

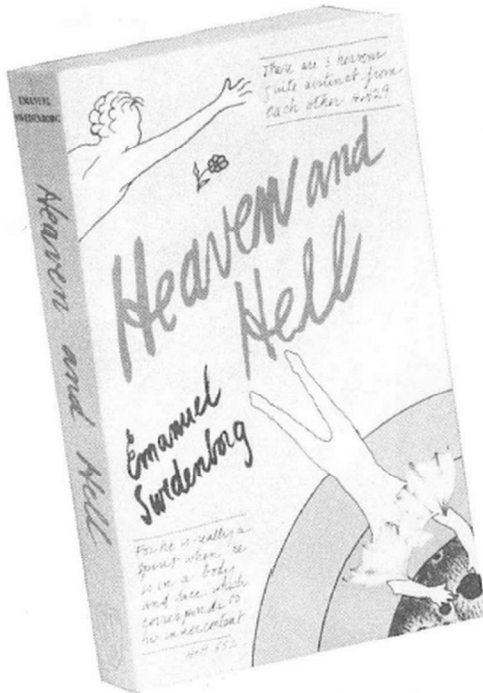
the only living man
to walk in the world of spirits,

the angels called him

THE STRANGE STRANGE ONE



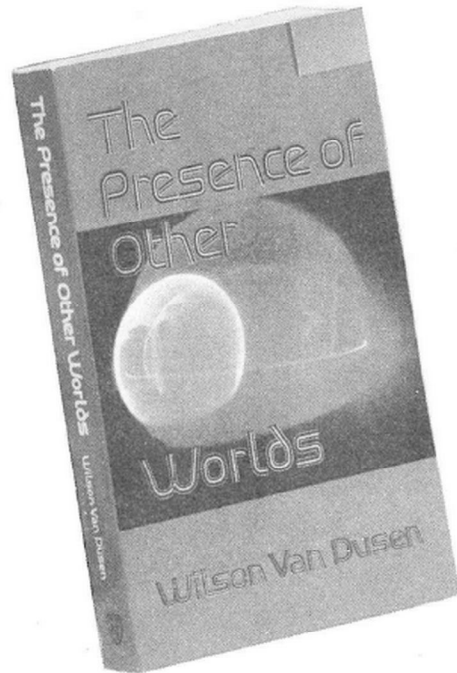
SWEDENBORG



HEAVEN AND HELL

by Emanuel Swedenborg (527 pages, paper)

In this astonishing book, recognized by many as his greatest work, Emanuel Swedenborg reveals the most comprehensive description of life hereafter ever given to man—based on his actual experiences in the spiritual realm. In these pages Swedenborg describes a highly organized heavenly life, universal speech, our entry into the next world, sacred and profane love, the world of the spirits, and many other matters, enhancing our understanding of both life here and hereafter. The claims of HEAVEN AND HELL have stirred controversy for more than two centuries, yet the author's credentials and character indisputably belong to one of the great and most brilliant original individuals of all time. Here is Swedenborg's classic vision, a gift that will be treasured by all who seek enlargement and illumination of the Christian concept of life after death.



THE PRESENCE OF OTHER WORLDS

by Dr. Wilson Van Dusen (256 pages, paper)

This volume is the account of the monumental journey of Swedenborg through the depth of his own mind to spiritual worlds beyond and back again. It is a record of the Swedish philosopher's findings by a versatile and energetic practising psychologist who has had the 'other world' experience himself described by Swedenborg.

Noted psychologist Carl Rogers, writing about PRESENCE OF OTHER WORLDS states, 'here is an account of a scientific genius, dead two centuries who having mastered all that science knew of the external world, went on to a daring, often frightening, exploration of the inner world. Van Dusen, having travelled some of the same distance himself, presents Swedenborg sympathetically in the man's own terms. An exciting thought-provoking book which will appeal especially, I believe to those persons who are not afraid of the inner psychic world.'

EMANUEL SWEDENBORG

BY CHRISTOPHER HASLER AND JOHN KACZMARCZYK



STOCKHOLM, 1688, THE HOME OF ONE JESPER SWEDBERG, COURT CHAPLAIN, AND HIS WIFE, SARA.



MY NAME, BY THE WAY, IS ERIC BENZELIUS, LATER IN THE LIFE OF OUR HERO, HE AND I BECAME GOOD FRIENDS.



HOWEVER, I AM GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF, ON JANUARY 29TH, 1688, SARA GAVE BIRTH TO A SON WHO WAS NAMED EMANUEL.

THE NAME OF MY SON MEANS 'GOD-WITH-US'. THAT HE MAY ALWAYS REMEMBER GOD'S PRESENCE.

EMANUEL HAD AN OLDER SISTER, ANNA, AND THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS WERE TO BRING THEM TWO BROTHERS AND THREE SISTERS.



STOCKHOLM WAS AN IMPORTANT CITY AND PORT. IT NARROW STREETS AND BUSY SQUARES WERE A SOURCE OF UNENDING INTEREST TO EMANUEL AND ANNA.



WHEN EMANUEL WAS FOUR, THE FAMILY MOVED TO THE QUIET RURAL TOWN OF VINGAKER, WHERE JESPER WAS APPOINTED PASTOR. THE TWO CHILDREN REVELLED IN THE FREEDOM OF THE FIELDS AND FARMYARDS.



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, JESPER WAS MADE A PROFESSOR AT UPSALA UNIVERSITY. A NEW STONE HOUSE WAS BUILT FOR THE FAMILY IN UPSALA. WHEN IT WAS FINISHED, JESPER INVITED UPSALA'S POOR PEOPLE TO FEAST THERE WHILE HE AND THE FAMILY WAITED ON THEM.

THE FAMILY QUICKLY SETTLED AMONGST UPSALA'S GRAND BUILDINGS, EMANUEL BEGAN HIS SCHOOLING AND JESPER BECAME DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY. SADLY, IN 1696 WHEN EMANUEL WAS EIGHT, SARA DIED, SHE WAS ONLY THIRTY.

WHEN EMANUEL WAS FOURTEEN, THE FAMILY WAS WOKEN ONE NIGHT BY A GREAT AND TERRIBLE FIRE. THEY HURRIED FROM THEIR BEDS INTO THE BURNING STREET TO SEE MUCH OF THE BEAUTIFUL TOWN, INCLUDING THEIR HOME, DESTROYED.

YOUNG ANNA COULD NOT LOOK AFTER SUCH A LARGE FAMILY, WITHIN A YEAR JESPER MARRIED AGAIN. HIS SECOND WIFE WAS ALSO CALLED SARA.

EMANUEL STUDIED PHILOSOPHY BUT LEARNT MUCH MORE.

EMANUEL RECEIVED HIS DEGREE IN 1709 AND WENT TO BRUNSBÖ FOR A YEAR...

SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRE, JESPER WAS MADE BISHOP OF SKARA AND MOVED TO BRUNSBÖ. J. ERIC, MARRIED ANNA AND PROVIDED A HOME WHERE EMANUEL COULD FINISH HIS SCHOOLING AND ENTER THE UNIVERSITY.

HIS INDUSTRIOUS MIND ENABLED HIM TO LEARN SEVERAL LANGUAGES, KINDLED AN INTEREST IN PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS. HE BECAME A PROFICIENT ORGANIST.

...MAKING PLANS TO JOURNEY TO ENGLAND TO IMPROVE HIMSELF IN PHYSICS, MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCE.

BISHOP JESPER GAVE HIM A SMALL ALLOWANCE TO FINANCE HIS TRAVELS. EMANUEL OFTEN COMPLAINED OF ITS SMALLNESS. IN 1710 HE SET OFF FOR LONDON.

WHEN EMANUEL LANDED IN LONDON HE WAS ARRESTED...

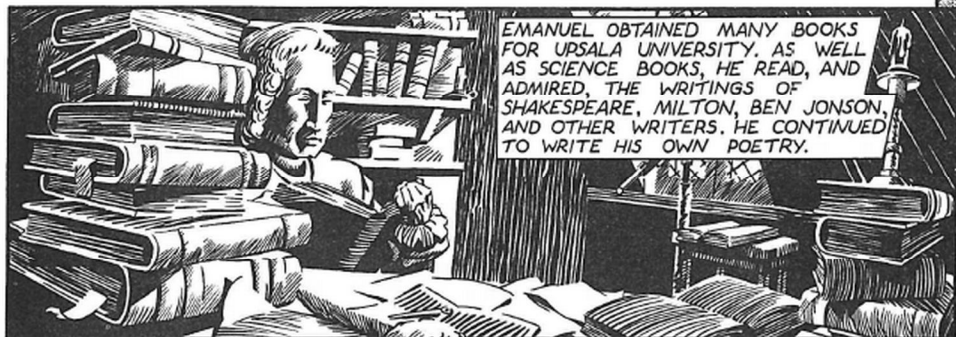
IT WAS AN EVENTFUL VOYAGE; THE SHIP NEARLY RAN ON TO A SANDBANK IN DENSE FOG, THEY WERE BOARDED BY PIRATES AND FIRED UPON BY AN ENGLISH SHIP THINKING THEM TO BE PIRATES!

HE SET ABOUT LEARNING ALL HE COULD ABOUT MATHEMATICS AND ASTRONOMY, SPENDING TWO YEARS IN LONDON AND OXFORD.

HE WROTE TO ME OFTEN, SAYING HOW HE VISITED CELEBRATED MATHEMATICIANS AND ASTRONOMERS...

...HE NARROWLY ESCAPED BEING HANGED FOR BREAKING QUARANTINE REGULATIONS IMPOSED AFTER PLAGUE HAD BROKEN OUT IN SWEDEN.

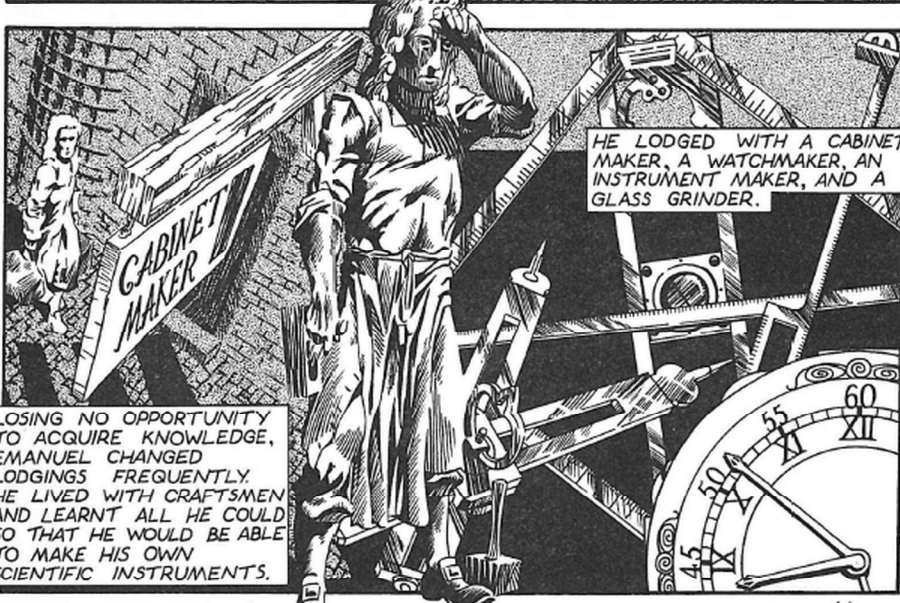
...ONE OF THESE WAS HALLEY, WHO LATER DISCOVERED THE FAMOUS COMET THAT BEARS HIS NAME.



EMANUEL OBTAINED MANY BOOKS FOR UPSALA UNIVERSITY. AS WELL AS SCIENCE BOOKS, HE READ, AND ADMIRERD, THE WRITINGS OF SHAKESPEARE, MILTON, BEN JONSON, AND OTHER WRITERS. HE CONTINUED TO WRITE HIS OWN POETRY.



HE OFTEN VISITED THE EMINENT ASTRONOMER, FLAMSTEED, IN GREENWICH. HE STUDIED FLAMSTEED'S METHODS FOR HIMSELF AND SENT UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION TO UPSALA UNIVERSITY.



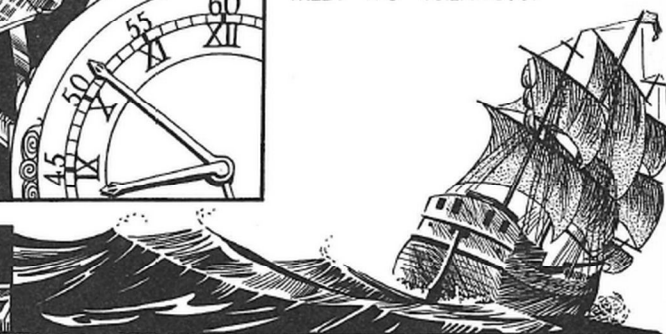
HE LODGED WITH A CABINET MAKER, A WATCHMAKER, AN INSTRUMENT MAKER, AND A GLASS GRINDER.

