

Love Your Enemies

There you were, oh so many years ago, rolling along with your life in the flesh, when The Urantia Book came into your life; you found "The Life and Teachings of Jesus"; you eagerly read every word that Jesus had to say; you heard the Master's instruction: "Love your enemies" (TUB 140:3.15, also 140:8.6 [and reflect upon both contexts]).

Meanwhile, you have a long-standing political ideology, and there is a man on the global stage who you deem to be an enemy--even "the" enemy--of your cherished ideology; you do not like him; you seek out others who also do not like him; you commune with them; through mutual edification, you have come to despise this man; you have hardened your heart against him; you desire to do bad to him; you hate him (see TUB 56:10.21).

What does the Master have to say to you, now? "[T]hey who reject me and refuse to receive my teaching shall be brought to judgment in due season by my Father and those whom he has appointed to sit in judgment on such as reject the gift of mercy and the truths of salvation. Remember, all of you, that I speak not of myself, but that I have faithfully declared to you that which the Father commanded I should reveal to the children of men. And these words which the Father directed me to speak to the world are words of divine truth, everlasting mercy, and eternal life." (TUB 174:5.7) "If [I] had not taught [you] the truth, [you] might do many strange things without falling under condemnation, but now, since [you] have known the light and presumed to reject it, [you] have no excuse for [your] attitude... the light which would save you if accepted can only condemn you if it is knowingly rejected." (TUB 180:3.2)

"But", you reply, "I do not literally hate that man." Nonetheless, even if you are granted this assertion, Do you actively support those who do hate him? To which you reply, "There is no such guilt by association!" Indeed there is not; however, there "is" guilt by identification: active (i.e., willful) support is "identification", not merely "association". And what does the Master have to say to you if it is your will that their wicked will be done? "[I]f the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the pit." (TUB 153:3.5 [and reflect upon the context]) You have rejected the saving truth that "is" Jesus of Nazareth. Either in this world or the next, you will go to iniquity; unless, you sincerely repent of your wicked ways. For, in truth, you already are iniquitous.

(food for reflection by Chris Halvorson)