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December 16, 1957

1801 1/2 Detroit Street
Flint 3, Michigan

Dear Brother

We are in receipt of your letter of January 10, and Elder White has asked me to check on the quotations and give you a reply.

I am sorry that there is little in context to throw further light on these statements. The first quotation you will find in the S. D. A. Bible Commentary, Volume I, p. 1081. It is from the very first paragraph of an article entitled "Purpose of God's Creation." A portion of the article has been copied out for you, and is enclosed herewith. The article continues with Satan's plans to defeat God's purpose in creation, but contains nothing that clarifies the statements in question--"Human beings were a new and distinct order. They were made in the image of God."

We have also had a portion of the other article copied, giving you the setting for the statement quoted. It seems very clear here that Sister White is speaking of the creation of this earth, and that man was created a superior being on this earth, the only creature formed in God's image on this world. Surely this would not preclude the creation of other beings formed in His image on other worlds.

It seems to me that the chief cause for perplexity is with the statement that "Human beings were a new and distinct order." This, too, presents no difficulty if we consider it as a reference solely to this earth, but the sentence which precedes this one leaves us wondering if there is a comparison here between man and the beings on other worlds. Personally, I think, Brother Williams, that we shall have to leave this matter just where Sister White has left it. We cannot go beyond what has been revealed, and we dare not attempt to interpret just what is meant by this statement. Might it not be that there could be more than one order, or rank (if the word is used in this sense), of beings in God's image? I simply leave this suggestion for you to ponder over. I am sure that these statements, rightly understood, are not contradictory.

Trusting that this will be of some help to you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss) Bessie Mount, Office Secretary
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Enclosures