LOSING NO OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE, EMANUEL CHANGED LODGINGS FREQUENTLY. HE LIVED WITH CRAFTSMEN AND LEARNED ALL HE COULD SO THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE HIS OWN SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS.

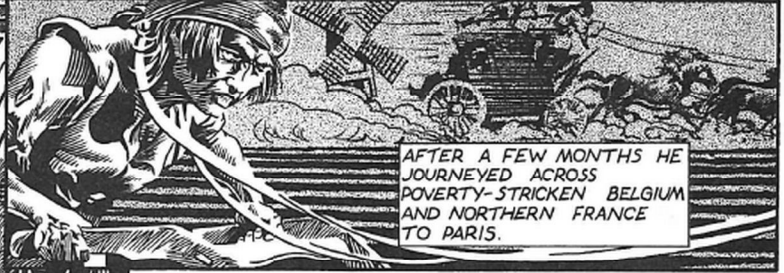
IN 1713 EMANUEL SAILED FOR HOLLAND, EAGER TO LEARN ALL HE COULD ABOUT THE COUNTRY, AND MEET ITS SCIENTISTS.



THROUGH PALMQVIST EMANUEL GAINED INTRODUCTIONS TO SEVERAL DUTCH SCIENTISTS.



HE SPENT A FEW WEEKS IN UTRECHT WITH THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR, PALMQVIST, A SCHOLAR AND MATHEMATICIAN. TOGETHER THEY WORKED ON PROBLEMS IN ALGEBRA.



AFTER A FEW MONTHS HE JOURNEYED ACROSS POVERTY-STRIKEN BELGIUM AND NORTHERN FRANCE TO PARIS.



REMAINING IN PARIS FOR NEARLY A YEAR, EMANUEL CONTINUED HIS STUDY OF SCIENCE, SCOURING THE CITY FOR BOOKS AND SCIENTIFIC PAPERS TO FEED HIS EVER INQUIRING MIND.



DURING HIS TRAVELS, EMANUEL WORKED ON HIS OWN INVENTIONS AND LEARNED THE ART OF ENGRAVING SO THAT HE COULD SEND HIS ACCURATE DRAWINGS OF HIS, AND OTHER PEOPLE'S, INVENTIONS.

AMONGST OTHER THINGS, HE PLANNED A WATER-CLOCK, A METHOD OF FINDING TERRESTRIAL LONGITUDE, A FLYING MACHINE AND AN UNDERWATER BOAT.



WE WORKED WITH CHRISTOPHER POLHEM, A FRIEND AND EMINENT ENGINEER. POLHEM WAS VERY FOND OF EMANUEL AND PROMISED HIM HIS DAUGHTER IN MARRIAGE, BECAUSE EMANUEL BECAME DEEPLY ATTACHED TO HER.

IN 1715 EMANUEL RETURNED TO SWEDEN, STAYING WITH ANNA AND ME IN STOCKHOLM. HE TOLD ME ALL HE HAD LEARNT IN HIS FOUR YEARS ABROAD.

I SAW EMANUEL TO BE A FINE SCIENTIST AND MATHEMATICIAN. WE DECIDED TO PUBLISH A JOURNAL OF INTEREST TO STUDENTS OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND MINING.

THIS, AND JESPER'S INFLUENCE, RESULTED IN KING CHARLES OFFERING EMANUEL THREE POSTS IN 1716. EMANUEL CHOSE TO JOIN THE COLLEGE OF MINES IN THE UNPAID POST OF EXTRAORDINARY ASSESSOR. THE COLLEGE'S BUSINESS WAS TO LOOK AFTER SWEDEN'S MINING INDUSTRY.

DAEDALUS HYPERBOREUS.



THE SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL, DAEDALUS HYPERBOREUS, WAS DEDICATED TO KING CHARLES XII, WHO TOOK GREAT INTEREST IN ITS ARTICLES.

POLHEM'S DAUGHTER WAS NOT ENDEARED TO EMANUEL AND HAD NO WISH TO MARRY HIM. HE SADLY RELINQUISHED HIS RIGHT TO HER HAND IN MARRIAGE AND VOWED NEVER AGAIN TO ENTER INTO ANY MARRIAGE ARRANGEMENT.

IN 1718 POLHEM AND EMANUEL WERE CALLED ON TO AID THE KING. HE WAS DETERMINED TO ATTACK THE NORWEGIAN FORTRESS TOWN OF FREDERICKSHALL.

TO AVOID THE PROTECTING DANISH FLEET, POLHEM AND EMANUEL DEVISED A PLAN TO TRANSPORT 8 VESSELS OVERLAND TO THE FJORD ON WHICH FREDERICKSHALL STOOD.

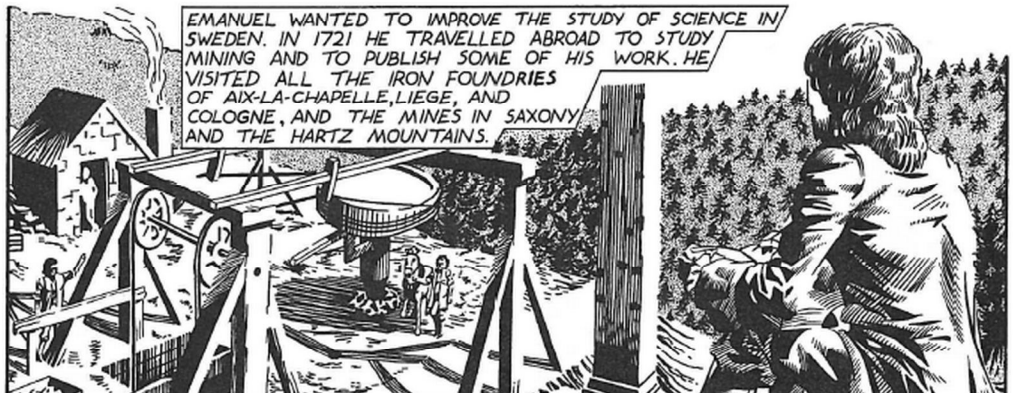
ON ROLLERS, WORKMEN DRAGGED 27 GALLEYS, 5 LARGE BOATS, AND A SLOOP 17 MILES ALONG ROADS, ACROSS FIELDS, PAST FARMS, AND INTO THE COLD WATERS OF THE FJORD.

THE LITTLE FLEET WAS ABLE TO SURPRISE, AND BEAT BACK, THE DANISH FLEET. ENABLING KING CHARLES TO BEGIN THE SIEGE OF FREDERICKSHALL.

KING CHARLES WAS KILLED DURING THIS SIEGE. QUEEN ULRICA ELEONORA SUCCEEDED HIM. EMANUEL BEGAN HIS WORK AT THE COLLEGE OF MINES AND CONTINUED TO PUBLISH DAEDALUS FOR SIX ISSUES.

EMANUEL SOUGHT TO LEARN EVERY PROCESS IN THE COPPER, IRON, AND SILVER PRODUCTION OF SWEDEN.

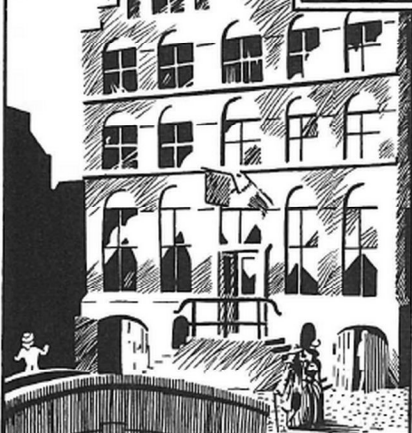
AT THIS TIME, QUEEN ULRICA ENNOBLED BISHOP JESPER AND CHANGED THE FAMILY NAME TO SWEDENBORG. EMANUEL WAS NOW ENTITLED TO ATTEND THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT, THE HOUSE OF NOBLES.



EMANUEL WANTED TO IMPROVE THE STUDY OF SCIENCE IN SWEDEN. IN 1721 HE TRAVELLED ABROAD TO STUDY MINING AND TO PUBLISH SOME OF HIS WORK. HE VISITED ALL THE IRON FOUNDRIES OF AIX-LA-CHAPELLE, LIEGE, AND COLOGNE, AND THE MINES IN SAXONY AND THE HARTZ MOUNTAINS.

HE DESCENDED THE MINES TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROCESS.

HE COLLECTED ANY INFORMATION OF USE TO SWEDEN'S MINES. HE WROTE WORKS ON IRON ORE, METALS, GEOLOGY, AND MINERALOGY.



IN LEIPZIG AND AMSTERDAM EMANUEL SUPERVISED THE PUBLICATION OF HIS BOOKS, AS WELL AS MINING WORKS. HE WROTE ABOUT PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, DOCK BUILDING, AND NEW METHODS OF FINDING LONGITUDE.



EMANUEL WAS OFTEN DISAPPOINTED WITH THE RECEPTION GIVEN TO HIS WORK AND HIS PATIENCE WAS OFTEN WORN THIN. HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND PEOPLE'S RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT SCIENTIFIC CHANGE.

ON RETURNING TO SWEDEN IN 1722, HE LAID PROPOSALS BEFORE THE BOARD OF MINES FOR IMPROVING COPPER AND STEEL PRODUCTION. THESE MET WITH LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT.

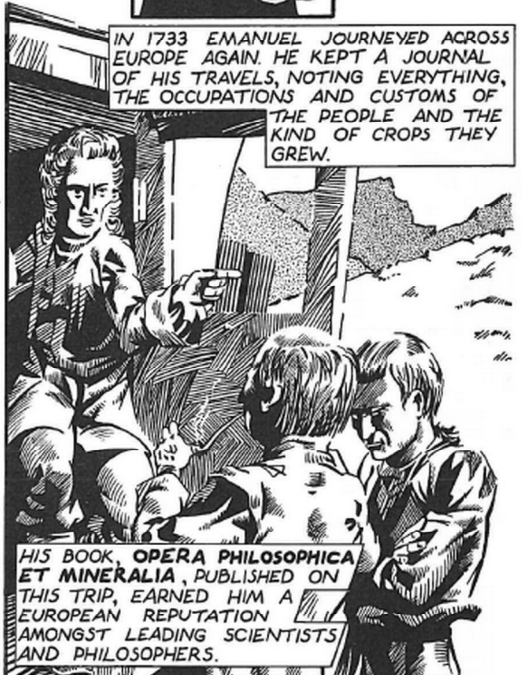


IN 1724, AT THE AGE OF 36, HE WAS GIVEN THE SALARIED POST OF ORDINARY ASSESSOR AT THE BOARD OF MINES...

...AND DEVOTED MUCH OF HIS TIME TO MINING WORK.



EMANUEL'S WIDE KNOWLEDGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES LED HIM TO BECOME INTERESTED IN HIGHER THINGS. HIS INVESTIGATIONS BEGAN TO BE OF A PHILOSOPHICAL NATURE.



IN 1733 EMANUEL JOURNEYED ACROSS EUROPE AGAIN. HE KEPT A JOURNAL OF HIS TRAVELS, NOTING EVERYTHING, THE OCCUPATIONS AND CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE KIND OF CROPS THEY GREW.

HIS BOOK, OPERA PHILOSOPHICA ET MINERALIA, PUBLISHED ON THIS TRIP, EARNED HIM A EUROPEAN REPUTATION AMONGST LEADING SCIENTISTS AND PHILOSOPHERS.



DURING THE NEXT SIX YEARS EMANUEL WENT ABROAD FREQUENTLY, DESCENDING MINES, SKETCHING FURNACES AND SUPERVISING THE PUBLICATION OF HIS WRITINGS.



ONE OF HIS MOST IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC WORKS, **PRINCIPIA**, WAS PUBLISHED IN DRESDEN. FROM THERE HE JOURNEYED TO THE BEAUTIFUL TOWN OF PRAGUE. EMANUEL ALWAYS TOOK GREAT INTEREST IN THE CHURCH, DISCUSSING **GOD** AND **THE BIBLE** WITH BISHOPS, PRIESTS AND MONKS.

EMANUEL OFTEN WROTE OF THE MAGNIFICENCE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICE, AND THE SPLENDOR OF THE CHURCHES THEMSELVES. PRAGUE'S NUMEROUS CHURCHES AND MONASTERIES WERE RICHLY DECORATED AND HELD GREAT TREASURES.



