ANTHROPOLOGY

Section 2. Pre-human mammals

(62:0.1) About one million years ago, as a result of three successive sudden mutations of the early lemurs, the placental mammals, the direct ancestors of man appeared. The dominant factors of these early lemurs were derived from the Western or Late American group of evolving life plasms. But by the time the direct human line began, that line had been improved at the expense of the central implantation of life developed in Africa. The participation of the eastern group of living beings in the creation of their own human species was insignificant.

Item I. The Early Lemurs

Point A. Origin and migration of early lemurs

Point 1. Lemurs - ancestors of man are not direct ancestors of the modern type of lemurs

(62:1.1) The early Lemurs, the progenitors of man, were not directly related to the pre-existing gibbons and apes, whose tribes inhabited Eurasia and North Africa at that time, and whose descendants have survived to this day. Nor were they descendants of the modern lemur type, although they descended from common but long-dead ancestors.

Point 2. Migration of North American lemurs to southwest Asia, where the human race appeared

(62:1.2) Although these early lemurs appeared in the Western Hemisphere, the beginning of the direct line of mammals leading to man was laid in Southwest Asia, in the original zone of the central implantation of life, but on the border of the Eastern zone. A few million years ago, lemurs of the North American type migrated west across the Bering Land Bridge, gradually moving southwest along the Asian coast. Finally, the migrating tribes reached the fertile land between the then expanding Mediterranean Sea and the elevated mountainous regions of the Indian peninsula. Here, in the west of India, they united with other favorable lines, resulting in the appearance of the progenitors of the human race.

Point II. Early mammals

Item A. Appearance and Physical Characteristics

Point 1. One million years ago, the early human ancestors suddenly appeared

(62:2.1) A little over a million years ago, the early mammals, the direct descendants of the placental mammals-the North American lemur type-suddenly appeared in Mesopotamia. These nimble little creatures were less than a meter tall, and although they were uncharacteristic of walking on their hind legs, they easily assumed a vertical position. They were covered in fur, lively, and squealed like monkeys, but unlike the apes, they were carnivores.

(62:2.2) They had an undeveloped opposable big toe as well as a highly useful grasping big toe. Hence began the successive development of the opposable toe in pre-human species and the parallel and increasing loss of grip in the great toe. Late apes retained the grasping toe but never acquired the human-type finger.

(62:2.3) These early mammals reached sexual maturity at the age of three or four, and their potential lifespan averaged twenty years. As a rule, one baby was born, although sometimes twins were born. Of all the animals that had existed on Earth up to that time, the representatives of this new species possessed the largest brains relative to the size of the body. They experienced many of the feelings and possessed many of the instincts which later became characteristic of primitive man. They were extremely curious and expressed violent joy in case of success in any undertaking. In these creatures, the need for food and sexual satisfaction was well developed, and their pronounced sexual selectivity was expressed in primitive courtship and choice of partners. They fought fiercely in defense of their tribe, and showed great tenderness in family relations, possessing a sense of self-abasement bordering on shame and remorse. They were very devoted and touchingly faithful to their partners, but if circumstances separated them, they found new males or females.

Point B. Instincts, emotions, habits

Point 1. Emotions very similar to human emotions appeared in the behavior of these early human ancestors

(62:2.3) Of all the animals that had existed up to that time on Earth, the representatives of this new species possessed the largest brains in proportion to the size of their bodies. They experienced many of the feelings and possessed many of the instincts which later became characteristic of primitive man. They were extremely curious and expressed violent joy in case of success in any undertaking. In these creatures, the need for food and sexual satisfaction was well developed, and their pronounced sexual selectivity was expressed in primitive courtship and choice of partners. They fought fiercely in defense of their tribe, and showed great tenderness in family relations, possessing a sense of self-abasement bordering on shame and remorse. They were very devoted and touchingly faithful to their partners, but if circumstances separated them, they found new males or females.

Point 2. They built primitive shelters in the tall trees
(62:2.4) Being small creatures and possessing intelligence enough to understand the danger of forest life, they became exceedingly timid, which led to the adoption of those sensible safety measures which proved vital to their survival, such as creating of primitive shelters in the tall trees which saved them from many of the dangers of terrestrial life. The emergence of the tendency to fear in humanity dates back to these very days.

Point 3. They were pack creatures, aggressive and quarrelsome
(62:2.5) The tribal feeling was expressed in these early mammals in a more pronounced form than before. They were indeed very gregarious creatures, but became extremely quarrelsome on any occasion disturbing their usual life, and displayed a violent temper if driven to a fury. But their aggressiveness was useful: advanced groups without hesitation attacked their more primitive neighbors, which led to the gradual improvement of this species at the expense of selection. They soon came to dominate the non-large creatures of this region, with the result that very few of their smaller non-carnivorous ape-like tribes survived.

Point 4. After 70 generations, the ancestors of the next important link in human evolution suddenly diverged
(62:2.6) These small energetic animals bred and spread throughout the Mesopotamia peninsula for a thousand years, constantly improving their physical type and general intelligence. And exactly seventy generations after the appearance of this new tribe, the progenitor of which was the superior Lemur type, a new epochal event took place: the sudden separation of the progenitors of the next important link in the evolution of man on Urantia.

