefore I know nothing of its contents.

He believes the public would more readily accept the (Urantia) book if it were lifted out of context. Presented in cartoons (this was a project for me to do). Also he wants to revise, paraphrase, and delete much of it in order to make it more acceptable. He wants to water it down for public consumption. The most devastating aspect of this lies in the fact that he is doing it for self-aggrandizement and self-glory. He plans never to reveal the source of his information. At one of the meetings he presented all of us with a copy of the questions and answers which he used on his first radio program. Helen asked him if he planned to ever reveal the name of the Urantia Book as his source of information. He replied No, he would only refer to it if questioned by one of the listeners and then as a number in the Library of Congress.....

When I could no longer cope with the situation I invited them home to meet and speak to my mother.....When Swedenborg was mentioned he admitted that none of the revelations contained within his writings were new to him. This also applied to everything which has ever been written. He said he NEVER read anything to learn from it, only to find out what the author knew. She asked him if this applied to the Urantia Book as well. His reply, OH YES, YES. Then she began to itemize -- the Supreme Being, God the Sevenfold, etc. His reply, OH YES, YES. She said, "You mean nothing in the book was new to you?" He said, "NO, NOTHING."

Here is his loophole. He seems to think that by declaring that the book was his before it was ever published, he had all knowledge beforehand, he has the right to use it as he pleases. It is HIS.

As a sidelight to these events I had spoken to Helen and she had accepted all that I had to say, and then began thinking of a gracious way to get rid of him. She decided that the only way to do it would be to close the Pasadena group for the summer as they often do, then not ask him back..... Then I blundered unwittingly. I presented my findings to Bob Steen. He said (I have Kathy as a witness) that he would prefer that I say nothing. He was sorry that he had already heard as much as he had, as he wished to draw his own conclusions. He felt Mr. King was the man he wanted to "evangelize" the Book. He felt that he was the one to attract the young people. Kathy, Polly, and Polly's mother felt such a revulsion toward him even in a personal manner that none of them wanted to return. This was without my influence. Bob also mentioned that he hoped to obtain a unanimous board this next election.....

.....When I became so perturbed about King and his well-laid plans was when I discovered that he had hopes of either scuttling the entire movement here on the west coast or Chicago by becoming the next president, or having his mouthpiece become president. Right now that mouthpiece is the one who is dominating the current president.

.....When he was here at the house he continually mentioned fear. He even threatened, and I am not too certain what he meant. He said that I was not to forget that he could find out many things about people and that should they not choose to go his way or threatened his future he would not hesitate to use it. This was not in direct association to me at the time, for he was then talking about others in the group who were antagonisticAnother detail I neglected to mention. He told me that he made the trip to Chicago specifically to find out who would hold the authority when the original leaders were gone. He told me they didn't have anyone knowledgeable enough to head the organization. And he didn't think that they even had any candidates. He also said that he felt that he might have to wait for the old guard to die off before he could fully complete his plans. I have no doubt that he is wrong for such a God-given and God-protected revelation will not be allowed to suffer in the hands of such an individual.

....I understand that when King returned from Chicago last year he was ecstatic. Maria says that someone told her that he was virtually irrational and incoherent. He was practically vibrating with emotion and excitement, exclaiming, this is just what I've always wanted, this is what I've been waiting for.

I neglected to say that what Mr. King uses to justify his "slight" deceptions and the argument he gave Helen the day she asked him if he intended to give his source, is found on page 554, last paragraph, and page 555, two paragraphs. Also, he recites the story of Rahab and her lie in order to save, but she is justified by Paul where she is accounted saved along with Abraham. I find no verification of this story of Rahab in the Urantia Book.