IN PARIS HE COULD NOT HELP BUT NOTICE THE IRONY OF THIS SITUATION.

THE IMMENSE WEALTH OF THE CHURCH WAS IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE ABJECT POVERTY OF THE PEOPLE. ALTHOUGH EMANUEL ALWAYS LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO OTHER PEOPLE, HE ALWAYS MADE HIS OWN JUDGEMENTS.

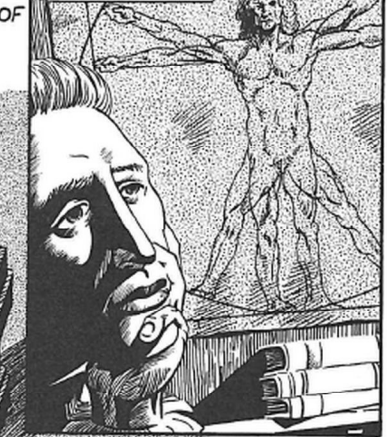
IN 1736 EMANUEL'S FATHER, JESPER, DIED. HE WAS NOT TO WITNESS THE FULL ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS SON'S LIFE.

OVER THE YEARS EMANUEL HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN HOW, AND WHY, THINGS WORK. IN **PRINCIPIA** HE PUT FORWARD A THEORY ON THE ORIGIN OF THINGS. NOW HE STROVE TO FATHOM THE MYSTERY OF THE SOUL, AND ITS RELATION TO THE BODY.

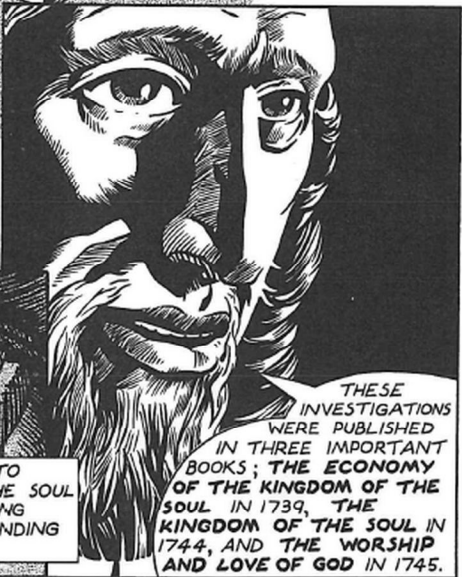


TO THIS END HE STUDIED ACKNOWLEDGED WORKS ON ANATOMY AND ATTENDED LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN HOLLAND, FRANCE AND ITALY.

DURING THESE STUDIES HE DISCOVERED THE PHYSICAL FUNCTIONS OF SEVERAL AREAS OF THE BRAIN.



EMANUEL WANTED TO PRODUCE BOOKS WHICH WOULD HELP MANKIND TO UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF CREATION, AND THE WAY **GOD** HAS PLANNED THE WORLD. HE REGARDED **THE SOUL** AS KING, AND **THE BODY** AS ITS KINGDOM...



... AND HE HOPED TO DISCOVER WHAT **THE SOUL** WAS LIKE BY GAINING DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF **THE BODY**.

THESE INVESTIGATIONS WERE PUBLISHED IN THREE IMPORTANT BOOKS; **THE ECONOMY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE SOUL** IN 1739, **THE KINGDOM OF THE SOUL** IN 1744, AND **THE WORSHIP AND LOVE OF GOD** IN 1745.

DURING THE WRITING OF THESE BOOKS, EMANUEL THEORISED THAT HE COULD LEARN NO MORE FROM SCIENTIFIC METHODS. INTUITION HAD TO BE THE ANSWER.

SINCE HE WAS 48 HE HAD EXPERIENCED THE SUPERNATURAL. FLASHES OF LIGHT AND FLAMES HE TOOK AS SIGNS FROM AN INTELLIGENCE NOT OF THIS WORLD.

HE WAS TORN BETWEEN RELIANCE ON SCIENTIFIC METHODS AND THE SPIRITUAL SENSATIONS KNOCKING ON HIS CONSCIOUSNESS.

NOW THESE SIGNS TOOK THE FORM OF DREAMS, WITH MORE DEFINITE MEANINGS. HIS TOTAL THOUGHTS HE SAW AS A PILE OF RAGS. VERMIN AS HIS FAULTS AND IMPURITIES.

INTUITION, MAN'S DEEPEST FEELINGS, INNER GUIDANCE, PERHAPS EVEN THE SOUL ITSELF TALKING.

HOWEVER, IN HOLLAND IN APRIL 1744...

THE ROOM FILLED WITH THE ROAR OF MANY WINDS. EMANUEL FELT AN INDESCRIBABLY HOLY PRESENCE WHICH SHOOK HIM AND THREW HIM ON TO HIS FACE!

ARE YOU FIT AND READY TO SERVE ME?

OH ALMIGHTY JESUS CHRIST MAKE ME WORTHY OF THY PRESENCE!

LORD, YOU KNOW IT BETTER THAN I.

DO WHAT YOU HAVE PROMISED!

EMANUEL NOW REALISED THAT HE MUST TRY TO OPEN HIS CONSCIOUSNESS TO THE LORD'S GUIDANCE. HE FOUND, HOWEVER, THE LOVE OF SELF, ESPECIALLY PRIDE, INTRUDED ON HIS ATTEMPTS.

IN HIS EMPTY ROOM HE WAS FIRST ADDRESSED BY A SPIRIT WARNING HIM NOT TO DEVOTE SO MUCH TIME TO HIS WORK.

HOLD YOUR TONGUE OR I WILL STRIKE YOU!

APRIL 1745, ALONE IN AN INN WHEN...

... DARKNESS GATHERED IN THE ROOM...

... HORRIBLE CRAWLING THINGS COVERED THE FLOOR.

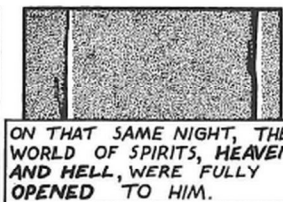
AS THE DARKNESS DISPERSED HE SAW HE WAS NO LONGER ALONE...

EAT NOT SO MUCH!

EMANUEL WAS FRIGHTENED, BUT THIS FEELING WAS GONE WHEN THE SAME MAN APPEARED IN HIS ROOM THAT NIGHT...



I AM THE LORD GOD, CREATOR AND REDEEMER OF THE WORLD. YOU ARE CHOSEN TO REVEAL TO MEN, THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF THE SCRIPTURES. I WILL TELL YOU WHAT TO WRITE.



ON THAT SAME NIGHT, THE WORLD OF SPIRITS, HEAVEN AND HELL, WERE FULLY OPENED TO HIM.

FROM THAT DAY HE DEVOTED ALL HIS TIME AND ENERGY TO SPIRITUAL THINGS AND A 3-YEAR STUDY OF THE SACRED SCRIPTURES. LITTLE BY LITTLE HE WAS LED INTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIDDEN MEANINGS, THESE HE CALLED CORRESPONDENCES.

IN 1747 HE RESIGNED FROM THE BOARD OF MINES IN ORDER TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS HOLY TASK. HE LEFT FOR HOLLAND WITH THE CONTINUED USE OF HALF HIS SALARY AND THE KING'S THANKS FOR 30 YEARS' DILIGENT SERVICE.



IN ORDER TO STUDY THE SCRIPTURES CAREFULLY HE LEARNT HEBREW AND GREEK. ALL TOO OFTEN HIS THOUGHTS LAPSED INTO WORLDLY MATTERS. THIS, HE FOUND, PREVENTED SPIRITS SPEAKING WITH HIM.

HE CONTINUED HIS STUDIES IN LONDON, UNRAVELLING THE CORRESPONDENCES OF THE SCRIPTURES. THESE CAN BE LIKENED TO THE PARABLES USED BY JESUS. BEHIND THE STORIES LAY A DEEPER SPIRITUAL MEANING. GRADUALLY, THROUGH SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE, THESE MEANINGS BECAME CLEAR TO EMANUEL.

SPIRITS VISITED EMANUEL AND HE COULD ROAM THE SPIRITUAL WORLD. THEY CALLED HIM UNDERLIG, THE UNACCOUNTABLE ONE. HE EVEN MET PEOPLE HE HAD KNOWN ON EARTH...

WORLDLY DELIGHTS ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO THE JOY OF HEAVEN. THE PEACE IS INDESCRIBABLE, FREE FROM BODILY DESIRES CARES AND WORRIES.



COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEAD INVOLVED GREAT DANGER. LEGIONS OF DEMONS PLOTTED AS HE SLEPT, SURROUNDING HIM WITH NIGHTMARES SO AS TO DESTROY HIS SOUL. THE LORD PROTECTS THOSE WHO HAVE LOVE AND FAITH, SO HE ENDURED VERY GREAT PAIN.

IN MARCH, 1748, HE EXPERIENCED SOMETHING CLOSE TO DEATH AND RESURRECTION. HE DESCRIBED THE SUPPRESSION OF HIS BREATHING AND HOW CELESTIAL ANGELS ARE PRESENT AT ONCE, GUARDING AGAINST THE APPROACH OF EVIL SPIRITS.



EMANUEL RECORDED THESE EXPERIENCES IN HIS SPIRITUAL DIARY WHICH HE INCORPORATED IN ARCANAE COELECTIA, PUBLISHED IN LONDON IN 1749.

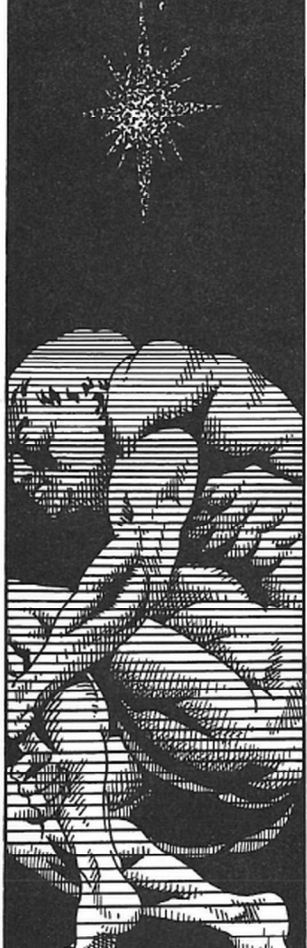


Arcana Coelestia,
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ARCANA COELECTIA MEANS HEAVENLY SECRETS. IT UNRAVELS THE SPIRITUAL MEANING BEHIND THE WORDS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT OF THE BIBLE.

THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION, FOR EXAMPLE, DEAL WITH FAR MORE THAN THE WAY THE UNIVERSE WAS MADE...

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH. THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM, EMPTY AND DARK.



IN INFANCY AND BEFORE MAN'S SPIRITUAL BIRTH THE MIND IS IN DARKNESS, WITHOUT GOODNESS OR TRUTH.

GOD SAID "LET THERE BE LIGHT"



MAN FIRST REALIZES THAT THERE ARE TRUTHS OF A HIGHER KIND.

ON THE SECOND DAY GOD SAID "LET THE WATERS BE DIVIDED, ABOVE AND BELOW THE EXPANSE". HE CALLED THE EXPANSE HEAVEN.



KNOWLEDGES IN THE MIND ARE DIVIDED BETWEEN THE HIGHER, WHICH ARE OF GOD, AND THE LOWER, WHICH ARE OF MAN AND THE WORLD.

ON THE THIRD DAY GOD SAID "LET THE DRY LAND APPEAR. LET IT SPROUT GRASS, HERBS AND TREES."



MAN'S FIRST ATTEMPTS TO DO GOOD COME FROM THE LORD. MAN THINKS IT COMES FROM HIMSELF SO HIS SPIRIT IS STILL DORMANT.

ON THE FOURTH DAY GOD CREATED THE SUN, MOON AND STARS TO RULE THE DAY AND THE NIGHT.



MAN BEGINS TO BE INSPIRED BY LOVE FROM GOD, THE SUN, AND GUIDED BY FAITH IN HIM, THE MOON. HE BEGINS TO REALIZE THAT HIS GOOD ACTIONS ARE INSPIRED BY GOD. HIS SPIRIT BEGINS TO BECOME ALIVE.

ON THE FIFTH DAY GOD CREATED CREEPING THINGS, BIRDS AND GIANT SEA CREATURES.



BECAUSE MAN ACTS FROM GOD'S LOVE AND FAITH AND NOT FROM HIMSELF, HE CAN TRULY SAID TO BE ALIVE. HIS NEWLY AWAKENED UNDERSTANDING GIVES RISE TO NEW, RATIONAL, THOUGHTS.