Item C. Destruction
1. The intermediate progenitors of man destroyed all the early progenitors
(62:3.4) When this new and more developed group became numerous, a war broke out, a merciless war. And when the terrible battle was over, none of their ancestors-the ones who came before the early mammals-remained alive. The offshoot of the less numerous but stronger and more intelligent creatures survived at the expense of their ancestors.

Point III. Intermediate Ancestors of Man

Point A. Occurrence and characteristics
Point 1. Birth of twins in the tribe of the intermediate ancestors of man
(62:3.1) In the initial stage of the development of the early mammals, in a tree-top dwelling, one of the best pairs of these mobile creatures gave birth to twins, a male and a female. Compared to their ancestors, these were truly beautiful little creatures. The almost complete absence of fur was not a disadvantage, since they lived in a warm and even climate.

Point 2. Physical characteristics of the intermediate ancestors of man
(62:3.2) When these children grew up, they were a little over four feet tall. In every way they were greater than their parents; their legs were longer and their arms shorter. The almost completely opposable big toe was about as well adapted to a variety of activities as the big toe of modern man. They were upright walkers, and their feet were almost as adapted for locomotion as those of the later races of man.

Point B. Instincts, emotions and habits
Point 1. The intermediate ancestors of man became a threat to his end
(62:3.5) From that time this being became a threat to his end, remaining in it for nearly fifteen thousand years [or six hundred generations]. By this time, all the huge predators of previous eras had already disappeared. The large animals of these regions were not carnivorous, and the large representatives of the cat family - lions and tigers - had not yet penetrated this particularly sheltered area. And therefore, gaining courage, the intermediate ancestors of man subjugated the whole corner of creation.

Point 2. Life expectancy increased to 25 years, rudimentary human traits appeared
(62:3.6) These intermediate mammals were in every way superior to their ancestors. Even their potential lifespan increased to approximately twenty-five years. A number of rudimentary human traits appeared in the new species. In addition to the dispositions inherited from their ancestors, these intermediate mammals were capable of expressing disgust in some repulsive situations. Moreover, the instinct for concealment was well expressed in them; they hid food for later use and took great delight in collecting smooth round river stones, as well as certain types of round stones suitable for projectiles for defense or attack.

Point 3. Mental endowment and social organization of the intermediate ancestors of man

(62:3.3) Their brain was inferior to that of man and of smaller size, but far superior to that of their ancestors and comparatively larger. The twins immediately displayed superior mental abilities and soon headed the entire tribe of early human ancestors, creating primitive forms of social organization and economic division of labor. These brother and sister entered into matrimonial relations, and soon twenty-one children were born to them, each of whom closely resembled their parents, were over six feet tall, and in every respect surpassed their predecessors. This new group forms the nucleus of the intermediate mammals.

Point 4. The intermediate ancestors of man had building inclinations
(62:3.7) These intermediate mammals were the first to show marked building tendencies, as evidenced by their rivalry in the construction of both tree-dwellings and multi-tunneled subterranean shelters serving as shelters. They became the first mammal species to secure their safety through both arboreal and underground shelters. In general, they abandoned trees as places of permanent habitation: they lived on the ground during the day and slept in the trees at night.

Point 5. On the edge of destruction
(62:3.8) In time, the natural increase in their numbers led to dangerous rivalry for food and sexual partners. All this spilled over into a series of internecine wars that nearly wiped out the entire species. These battles continued until only one group of less than a hundred specimens remained alive. Peace reigned again, and this sole surviving tribe once more made their sleeping quarters in the tree-tops, and resumed a normal, semi-peaceful existence.

Point IV. Primates

Point A. Occurrence and characteristics
Point 1. Birth of twins in a tribe of primates
(62:3.10) Soon after the completion of their dwelling, this battle-hardened couple became the happy parents of twins, the most important and significant animals that had ever appeared in the world up to that time, for they were the first representatives of the new animals - Primates representing the next important step in pre-human evolution.

Item 2. Physical Characteristics
(62:4.1) Let us return to the birth of the twins, the male and the female, the two most advanced members of the tribe of the intermediate progenitors of man. These most extraordinary baby animals had even less fur than their parents, and at a very early age they preferred to walk upright. While their ancestors always learned to walk on their hind legs, these twin primates adopted a vertical position from the start. They reached a height of about five feet, and their heads became larger than those of the other members of the tribe. The twins soon learned to communicate with each other using signs and sounds, but were never able to teach their fellow tribesmen to understand these new symbols.

Item 3. Battles in Mesopotamia
(62:4.2) At about the age of 14 they left the tribe, going west to start a family and start the new primate species. And these new creatures were quite aptly named Primates, for they were the direct and immediate animal ancestors of the human family itself.
(62:4.3) Thus the primates settled in the region which lay on the western coast of the Mesopotamian peninsula, which at that time jutted into the southern sea, and the less intelligent and closely related tribes inhabited the region at the extremity of the peninsula, as well as along its eastern coast.

