

Question

Can you help me to understand Bill Sadler's use of Hegelian dialectics in his book "A Study of the Master Universe"--that is, his use of the threefold concept of "thesis", "antithesis", and "synthesis"?

Answer by Chris Halvorson

First of all, search the revelation for the word "antithesis". You will find that the revelators use it only three times. In paragraph 159:5.14, the midwayers point out that Jesus used sharp contrasts and striking juxtapositions as a teaching technique to get and focus the attention of his listeners. Jesus did not teach that antithesis is a fundamental aspect of reality. In paragraph 56:10.4, the Mighty Messenger points out that philosophic materialism (which implies atheism) is the assumption of unreality, a "finite antithesis". The revelators do not say that matter is antithesis to spirit as thesis.

Even in paragraph 12:8.5, the Perfector of Wisdom only points out that reality appears to be thesis and antithesis when it is measured with the relativity of its response to physical gravity or spiritual gravity. Actually, reality is only thesis: "Mind, matter, and spirit are equally real, but they are not of equal value to personality in the attainment of divinity." (12:8.15) Personality is spirit pattern; it is the purposing of spirit substance. Energy pattern (or simply "pattern")--the purposing of matter--is a separate, parallel aspect of reality. Purposed energy is power.

When referring to these two parallel sides of potentiality, actuality, and reality, the Melchizedek uses the word "antipodal": "Pattern and personality are two of the great manifestations of the acts of the First Source and Center; and no matter how difficult it may be to comprehend, it is nonetheless true that the power-pattern and the loving person are one and the same universal reality; the Paradise Isle and the Eternal Son are co-ordinate but antipodal revelations of the unfathomable nature of the Universal Father-Force." (104:4.9)

Bill Sadler apparently found it too difficult to comprehend, so he used the simple dichotomy of thesis and antithesis to rationalize the facts of the revelation. In so doing, he corrupted the truth of the revelation. He saw the revelation with two-dimensional vision. Such

"flatlanders" (immature children of God) see every issue as a dichotomy in the plane--two sides, one positive, one negative. In his case, he favored the eye of spiritual consciousness over the eye of material consciousness; hence, to his vision, spirit was thesis and matter was antithesis. If you equally open both eyes, you will see the true, three-dimensional cosmos: you will see with the eyes of cosmic consciousness; you will see the personality-power of the Father-Force.

The assumption of the false premise that reality is founded on various dichotomies, led Bill Sadler to several most unfortunate conclusions. For example, he concluded that the seven superuniverses are antithesis to Havona as thesis--that the relationship is between imperfection and perfection. That is absurd. An actual relationship is between two "somethings"; imperfection is the absence of something. Havona is an existential fact, and the seven superuniverses are an experiential fact. The true relationship is between that which is perfect and that which is perfecting. In the superuniverse domain, that which is "perfecting" is that which is "good". In Havona, goodness is defined by that which is perfect and that which is perfected. The superadditive consequence of the relationship between that which is perfecting and that which is perfect is that which is perfected.

Our superuniverse, our local universe, our world is not an antithesis; it is a thesis of goodness. This is one of the great truths of the revelation. Jesus also taught this great truth: "He sought to make it clear that the world is not to be regarded as an enemy; that the circumstances of life constitute a divine dispensation working along with the children of God." (140:8.3) It is indeed sad to record that, still today, so few persons on Urantia have ears to hear.