ON THE SIXTH DAY GOD CREATED ANIMALS.

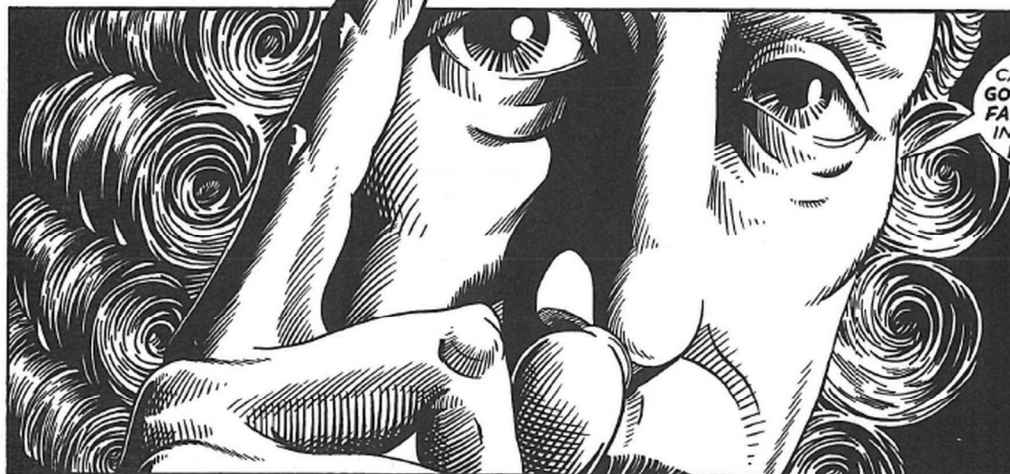


MAN'S SPIRITUAL AWARENESS GROWS, THE GENTLE ANIMALS OF GENUINE LIVING AFFECTIONS ARE BROUGHT FORTH. THE MIND NOW ACTS FROM LOVE, INSTEAD OF JUST FAITH OR OBEDIENCE.

FINALLY MAN IS CREATED IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD.



THE REGENERATED SOUL HAS WON THE VICTORY OVER THE EVILS OF SELFHOOD, A TRULY HUMAN BEING IS BORN.



MAN, LIKE THE EARTH, CAN PRODUCE NOTHING GOOD UNLESS GOD'S SEED OF FAITH AND LOVE IS SOWN IN HIM. WITHOUT IT HE DOES NOT BECOME HUMAN!

AFTER THE FIRST VOLUME OF *ARCANA COELESTIA* WAS PUBLISHED, EMANUEL WAS ADVISED TO REST. HE RETURNED TO SWEDEN IN 1750... HE PUBLISHED ABROAD FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS...



... THE ENGLISH WERE A VERY OPEN-MINDED PEOPLE, EMANUEL'S WRITINGS BROUGHT SCORN AND PERSECUTION FROM THE CHURCH. HIS RELATIONS THOUGHT HE WASTED HIS TIME AND ENERGY ON BOOKS THAT HARDLY ANYONE READ. HE WORKED BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE OF GOD RATHER THAN PERSONAL AMBITION, THUS HE WISHED TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

IN SWEDEN HE SUPERVISED THE REPAIR OF HIS HOUSE ON THE CLIFF OPPOSITE STOCKHOLM AND BUSIED HIMSELF WITH HIS EXTENSIVE GARDENS.



FRIENDS AND STUDENTS, KNOWING HIS INQUISITIVE NATURE, BROUGHT HIM MANY FOREIGN PLANTS FROM THEIR JOURNEYS.

HIS STUDIES NEEDED QUIET, BUT ASSESSOR SWEDENBORG WAS WIDELY KNOWN AND ENJOYED COMPANY. HE FREQUENTLY ENTERTAINED IN THE EXTENSIVE GARDENS.



IN THE SOLITUDE OF HIS SUMMER HOUSE, EMANUEL WROTE OF HIS MEETINGS WITH SPIRITS FROM OTHER WORLDS.



WHILE HIS BODY REMAINED ON EARTH, HIS SPIRIT WAS ALLOWED TO WANDER THROUGH SPACE AND SEE THINGS NEVER BEFORE SEEN BY MAN.

HIS BOOK *'EARTHS IN THE UNIVERSE'* DESCRIBES THE DIFFERENT RACES OF PEOPLE ON DIFFERENT WORLDS. HOWEVER DIFFERENT, THEY ALL HAD ONE THING IN COMMON, THEY ALL RECOGNIZED AND WORSHIPPED THE SAME LORD.



IN 1758 EMANUEL PUBLISHED HIS BEST KNOWN WORK: "HEAVEN AND ITS WONDERS AND HELL, FROM THINGS SEEN AND HEARD."

HE WAS ALLOWED TO EXPERIENCE DEATH AND IN THE BOOK DESCRIBES WHAT LIFE AFTER DEATH IS LIKE...

"MY BODILY SENSATIONS WERE DULLED BUT MY THOUGHTS AND MEMORY REMAINED."

"TWO ANGELS SAT AT MY HEAD TO WARD OFF EVIL SPIRITS. I FELT AS IF THE INTERIORS OF MY MIND WERE BEING PULLED FROM MY BODY."

"THE SPIRIT WORLD IS NOT UNLIKE THE EARTH, THE SPIRIT IS SOON RECOGNIZED BY FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. THERE IS MUCH REJOICING. SOMETIMES, WHERE TRUE LOVE IS NOT PRESENT, ARGUMENTS AND FIGHTS BREAK OUT."

"THE FUZZY LIGHT, THE ANGELS SAID, WAS THE ENTRANCE TO THE WORLD OF SPIRITS, NEITHER HEAVEN NOR HELL."

"IN THE FIRST STATE THE SPIRITS ACT THE SAME AS ON EARTH, THEIR ACTIONS CONCEAL THEIR INNER FEELINGS. THE SPIRITS CAN APPEAR TO BE GOOD BUT ARE EVIL INSIDE. THEY LISTEN EAGERLY TO WHAT IS SAID OF WORLDLY THINGS BUT NOT TO SPIRITUAL IDEAS."

"THE SPIRIT IS INSTRUCTED ABOUT THE SPIRIT WORLD. SPIRITS WANT TO KNOW IF THEY WILL GO TO HEAVEN. THERE ARE THREE STATES OF AWAKENING BEFORE A SPIRIT IS ALLOWED INTO HEAVEN..."

"THE SECOND STATE REVEALS THE TRUE NATURE OF THE SPIRITS. THEIR ACTIONS REFLECT THEIR THOUGHTS. THEY CAN NO LONGER CONCEAL THEIR EVIL. NO-ONE IS PUNISHED FOR EVILS DONE ON EARTH BUT EVIL SPIRITS SOON COMMIT SIMILAR EVILS."

"GOOD SPIRITS ARE NOT PUNISHED AS THEIR EVILS DO NOT RETURN. EVIL SPIRITS CAN NO LONGER STAND THE SOCIETY THEY ARE IN AND CAST THEMSELVES DOWN INTO HELL WHERE THEY CAN BE WITH KINDRED SPIRITS."

"ONLY THE GOOD SPIRITS ENTER THE THIRD STATE, ONE OF INSTRUCTION. MANY HAVE TO RID THEMSELVES OF THE FALSITIES OF THEIR RELIGIONS, THEY ARE INSTRUCTED BY CONVERTS FROM THEIR OWN RELIGION."



"AFTER THIS DIFFICULT STAGE THE SPIRITS ARE LED FROM THE LOWER EARTH, PAST ANGEL GUARDS INTO HEAVEN WHERE THEY ARE RECEIVED WITH JOY BY OTHER ANGELS. THE LORD GUIDES THEM TO SPIRITS WITH WHOM THEY WILL MIX EASILY."

ONCE, A MAN WHO HAD DIED WAS PERMITTED TO SEE HIS OWN FUNERAL THROUGH SWEDENBORG'S EYES.

DEATH IS NOT THE END, IT IS MERELY THE SPIRIT MOVING INTO A DIFFERENT WORLD.

I CAN SEE MY WIFE, MY RELATIONS, THE PASTOR, AND A COFFIN! WHAT IS HAPPENING?



THEY ARE BURYING YOUR EARTHLY BODY, YOU NO LONGER NEED IT, YOU ARE A SPIRIT NOW!

I CANNOT, MY FRIEND, THEY WOULD THINK ME MAD, OR MOCKING THEM. THOSE WHO WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH WILL EVENTUALLY FIND OUT.

THE PASTOR IS COMFORTING YOUR WIFE, SAYING YOU WILL RISE AGAIN ON THE DAY OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT.

BUT I AM ALREADY RESURRECTED WHY DOES THE CHURCH NOT TEACH THIS?

THERE IS GREAT IGNORANCE IN THE CHRISTIAN WORLD. EVERYONE'S JUDGEMENT IS WHEN THEY DIE AND IMMEDIATELY AWAKE IN THE SPIRITUAL WORLD.

MY WIFE IS CRYING BECAUSE SHE THINKS ME DEAD. TELL HER I AM GLAD TO BE HERE!

I HOPE SO; I MUST GO, I HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN. THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW AND WONDERFUL.

THERE IS NO GREAT CHANGE AFTER DEATH; PEOPLE ARE MERELY IGNORANT OF WHAT TAKES PLACE. THEY ARE ALSO IGNORANT OF THE NATURE OF HEAVEN ITSELF. I HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO REVEAL THE TRUTH...



...WHEN IN THE SPIRIT WORLD I WAS SHOWN MAN'S DIFFERENT IDEAS OF THE NATURE OF HEAVEN.

I SAW AN ANGEL BENEATH THE EASTERN HEAVEN. HE SOUNDED HIS TRUMPET TOWARDS THE NORTH, THE WEST, AND THE SOUTH. THEN HE FLEW DOWN NEAR TO WHERE I STOOD...

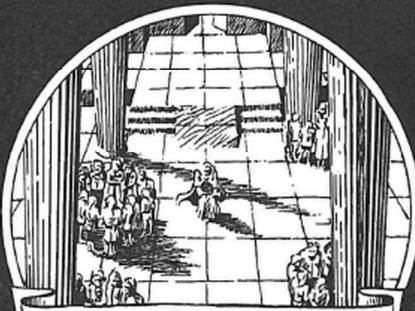
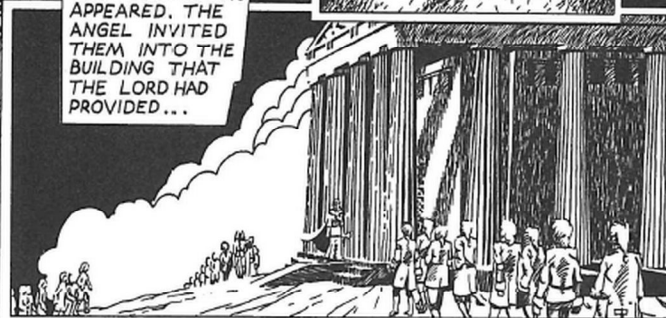


I HEARD THE SOUND OF YOUR TRUMPET. WHAT IS THE MATTER?



I AM SENT TO ASSEMBLE THE MOST LEARNED AND CLEAR-SIGHTED FROM THE CHRISTIAN WORLD. IN MY HEAVEN WE HAVE HEARD THAT CHRISTIANS KNOW NOT WHAT HEAVENLY JOY IS... WAIT A WHILE AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.

PRESENTLY TWO COMPANIES FROM EACH OF THE THREE QUARTERS APPEARED. THE ANGEL INVITED THEM INTO THE BUILDING THAT THE LORD HAD PROVIDED...



THE ANGEL ASKED THEM TO EXPLAIN THEIR IDEA OF HEAVENLY JOY - EACH COMPANY FORMED A RING TO CONSIDER THIS.

SOON EACH GROUP REPORTED THE IDEAS THEY HAD FORMED IN THE WORLD BEFORE THEIR DEATH:

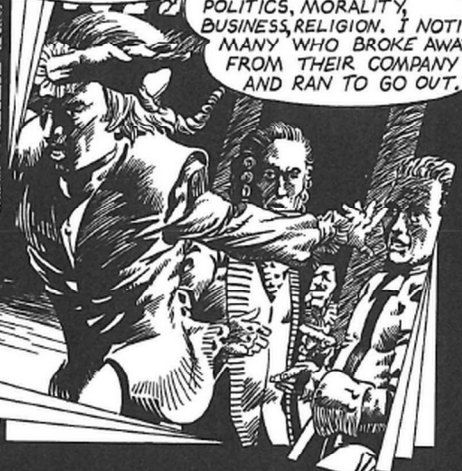
HEAVEN IS ATTAINED BY ENTRANCE - TO GAIN ADMISSION IS ALL IMPORTANT ;
IT IS WITTY AND INTELLIGENT CONVERSATION ;
IT IS FEASTING WITH ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB ;
IT IS LIVING IN PARADISE ;
IT IS HAVING UNBOUNDED WEALTH AND POWER ;
IT IS PERPETUAL WORSHIP AND PRAISE OF GOD .