Point 4. Improvement of primate characteristics
(62:4.4) Primates were more like man and less like animals than the intermediate ancestors of man. The skeletal proportions of this new species closely resembled those of primitive human races. In them the human type of arms and legs were fully formed, and these creatures could walk and even run no worse than their later human descendants. They largely abandoned the arboreal lifestyle, though they continued to return to the trees at night for safety reasons, as - like their ancestors - they were extremely fearful. They increasingly used their hands, which greatly developed innate mental abilities, but their intelligence could not yet be called human.
(62:4.5) Although the world of feeling of the primates differed little from the emotions of their ancestors, in all their tendencies they more closely resembled man. They were indeed magnificent and highly developed animals, reaching sexual maturity at the age of approximately ten years and having a natural life expectancy of about forty years. This means that they would have reached this age if they had died of natural causes, but in that distant time it was rare for an animal to die of natural causes - the struggle for existence was too intense.

Point B. Origin of the Human Race on Urantia

Point 1. Primates gave rise to the first modern humans.
(62:4.6) And, behold, traversing the path of development in the course of nearly nine hundred generations, which spans approximately twenty-one thousand years from the origin of the early progenitors of man, the primates suddenly gave birth to two amazing creatures-the first true human beings.
(62:4.7) Thus the early mammals, descended from the North American lemur type, produced the intermediate progenitors of man, who in turn gave birth to the world's higher primates, who became the immediate ancestors of the primitive human race. Primates were the last most important unit in the evolution of man, but in less than five thousand years not a single representative of these unusual tribes remained alive.

Item V. Summary

Point A. Evolutionary history of pre-human milk-drinkers
Point 1. Sudden mutations
(61:6.1) An important event during this ice age was the evolution of primitive man. A little to the west of India, in the area that is now under water, among the descendants of the ancient North American type of lemur that migrated to Asia, the mammals that became the early ancestors of man suddenly appeared. These small animals walked primarily on their hind legs and possessed large brains relative to their size and compared to the brains of other animals. In the seventieth generation, a new, more developed group suddenly separated from this type of living beings. These new mammals - the intermediate ancestors of man, who were almost twice the height of their ancestors and who possessed a proportionally enlarged brain - had barely established themselves when suddenly the third most important mutation occurred: the primates appeared. [At this time, as a result of the reverse development of the intermediate ancestors of man, the anthropoid apes appeared; from that time to this day the human branch has progressed at the expense of gradual evolution, while the apes have remained unchanged and even somewhat regressed.]

Point 2. Dangers threatening the course of evolution
(62:3.9) You are hardly capable of imagining how close to complete extinction your predecessors were at times. If the leap of the frog, the progenitor of all mankind, in one particular case had turned out to be five centimeters shorter, the whole course of evolution would have been completely different. The lemur-like mother of the early progenitors of man came close to death no fewer than five times before giving birth to the father of the new, more advanced race. But the most dangerous was the lightning strike that hit the tree on which the future mother of the primate twins was sleeping. The two parents, belonging to the genus of intermediate human ancestors, received shock and severe burns; three of their seven children were killed by lightning. These evolving animals had almost superstitious feelings. This pair, whose tree was struck by lightning, headed the more progressive group of the intermediate ancestors of man; and following their example, more than half the members of the tribe left that place and moved to a distance of more than two miles, where they proceeded to build new dwellings in the trees and new shelters on the ground-temporary shelters in case of sudden danger.

Point B. Origin of the apes
Point 1. Separation of the primate branches
(62:3.11) Simultaneously with the birth of these primate twins, twins were also born to another pair, an extremely backward male and female of the intermediate human ancestor tribe, low in both mental and physical development. These twins, male and female, were indifferent to conquests; they were only interested in food, and since they did not feed on flesh, they soon lost interest in hunting for prey. These retarded twins gave rise to modern apes. Their descendants moved into the warmer southern regions with mild climates and an abundance of tropical fruits, where they continued to exist much as they do today, except for those offshoots that interbred with the early gibbon and ape types, resulting in on which they degenerated to a considerable extent.

Point 2. Relationship between man and ape
(62:3.12) From this it is clearly seen that man and ape are connected only by their common descent from the intermediate ancestors of man, the tribe in which the simultaneous birth and subsequent separation of two pairs of twins took place: the primitive pair gave rise to the modern baboon type , baboons, chimpanzees and gorillas; the superior couple was destined to continue the evolutionary line of which man himself became the crown.
(62:3.13) The modern type of man and the apes indeed sprang from the same tribe and species, but not from the same parents. The ancestors of man descended from more advanced lines of selected remnants of the tribe of intermediate human ancestors, while modern apes [except for some earlier types of lemurs, gibbons, monkeys and other ape-like creatures] are descendants of the most primitive pair of this a group of intermediate progenitors of man, saved only at the expense of the fact that during the last fierce battle of their tribe, these two creatures hid for

two whole weeks in the underground shelter with a supply of food, and came out only when the clashes they had long since graduated.