THE ANGEL INVITED EACH COMPANY TO ENJOY THEIR HEAVEN. I FOLLOWED ONE COMPANY INTO A LARGE HOUSE...



IN EACH OF THE MANY ROOMS A DIFFERENT TOPIC WAS EAGERLY DISCUSSED...

...THE FAIR SEX, GOSSIP, POLITICS, MORALITY, BUSINESS, RELIGION. I NOTICED MANY WHO BROKE AWAY FROM THEIR COMPANY AND RAN TO GO OUT.



I FOLLOWED ONE OF THEM TO THE EAST DOOR WHERE SEVERAL SAD-FACED PEOPLE SAT...

WHY ARE YOU SO SAD?



AFTER THREE DAYS IN HERE WE CANNOT BEAR THE SOUND OF TALKING! WE WERE TOLD THAT ONE MAY ENTER THIS HOUSE, BUT NEVER LEAVE! WE MUST REMAIN AND ENJOY THE HEAVEN WE HAVE CHOSEN. WE ARE DESPERATE!



THIS IS THE DEATH OF YOUR IDEA OF HEAVENLY PLEASURES, THEY WERE LIFELESS FROM THE BEGINNING.

HEAVENLY JOY IS THE DOING OF SOMETHING USEFUL TO ONESELF AND OTHERS. SOCIAL GATHERINGS ARE ENJOYED IN HEAVEN— BUT ONLY AFTER USEFUL WORK. WORK AND RECREATION GO TOGETHER, PLEASURE ALONE BECOMES EMPTY AND WEARISOME!



AFTER SAYING THIS THE ANGEL OPENED THE DOOR... THE PEOPLE GLADLY RAN OUT AND WERE REFRESHED BY RETURNING TO THEIR OWN WORK AND FUNCTION



AFTER THIS THE ANGEL RETURNED TO THE ASSEMBLED WISE ONES, HE TOOK THOSE WHO THOUGHT HEAVENLY JOY LAY IN PARADISICAL DELIGHTS TO THEIR HEAVEN. I FOLLOWED...

... HE LED THEM THROUGH A LOFTY GATE AND ALONG WINDING PATHS FROM ONE GARDEN TO ANOTHER.

WITHIN THEY FOUND MANY PEOPLE, OLD AND YOUNG, AMONGST THE FLOWERS, FRUIT TREES, AND FOUNTAINS. SOME PLAYED, OTHERS CONVERSED AND JOKED...



SOME GATHERED AND ATE THE MANY FRUITS. OTHERS DANCED, SANG, OR RELAXED IN SMALL SUMMER HOUSES.

THEY CONTINUED FROM GROVE TO GROVE, THROUGH A MAZE OF AVENUES.

AT LAST THEY CAME UPON A NUMBER OF PEOPLE SITTING IN A ROSE GARDEN. THEIR FACES WERE DRAWN AND SORROWFUL.

WHY ARE YOU WEeping AND SO SAD?

THIS IS OUR SEVENTH DAY IN PARADISE. AT FIRST IT WAS WONDERFUL, BUT NOW WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!

WE TRIED TO FIND A WAY OUT, BUT HAVE ONLY GONE DEEPER INTO THIS MAZE.

WE WERE TOLD WE MUST STAY HERE FOR EVER BECAUSE THIS IS OUR HEAVEN. WE ARE SICK OF THE SIGHT OF IT!

I WILL LEAD YOU OUT. HAPPINESS DOES NOT COME FROM OUTER DELIGHTS, WHICH ARE LIFELESS AND SOON DULL THE SENSES. WE HAVE SUCH GARDENS IN HEAVEN FOR RECREATION BUT OUR HAPPINESS COMES FROM WITHIN.

IT COMES FROM OUR LOVE TO THE LORD WHO IS OUR FATHER. WE ARE HAPPY WHEN WE CAN DO SOMETHING FOR HIM. ACCORDING TO THE TRUTH HE TEACHES US, OUR LIFE THEN HAS PURPOSE!

OH THANK YOU! BUT WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN?

AGAIN THE ANGEL RETURNED TO THE HOUSE, TO THE WISE ONES WHO THOUGHT HEAVENLY JOY CAME FROM UNCEASING WORSHIP OF GOD...



... I JOINED THEM AND WE WERE TAKEN INTO A SMALL CITY. PRIESTS LED MANY PEOPLE INTO A CENTRAL TEMPLE AND INTO THE MANY SURROUNDING HOUSES WHICH THEY CALLED CHAPELS.

ONE OF THE PRIESTS GREETED US ON THE STEPS OF THE TEMPLE.



IT IS ORDERED THAT YOU REMAIN IN THE TEMPLE FOR THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS. AFTERWARDS YOU WILL BE TAKEN FROM CHAPEL TO CHAPEL, PRAYING AND REPEATING CHANTS. ABOVE ALL YOU MUST ONLY THINK AND SPEAK THAT WHICH IS HOLY AND RELIGIOUS!



GUARDS, PLACED AT THE DOORS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE REMAINED FOR THREE DAYS, WATCHED US AS WE WERE LED INTO THE CROWDED TEMPLE

THESE WORSHIPPERS HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT ADORATION FOR TWO DAYS. THEY HAVE PRAYED, CHANTED, AND LISTENED TO SERMONS. SEE FOR YOURSELVES THEIR GLORIFICATION OF GOD!



OUR MINDS ARE EXHAUSTED! OUR EARS ARE STUNNED! PUT AN END TO YOUR SERMON!



WE CAN TAKE NO MORE! THE VERY SOUND OF YOUR VOICE BEGINS TO DISGUST US!



LIKE A RAGING FLOOD THE CONGREGATION ROSE AS ONE BODY AND RUSHED TO LEAVE...

...BREAKING OPEN THE HEAVY DOORS THEY DROVE OFF THE GUARDS BY THE SHEER WEIGHT OF THEIR NUMBERS!

THE PRIESTS, HOWEVER, WERE NOT SO EASILY DISCOURAGED. THEY PURSUED AND CAUGHT THE DISPIRITED WORSHIPPERS.

SANCTIFY YOURSELVES! GLORIFY GOD! RETURN TO YOUR PRAYERS AND CHANTS!

LET US ALONE! PLEASE LET US ALONE!

EVEN AS THEY SPOKE, FOUR MEN IN SHINING WHITE ROBES APPEARED. NOW ANGELS, THEY HAD BEEN AN ARCHBISHOP AND THREE BISHOPS IN THE WORLD OF MEN.

THEY CALLED THE PRIESTS TO THE STEPS OF THE TEMPLE.

YOU PRIESTS CAN BE IN WORSHIP FOR DAYS ON END BECAUSE THIS IS YOUR OFFICE AND YOU GET HONOUR AND GLORY FOR IT. WITHOUT THESE REWARDS YOU COULDN'T REMAIN IN WORSHIP ANY LONGER THAN YOUR FLOCK.

WE SAW YOU FROM HEAVEN WITH THESE SHEEP. YOU FEED THEM TO INSANITY SINCE YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT REAL GLORIFICATION OF GOD IS.

GOD IS PRAISED BY LOVING SERVICE, BY SINCERE AND FAITHFUL ATTENTION TO ONE'S WORK. FOR THIS IS THE FRUIT OF LOVE TO GOD AND TO ONE'S NEIGHBOUR.

THE LORD CLEARLY TAUGHT THIS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL - "BY THIS MY FATHER IS GLORIFIED, THAT YOU BEAR MUCH FRUIT, AND SO PROVE TO BE MY DISCIPLES" 15:8

RELEASE THESE POOR PEOPLE WHO, IN THEIR IGNORANCE, COULD ONLY THINK OF HEAVENLY JOY AS PERPETUAL WORSHIP OF GOD. LET THEM COME AND GO AS THEY PLEASE.

I ASSURE YOU THAT WHAT I HAVE DESCRIBED IS NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH. THESE THINGS WERE SEEN BY ME IN THE WORLD OF SPIRITS... THAT SUCH THINGS EXIST IN THE OTHER WORLD IS CLEARLY EVIDENT FROM WHAT THE APOSTLE JOHN SAW, HEARD, AND DESCRIBED IN THE BIBLE'S BOOK OF REVELATION.

IN THE SPIRITUAL WORLD HE ALSO MET SPIRITS FROM DIFFERENT EARTHLY RACES AND RELIGIONS. THEIR DIFFERENCES WERE DEEP AND HE SAW EACH NATION TO HAVE PARTICULAR GOOD QUALITIES.

THE ENGLISH, BECAUSE OF THEIR FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND WRITING, HAVE A FREEDOM OF THINKING. THEY ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT NEW AND DIFFERENT IDEAS.



THE GERMANS ARE NOT SUCH FREE THINKERS. THEY HAVE GOOD MEMORIES AND A DEEP RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY. THEY LIKE TO QUOTE FROM THE BOOKS OF THE MASTERS.

THE AFRICANS, WHO WERE TREATED LIKE ANIMALS IN THE WORLD AND SOLD AS SLAVES, ARE THE MOST BELOVED IN HEAVEN...



...THEY ACCEPT THE LIFE OF HEAVEN MORE READILY THAN OTHERS. THEY SURPASS OTHER RACES IN THEIR AFFECTIONATE NATURE AND PERCEPTION.

PAGANS ARE MORE HUMBLE AND OBEIDENT THAN MANY FROM CHRISTIAN NATIONS. AT FIRST THEY WORSHIP THEIR IDOLS BUT IN THE LIGHT OF HEAVEN THEY REALIZE THAT THE IDOLS ONLY REPRESENT GOD'S PRESENCE AMONGST THEM. THEY FORGET THEIR IDOLS AND LOOK TO THE LORD ALONE.



THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD. HE GUIDES ALL PEOPLE TOWARDS HEAVEN, WHATEVER THEIR RELIGION, IF THEY ARE WILLING TO FOLLOW THE TRUTH AS THEY UNDERSTAND IT.

GERMANY, 1760. IMMANUEL KANT, AN INFLUENTIAL PHILOSOPHER OF THE TIME...

TELL US HERR KANT, DO YOU BELIEVE THESE REMARKABLE TALES OF THIS SWEDENBERG'S ABILITY TO TALK TO THE DEAD?

THERE ARE MANY STORIES OF HIS SEERSHIP. I HAVE MADE FULL ENQUIRIES THROUGH REPUTABLE PERSONS AND I FEEL ASSURED OF THE TRUTH OF THESE THREE EXAMPLES...

IN GOTHENBURG SWEDENBERG WAS DINING WITH FRIENDS. AT 6 O'CLOCK HE BECAME PALE AND ALARMED...



FIRE HAS BROKEN OUT AT THE SODERMALM!



IT IS SPREADING FAST!



MY FRIENDS HOUSE IS IN ASHES!

MY OWN HOUSE IS IN DANGER!

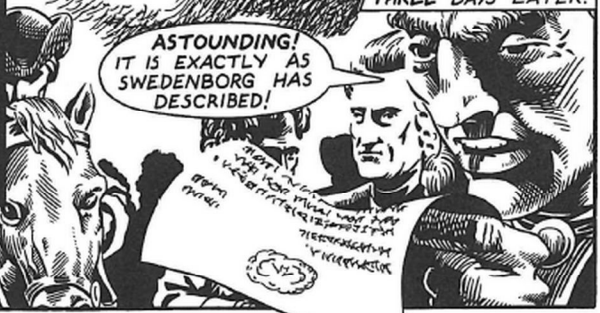
AT 8 O'CLOCK...

THANK GOD! THE FIRE IS OUT, THE THIRD DOOR FROM MY HOUSE!



SWEDENBERG'S REVELATIONS SPREAD THROUGH THE CITY. EVERYONE EAGERLY AWAITED THE MESSENGER FROM STOCKHOLM WHO ARRIVED THREE DAYS LATER!

ASTOUNDING! IT IS EXACTLY AS SWEDENBERG HAS DESCRIBED!



ANOTHER SENSATIONAL EPISODE CONCERNED A BILL PRESENTED TO THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR'S WIDOW BY A GOLDSMITH.



I CANNOT FIND THE RECEIPT FOR THE 25,000 GULDERS, MISTER SWEDENBERG. IF, AS PEOPLE SAY, YOU CONVERSE WITH SOULS, PERHAPS YOU WILL ASK MY HUSBAND ABOUT THE SILVER SERVICE.



A FEW DAYS LATER IN THE
WORLD OF SPIRITS...

... THIS CAUSES
YOUR WIFE GREAT ANXIETY
MISTER AMBASSADOR.

I WILL GO HOME
THIS VERY EVENING
AND LOOK INTO IT.



WHEN SWEDENBORG
CALLED NEXT DAY
TO SAY HE HAD
SPOKEN TO THE
AMBASSADOR...

OH MISTER
SWEDENBORG! MY HUSBAND
SPOKE TO ME IN A DREAM LAST
NIGHT. THE RECEIPT WAS HIDDEN
BEHIND A DRAWER JUST
AS HE SAID!

THESE STORIES BECAME
THE SENSATION OF
THE LAND. QUEEN
ULRIKA, AFTER BEING
ASSURED THAT
SWEDENBORG WAS
NOT INSANE, ASKED
TO MEET HIM.



IS IT A SCIENCE
THAT ALLOWS
YOU TO SPEAK
TO THE DEAD?

I CAN ONLY SPEAK
TO THOSE I HAVE KNOWN
OF, TO PEOPLE I CAN
FORM AN IDEA OF.

I WISH YOU
TO UNDERTAKE A
COMMISSION CONCERNING
MY RECENTLY
DECEASED BROTHER.

NO, IT IS A GIFT
FROM THE LORD.

THE QUEEN
LOOKED PALE AND
ABOUT TO FAINT...

NO ONE
BUT MY BROTHER
COULD HAVE TOLD
YOU THAT!

UPON RETURNING TO
COURT TWO WEEKS
LATER, SWEDENBORG
ASKED TO SPEAK TO
THE QUEEN ALONE.

THIS MATTER CAN OFFER NO
CONCLUSIVE PROOF. I ONLY INVESTIGATED
TO SATISFY MY FRIENDS' CURIOSITY.
WHILE THE STORIES COME FROM
REPUTABLE SOURCES, I CONSIDER
THIS MAN, SWEDENBORG, A
MERE DREAMER.

IN HIS TRAVELS THROUGH DIFFERENT COUNTRIES EMANUEL SAW THAT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH WAS ONLY CONCERNED WITH INCREASING ITS OWN POSITION OF POWER.

... PARDONS FOR SINS COULD BE BOUGHT BY THOSE WHO COULD PAY. RELICS, REQUIRED FOR THE CONSECRATION OF CHURCHES, COULD BE PURCHASED IN ROME.

ROME DEVELOPED RITUALS WHICH BROUGHT IN RICHES BUT NOT BENEFITS TO ORDINARY PEOPLE...



THE REFORMED CHURCH THOUGHT GOOD LIVING WAS NOT ESSENTIAL. SALVATION ONLY NEEDED THE BELIEF THAT CHRIST DIED ON THE CROSS FOR MAN.



SCIENCE WAS ASKING QUESTIONS AND WANTING RATIONAL ANSWERS. THE CHURCH OFFERED NONE, IT DEMANDED BELIEF WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING.

HE OPENS WITH THE VISION OF JESUS IN POWER AND GLORY APPEALING TO THE CHURCHES TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE END...

THEN A THRONE OF JUDGEMENT IS SET UP IN HEAVEN AND THE STATE OF MANKIND IS EXAMINED IN VIVID IMAGERY [CH.4] WHEREVER THE SOUND OF TRUTH AND THE LIGHT OF HEAVEN PENETRATE THEY EXPOSE DEVASTATION, CORRUPTION AND CRUELTY. [CH.8]

HUMAN AGGRESSION AND THE DESIRE TO GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING IS PRESENTED IN THE LIKENESS OF A GREAT RED DRAGON.



PEOPLE TURNED TO THE LAST BOOK OF THE BIBLE, THE BOOK OF REVELATION WHICH DESCRIBES WHAT THE APOSTLE JOHN SAW WHEN HE WAS 'IN SPIRIT.'

...EVERYONE WILL BE REWARDED ACCORDING TO HIS LIFE AND WORKS. [CH.1] [CH.2-3]

GREED AND THE PASSION FOR POWER ARE PRESENTED AS THE SCARLET WOMEN OF BABYLON. THEY ARE CEASELESSLY TRYING TO DESTROY THE MESSAGE OF LOVE AND JUSTICE TAUGHT BY JESUS CHRIST. [CH.12,17]

EMANUEL REALIZED THAT THESE PROPHECIES OF JUDGEMENT AND THE END OF THE WORLD WERE FULFILLED DURING HIS OWN LIFE-TIME, IN THE WORLD OF THE SPIRITS!...



... HERE, AFTER DEATH, EVERY MAN REVEALS HIS TRUE CHARACTER. WHOLE CHURCHES AND THEIR LEADERS WERE EXAMINED IN THIS WAY TO SEE HOW WELL THEY HAD BEEN LEADING THEIR FLOCK TO GOODNESS AND PEACE.



THEY FAILED TO DO THIS AND THEIR FALSE DOCTRINES HID THE WARMTH AND LIGHT OF GOD'S SMILE LIKE A DARK CLOUD.



WHEN THIS CONFUSION IS EXPOSED, PEOPLE CAN START THINKING FOR THEMSELVES AND FEEL FREE TO EXAMINE EVERYTHING THEY HAD BEEN TOLD TO BELIEVE WITHOUT QUESTION.

IN THE SPIRIT WORLD, EMANUEL CAME ACROSS A MAGNIFICENT GLASS TEMPLE. OVER THE DOOR HE SAW THE WORDS:



THEY MEANT: "NOW IT IS ALLOWED TO ENTER, WITH UNDERSTANDING, INTO THE MYSTERIES OF FAITH.



INSIDE LAY THE WORD, OPEN, SIGNIFYING THE NEW SPIRIT OF ENQUIRY AND FREEDOM OF THE NEW AGE WHICH THE LORD HAD FORETOLD AND SWEDENBORG HAD ANNOUNCED.

HE SAW THE BOOKS HE PUBLISHED NOT AS HIS OWN, BUT AS COMING FROM THE NEW SPIRIT, AS PART OF THE LORD'S SECOND COMING.



AS WELL AS THE BEAUTY OF THE SPIRIT WORLD, I HAVE ALSO WITNESSED ITS UGLY SIDE... HELL!

THE GATES OF THE MANY DIFFERENT HELLS ARE DARK, GAPING HOLES. THEY ARE EVERYWHERE IN THE SPIRIT WORLD, UNDER MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS, BENEATH HILLS AND ROCKS.



THROUGH GOD'S MERCY, THESE INFERNAL SPIRITS APPEAR AS MEN TO THEMSELVES. IN THE LIGHT OF HEAVEN THEIR BODIES ARE MONSTROUS AND CORPSE-LIKE. THUS THEY SHUN ANYTHING FROM HEAVEN.

EVERY SPIRIT IS THE IMAGE OF HIS OWN EVIL. SELF-LOVE IS THE ONLY LOVE IN HELL. AS ON EARTH MAN WISHES NO-ONE, BUT HIMSELF, WELL.

WHY SHOULD I DO THIS? ... WHAT ADVANTAGE IS THIS TO ME? WHY SHOULD THIS CONCERN ME?


IN EARTHLY LIFE MAN SUBDUES AND HIDES HIS OWN EVIL BECAUSE OF FEAR OF PUNISHMENT AND LAWS. THE EVIL MAN CAN APPEAR TO BE KIND.

IN HELL, THAT EVIL IS NO LONGER HIDDEN NOR DILUTED. THEIR SELF-LOVE PRODUCES HATRED OF OTHERS. THE SPIRITS CONTINUALLY SPREAD UNTRUTHS, THEY MOCK, DERIDE AND BLASPHEME EACH OTHER, BURSTING INTO VIOLENT ASSAULT.

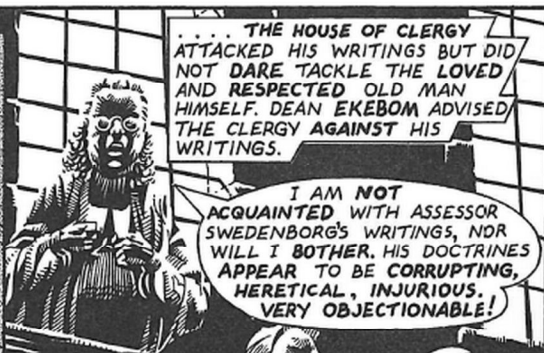
HOWEVER WHEN SPIRITS TORTURE AND DOMINATE OTHERS THEY ARE IN TURN PUNISHED AND TORTURED BY OTHER SPIRITS UNTIL THEY CEASE THEIR EVILS BECAUSE OF FEAR OF RETALIATION.



THE TORTURE OF HELL IS THAT SPIRITS CANNOT DO EVIL, WHICH IS THE DELIGHT OF THEIR LIVES.

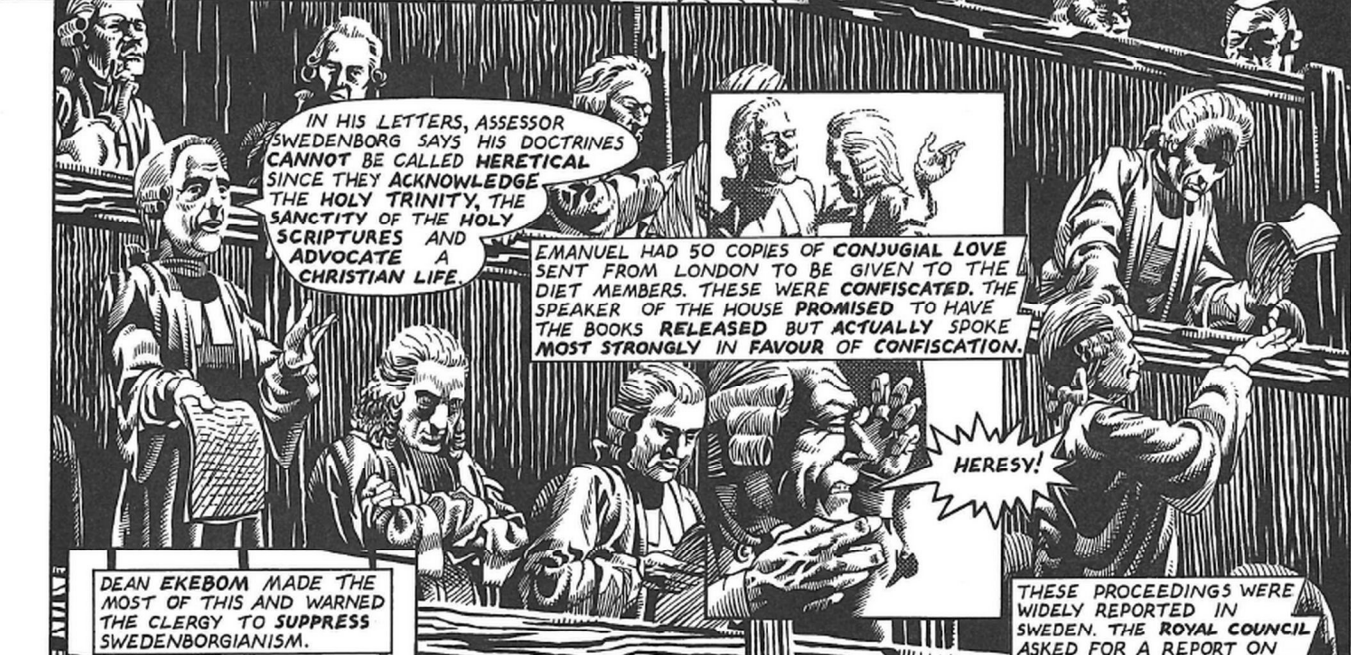


SWEDENBORG'S WRITINGS WERE MORE WIDELY READ IN SWEDEN, THROUGH REVIEWS OF HIS WORK AND THROUGH USE IN THE UNIVERSITIES.



... THE HOUSE OF CLERGY ATTACKED HIS WRITINGS BUT DID NOT DARE TACKLE THE LOVED AND RESPECTED OLD MAN HIMSELF. DEAN EKEBOM ADVISED THE CLERGY AGAINST HIS WRITINGS.

I AM NOT ACQUAINTED WITH ASSESSOR SWEDENBORG'S WRITINGS, NOR WILL I BOTHER. HIS DOCTRINES APPEAR TO BE CORRUPTING, HERETICAL, INJURIOUS. VERY OBJECTIONABLE!



IN HIS LETTERS, ASSESSOR SWEDENBORG SAYS HIS DOCTRINES CANNOT BE CALLED HERETICAL SINCE THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THE HOLY TRINITY, THE SANCTITY OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES AND ADVOCATE A CHRISTIAN LIFE.

EMANUEL HAD 50 COPIES OF CONJUGAL LOVE SENT FROM LONDON TO BE GIVEN TO THE DIET MEMBERS. THESE WERE CONFISCATED. THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PROMISED TO HAVE THE BOOKS RELEASED BUT ACTUALLY SPOKE MOST STRONGLY IN FAVOUR OF CONFISCATION.

HERESY!

DEAN EKEBOM MADE THE MOST OF THIS AND WARNED THE CLERGY TO SUPPRESS SWEDENBORGIANISM.

THESE PROCEEDINGS WERE WIDELY REPORTED IN SWEDEN. THE ROYAL COUNCIL ASKED FOR A REPORT ON THE ERRORS OF SWEDENBORGIANISM.

HERESY!

IN THE TWENTY YEARS THAT THESE WRITINGS HAVE BEEN READ, THERE HAS BEEN NO VALID REJECTION FROM THE LEARNED MEN OF EUROPE.

THE CHURCH FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE THE NEW DOCTRINES WRONG AND PASSED THE CASE TO THE ROYAL COUNCIL...

WE MAY CONCLUDE THAT NO-ONE CAN PROVE ANYTHING AGAINST YOUR DOCTRINES ASSESSOR.

...WHO, IN TURN, REFERRED THE CASE TO THE UNIVERSITIES. EMANUEL WROTE TO KING FREDERIC SAYING HE HAD BEEN GIVEN NO HEARING... AT LONG LAST HE MET THE KING.



MY NAME IS JOHN CUNO, A FRIEND OF EMANUEL, ALTHOUGH I CAN'T SAY I ACCEPT ALL HIS WRITINGS. EN ROUTE TO STOCKHOLM IN 1766 EMANUEL SPOKE WITH THE CAPTAIN.

CAPTAIN DIXON, WE DO NOT NEED SO MANY PROVISIONS FOR, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, WE WILL ENTER STOCKHOLM AT TWO O'CLOCK, ONE WEEK TODAY.



AS PREDICTED...

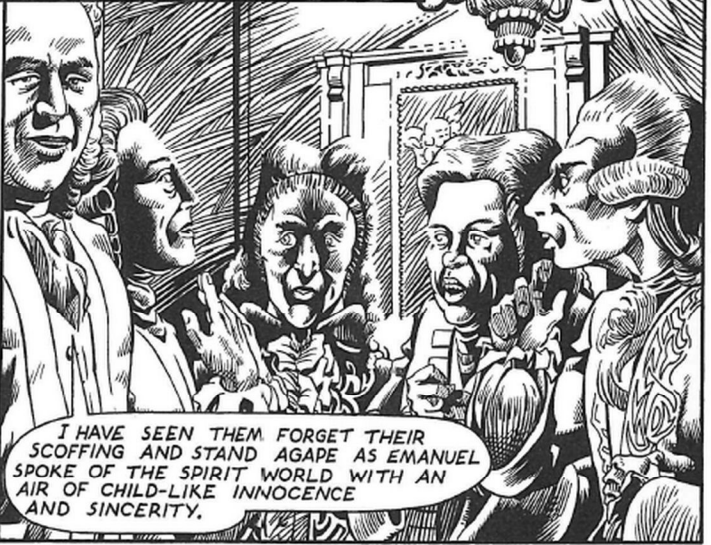
INCREDIBLE! THE WIND WAS WITH US ALL THE WAY! I'VE NEVER KNOWN SUCH FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS!

AYE! ITS ALWAYS THE SAME WITH HIM, CAPTAINS WOULD PAY HIM TO TRAVEL WITH THEM.

IN COMPANY HE WAS ALWAYS FOUND TO BE MODEST, FRIENDLY AND QUICK-WITTED WHEN PEOPLE TRIED TO MAKE FUN OF HIM. EVEN HIS ENEMIES COULD FIND NO FAULT WITH HIS CHARACTER.



INDEED, AT FUNCTIONS WE ATTENDED, PEOPLE WOULD GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO SCOFF AND MAKE FUN OF 'OLD SWEDENBORG'

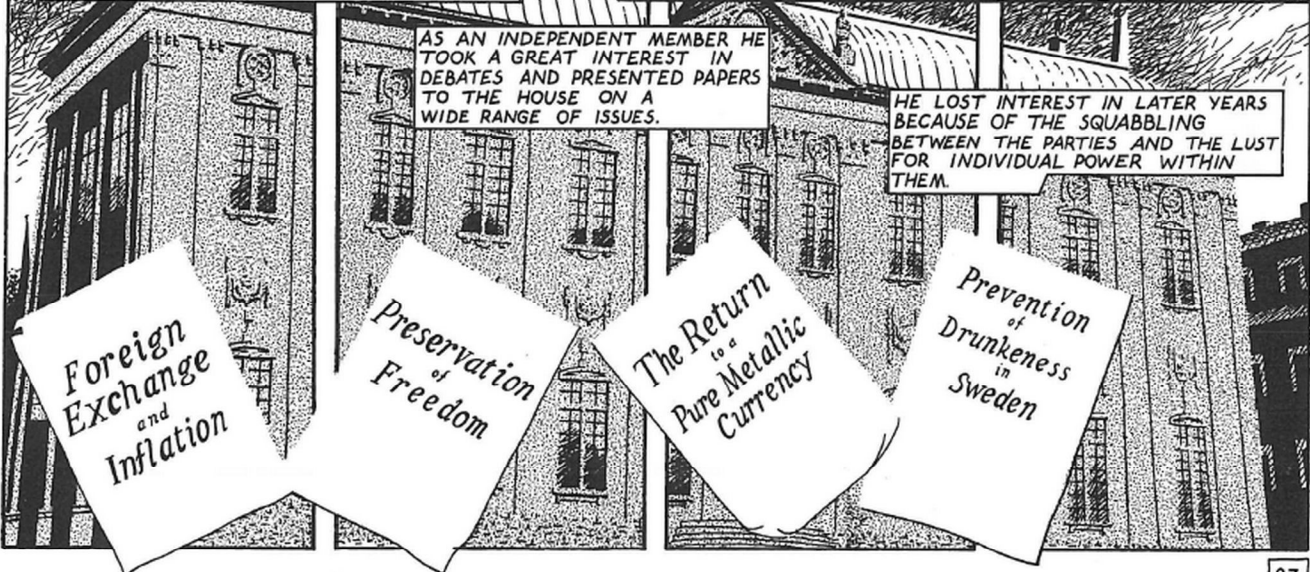
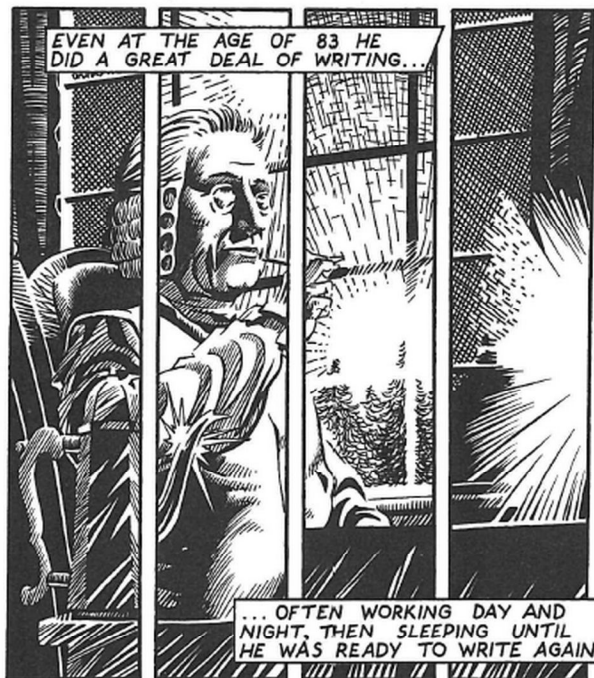


I HAVE SEEN THEM FORGET THEIR SCOFFING AND STAND AGAPE AS EMANUEL SPOKE OF THE SPIRIT WORLD WITH AN AIR OF CHILD-LIKE INNOCENCE AND SINCERITY.

EMANUEL ENJOYED THE COMPANY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN BUT HIS WORK REQUIRED PEACE AND QUIET. REGULAR VISITORS WERE THE ASKBOM FAMILY.



UNCLE, YOU CAN SEE ANGELS, PLEASE SHOW ME ONE!



SOON AFTER HIS AUDIENCE WITH THE KING, EMANUEL MADE PREPARATIONS FOR HIS LAST JOURNEY TO ENGLAND. HE VISITED HIS FRIENDS AND PUT RIGHT HIS PERSONAL AFFAIRS... AS IF HE KNEW HE WOULD NOT BE RETURNING.



EVEN AT AN AGE WHEN TRAVELLING EXHAUSTED HIM, HE STILL FOUND THE TIME TO ENJOY COMPANY AND INDULGE IN CONVERSATION AND MUSIC.

BEFORE HIS DEATH, HE HAD ONE MORE IMPORTANT TASK TO PUBLISH ONE GREAT FINAL WORK...

THE TRUE CHRISTIAN RELIGION



THE BOOK WOULD GATHER TOGETHER THE MAIN DOCTRINES OF THE NEW CHURCH. NOT ONLY ABOUT GOD THE CREATOR AND REDEEMER, IT IS ALSO ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD, FAITH, CHARITY, THE SACRAMENTS AND THE CHURCH.



BUT ITS MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO SHOW THAT GOD IS ONE!



FOR CENTURIES THE CHURCH HAD TAUGHT MEN THAT THE ONE GOD WAS THREE PERSONS, THIS SEEMED IRRATIONAL AND UNBELIEVABLE - IT LED MEN ASTRAY!

THE TRUTH IS MUCH SIMPLER, THE ONE AND ONLY GOD, THE INVISIBLE ONE, HIMSELF CAME TO EARTH SO THAT MEN MIGHT KNOW HIM, AS THE VISIBLE HUMAN FORM OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST...



IN HIM IS THE DIVINE, JUST AS THE HUMAN SOUL DWELLS IN OUR BODY AND SHOWS ITSELF THROUGH OUR ACTIONS.

SWEDENBORG WAS 83 WHEN THIS 850 PAGE BOOK WAS PUBLISHED. IT SHOWS HIS CLEAR AND AGILE MIND WAS UNDIMMED BY AGE.



GOD IS ONE DIVINE BEING, FROM HIS LOVE AND WISDOM COME ALL THINGS. WE WERE CREATED TO USE THE WARMTH OF THAT LOVE IN OUR HEARTS AND THE LIGHT OF THAT WISDOM IN OUR MINDS. THIS IS WHY THE BIBLE SAYS WE WERE CREATED IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD.



EMANUEL FELL ILL IN HIS LODGINGS AT THE SHEARSMITHS' TOWN HOUSE. AT THE SAME TIME JOHN WESLEY, THE FOUNDER OF METHODISM, HAD BEEN READING HIS WORK. IMPRESSED AS HE WAS, WESLEY HAD HIS DOUBTS ABOUT THE TRUE CHRISTIAN RELIGION. EMANUEL WROTE TO HIM...

ASTOUNDING!
IT SAYS: "I AM INFORMED IN THE WORLD OF SPIRITS THAT YOU WISH TO SPEAK WITH ME. I SHALL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU"... YET I HAVE EXPRESSED THIS WISH TO NO-ONE!



I WROTE SAYING I WOULD SEE HIM WHEN I RETURNED FROM MY TRAVELS.

HE REPLIED SAYING THIS WOULD BE TOO LATE...



... HE IS TO ENTER THE WORLD OF SPIRITS ON THE 29TH OF NEXT MONTH...

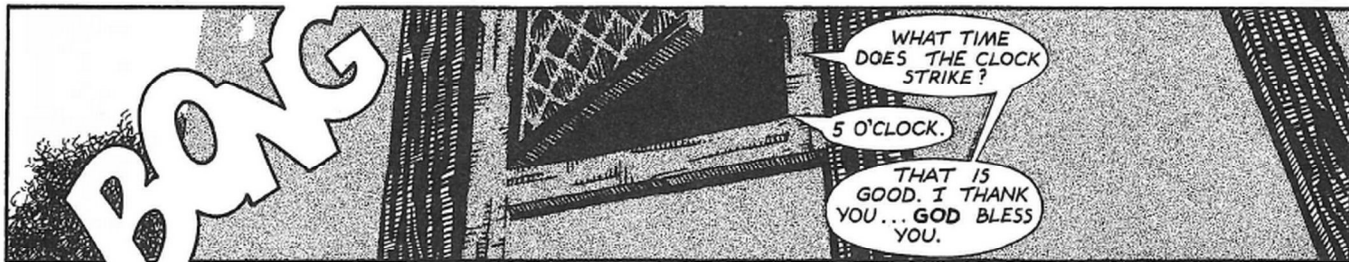
...NEVER TO RETURN!





ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO DIE SOON?
 YES.
 WERE YOUR WRITINGS TRUE, OR DONE TO MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF?

AS TRULY AS YOU SEE ME BEFORE YOUR EYES, I COULD HAVE SAID MORE HAD THE LORD PERMITTED IT.



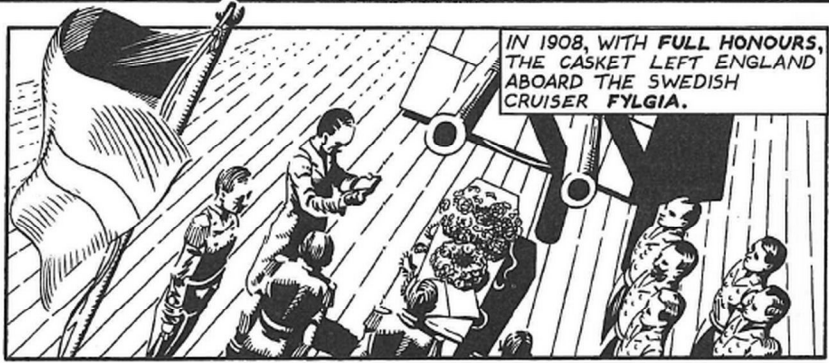
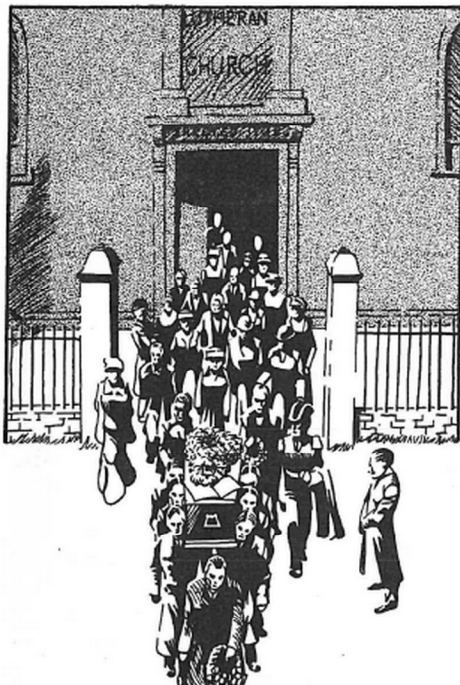
WHAT TIME DOES THE CLOCK STRIKE?

5 O'CLOCK.

THAT IS GOOD. I THANK YOU... GOD BLESS YOU.



ON MARCH 29TH 1772 THE LORD'S SERVANT COMPLETED HIS MISSION AND DEPARTED THIS WORLD.



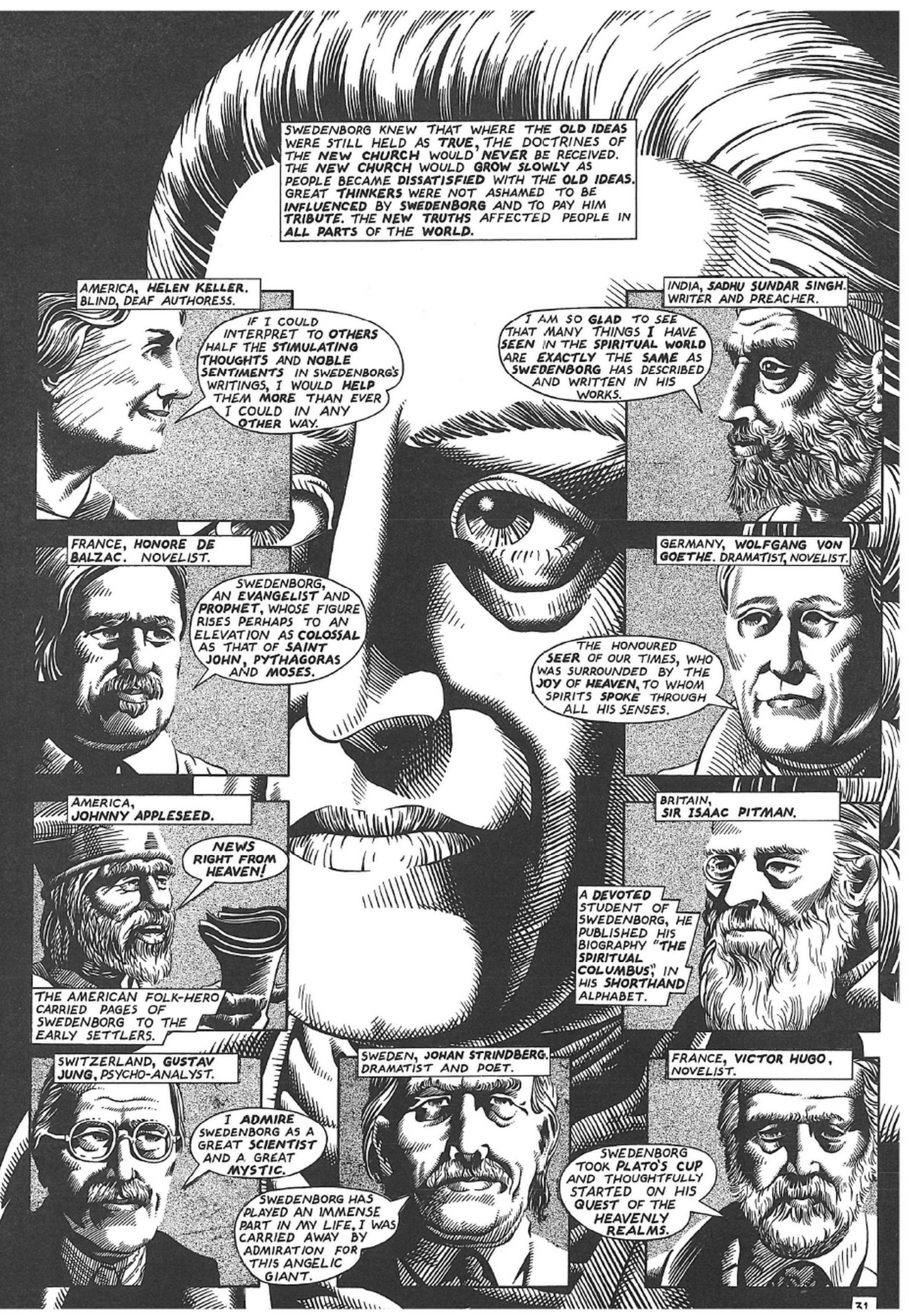
IN 1908, WITH FULL HONOURS, THE CASKET LEFT ENGLAND ABOARD THE SWEDISH CRUISER FYLGIA.



EMANUEL SWEDENBORG
 MDCCXXVI - MDCCXXVII

A FESTIVE OCCASION DEDICATED A MAGNIFICENT GRANITE SARCOPHAGUS IN UPSALA CATHEDRAL WHERE SWEDENBORG'S REMAINS WERE FINALLY LAID.

SWEDENBORG'S REMAINS LAY IN THE SWEDISH CHURCH IN LONDON FOR 136 YEARS UNTIL THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO HONOUR HIM FULLY.



SWEDENBORG KNEW THAT WHERE THE OLD IDEAS WERE STILL HELD AS TRUE, THE DOCTRINES OF THE NEW CHURCH WOULD NEVER BE RECEIVED. THE NEW CHURCH WOULD GROW SLOWLY AS PEOPLE BECAME DISSATISFIED WITH THE OLD IDEAS. GREAT THINKERS WERE NOT ASHAMED TO BE INFLUENCED BY SWEDENBORG AND TO PAY HIM TRIBUTE. THE NEW TRUTHS AFFECTED PEOPLE IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

AMERICA, HELEN KELLER.
BLIND, DEAF AUTHORESS.

IF I COULD INTERPRET TO OTHERS HALF THE STIMULATING THOUGHTS AND NOBLE SENTIMENTS IN SWEDENBORG'S WRITINGS, I WOULD HELP THEM MORE THAN EVER I COULD IN ANY OTHER WAY.

INDIA, SADHU SUNDAR SINGH.
WRITER AND PREACHER.

I AM SO GLAD TO SEE THAT MANY THINGS I HAVE SEEN IN THE SPIRITUAL WORLD ARE EXACTLY THE SAME AS SWEDENBORG HAS DESCRIBED AND WRITTEN IN HIS WORKS.

FRANCE, HONORE DE BALZAC.
NOVELIST.

SWEDENBORG, AN EVANGELIST AND PROPHET, WHOSE FIGURE RISES PERHAPS TO AN ELEVATION AS COLOSSAL AS THAT OF SAINT JOHN, PYTHAGORAS AND MOSES.

GERMANY, WOLFGANG VON GOETHE.
DRAMATIST, NOVELIST.

THE HONOURED SEER OF OUR TIMES, WHO WAS SURROUNDED BY THE JOY OF HEAVEN, TO WHOM SPIRITS SPOKE THROUGH ALL HIS SENSES.

AMERICA, JOHNNY APPLESEED.

NEWS RIGHT FROM HEAVEN!

THE AMERICAN FOLK-HERO CARRIED PAGES OF SWEDENBORG TO THE EARLY SETTLERS.

BRITAIN, SIR ISAAC PITMAN.

A DEVOTED STUDENT OF SWEDENBORG, HE PUBLISHED HIS BIOGRAPHY "THE SPIRITUAL COLUMBUS," IN HIS SHORTHAND ALPHABET.

SWITZERLAND, GUSTAV JUNG,
PSYCHO-ANALYST.

I ADMIRE SWEDENBORG AS A GREAT SCIENTIST AND A GREAT MYSTIC.

SWEDENBORG HAS PLAYED AN IMMENSE PART IN MY LIFE. I WAS CARRIED AWAY BY ADMIRATION FOR THIS ANGELIC GIANT.

SWEDEN, JOHAN STRINDBERG.
DRAMATIST AND POET.

SWEDENBORG TOOK PLATO'S CUP AND THOUGHTFULLY STARTED ON HIS QUEST OF THE HEAVENLY REALMS.

FRANCE, VICTOR HUGO,
NOVELIST.

SWEDENBORG'S THEOLOGICAL WRITINGS

There are 30 volumes. Here are the main ones:

ARCANA CAELESTIA—A verse by verse exposition of the internal sense of Genesis and Exodus, the first two books of the Bible.

HEAVEN AND HELL—This best known of Swedenborg's works is the complete textbook on the life after death.

LAST JUDGEMENT—This is a spiritual event which has already taken place in the world of spirits. Its effect is the dawn of the new age.

HEAVENLY DOCTRINE—A brief summary of the principal doctrines of the New Church. Excellent for new readers.

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TRUE CHRISTIAN RELIGION—The last and crowning work of Swedenborg which contains the entire theology of the New Jerusalem Church. Here is Christian Doctrine in its most lucid and rational form by one of the greatest intellects of the new age.

WORLDWIDE

Swedenborg himself did not make any attempt to found a church organisation but groups which accepted the doctrines revealed to him started to meet soon after his death. The organisation called The New Jerusalem Church, or The New Church for short, held its first public worship in 1788. Since then Swedenborg's works have spread into many parts of the world and have been translated into many languages. Main centres and churches exist in the following countries:

Australia	Korea
Canada	Mauritius
Europe	New Zealand
Great Britain	South Africa
India	United States
Japan	West Africa

Information about centres in Britain and elsewhere can be obtained from:

The Secretary,
The General Conference of the New Church,
20 Bloomsbury Way,
London WC1A 2TH

Bookrooms:

The Swedenborg Society,
20 Bloomsbury Way,
London WC1A 2TH,
Tel: 01-405 7986

Shop: Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm

New Church House,
34 John Dalton Street,
Manchester M2 6LE,
Tel: 061-834 4192

Shop: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

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SWEDENBORG MAN OF TWO WORLDS

GENIUS

MATHEMATICIAN

IQ 210

INJUST

SCIENTIST

REVEALATOR

INVENTOR

ENGINEER

SEER

MUSICIAN

LEGISLATOR

POET

MYSTIC

NOBELMAN

DIVINELY
INSPIRED

ANATOMIST

METALURGIST

ASTRONOMER