

Why We Struggle

DR. JAMES H. PERRY
USA

AS WE VIEW LIFE WITH ITS VICISSITUDES, we see the spectacle of interminable struggle. The butterfly struggles as it emerges from its cocoon a thing of beauty for us to behold. Why does the butterfly have to struggle? We are given these significant truths:

Your anxieties and sorrows, your trials and disappointments, are just as much a part of the divine plan on your sphere as are the exquisite perfection and infinite adaptation of all things to their supreme purpose on the worlds of the central and perfect universe [Paper 23:2, page 257:11].

As we reflect on the varied and difficult circumstances of life, we ponder...

The universe of your origin is being forged out between the anvil of justice and the hammer of suffering; but those who wield the hammer are the children of mercy, the spirit offspring of the Infinite Spirit [Paper 9:1, page 100:2].

The greatest affliction of the cosmos is never to have been afflicted. Mortals only learn wisdom by experiencing tribulation [Paper 48:7, page 556:14].

We do understand that struggle is a part of the divine plan for our lives and thus becomes a necessity.

All mortal creatures living within the present sphere of the Supreme share his partial completeness, and this can only be completed by obeying the Father's eternal command to be perfect even as he is perfect.



Bird flies free while householders struggle on

On higher universe levels, the stimulus of enforced struggle is not needed, as these beings understand the nature of struggle and voluntarily embrace it. But not so on the lower universe levels such as ours. We are told 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* [Paper 140:8, page 1579:5]. As we reflect on the varied and difficult circumstances of life, we ponder such a statement of truth and wonder why. The mystery begins to partially unravel with this nugget: ▶

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Greetings fellow *UAI Journal* readers

IN THIS JANUARY 2012 ISSUE of the *UAI Journal* our contributors are a wonderful and eclectic group of long time reader students of *The Urantia Book*. As authors they have agreed to enlighten us with their insights and discoveries from their life time study of our favorite book. The first article, “**Why We Struggle**” by Dr. James Perry of North Carolina, is timely and very appropriate for our day and age, and is something that is continually pondered by many people of many faiths. Dr. Perry has discovered why struggle is necessary—and also exhilarating from another perspective... “*We can make our way through this valley of human toil spiritually conscious of the heavenly Father. The experience of this great truth does not take away our trials and tribulations, but it does transcend them. When once we realize that a divine spirit lives and works within and as us, we are mightily inspired to look at these struggles from a more positive perspective.*”

Our second article, also from a long time reader Moustapha Ndiaye of Senegal, “**Muslims and Christians**” gives us a unique understanding of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* through his Muslim faith and his teaching experience in sharing and comparing the philosophy of *The Urantia Book* and *The Koran* and the teachings of Christ Michael; “*The issue of Islam and the teachings in The Urantia Book seem to be a recurrent subject matter for many readers. During the last [UAI] symposium in Chicago, I was asked the same question about my views of Islam several times. To understand this issue, in my humble opinion, it is best that one have direct experience first and then focus on the teachings, suggestions, and conclusions drawn from a careful reading of The Urantia Book*”.... “*The only constraint we impose on ourselves in this process in relation to the Muslims (as with any person with well-established religious beliefs) is wisdom in the approach, based*

on love and concern of the soul and not the simple desire to convince the mind.”

Our third contribution is a lengthy study into the process used in the delivery of *The Urantia Book* itself. As anyone who has ever introduced the teachings to someone knows, the first question you usually get after the introduction is... Who wrote this? Denver Pearson has compiled the following investigative report on what he found when he went asking history who and where and how? “*We all eventually come up with some unsure and therefore uncomfortable answer we have rehearsed over and over again to make it sound intelligently authoritative. But the answer we have devised has been derived from what we’ve heard from others or have read in Urantia Apocrypha and as soon as it leaves our lips we feel a little empty. It was because of this feeling I decided to go back to the small amount of information available about the early days and to the revelation itself to see if I could come away with a clearer idea about the origin of the papers.*”

Our fourth article is from Scott Brooks who is also a long time member of our Journal Team and he does a fine job with the websites too! Scott answered my request for articles with his great thought provoking expose “**The Logic of Theism**”. This article came about as a result of differing family viewpoints on God and faith and his counterpoint on the observation of the observation. He does give us something to think about as he clearly states “*the theist seems to have one leg up on the atheist, in that current observations favor the theists conclusion.*”

As our final article we have the final leadership speech from Chicago, from Tonia Baney, “**Expanding Leaders and Teachers**,” Tonia formerly of Hawaii but now stateside is also a long time reader and her article is perfect as the last word for this issue which begins the new year of 2012. Tonia wisely reminds us why we have each discovered *The Urantia Book*; “*We have*

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found this revelation for a reason, not to hide it under a barrel, but to spread the teachings of Jesus by living a life of Goodness, by speaking and living Truth and by being and creating Beauty, and most of all by Loving each other.”

I would like to put out a call for articles for the upcoming issue in March and would also like to ask for volunteers to join the team as additional editorial staff members. Peace, Harmony & Enlightened reading in the coming year!

Suzanne Kelly ■

Why We Struggle, cont. from page 1

Universe difficulties must be met and planetary obstacles must be encountered as a part of the experience training provided for the growth and development, the progressive perfection, of the evolving souls of mortal creatures. The spiritualization of the human soul requires intimate experience with the educational solving of a wide range of real universe problems. The animal nature and the lower forms of will creatures do not progress favorably in environmental ease. Problematic situations, coupled with exertion stimuli, conspire to produce those activities of mind, soul, and spirit which contribute mightily to the achievement of worthy goals of mortal progression and to the attainment of higher levels of spirit destiny [Paper 154:2, page 1719:1]

So we see that it is the animal nature that we are beginning with that requires the stimulus of struggle.

Loyalties are not exercised in behalf of the great, the good, the true, and the noble without a struggle. Effort is attendant upon clarification of spiritual vision and enhancement of cosmic insight. And the human intellect protests against being weaned from subsisting upon the nonspiritual energies of temporal existence. The slothful animal mind rebels at the effort required to wrestle with cosmic problem solving. [Paper 100:4, page 1097:6]

And this rebellion of the slothful animal mind takes the form of moral indolence: *procrastination, equivocation, insincerity, problem avoidance, unfairness, and ease seeking* [Paper 48:5, page 551:3]. When facing these struggles, our emotions often take flight on the wings of anxiety and crash-land upon the rocks of depression.

We could never tell by looking, for example, that the caterpillar had the potential to become a beautiful butterfly. Likewise, we cannot tell by viewing mortal man that he had the potential to bear the beautiful harvest of the fruits of the Spirit. But our Creator Father Michael demonstrated the spiritual potentials within our souls when he perfected the character of Jesus. And like the caterpillar who struggles to emerge from its cocoon, so did Jesus, our Creator Father in the flesh, struggle to actualize the spiritual potential wrapped up in his soul. Consider these “inevitableities”:

1. Is courage — strength of character — desirable? Then must man be reared in an environment which necessitates grappling with hardships and reacting to disappointments.

2. Is altruism — service of one’s fellows — desirable? Then must life experience provide for encountering situations of social inequality.

3. Is hope — the grandeur of trust — desirable? Then human existence must constantly be confronted with insecurities and recurrent uncertainties.

4. Is faith — the supreme assertion of human thought — desirable? Then must the mind of man find itself in that troublesome predicament where it ever knows less than it can believe.

5. Is the love of truth and the willingness to go wherever it leads, desirable? Then must man grow up in a world where error is present and falsehood always possible.

We could never tell by looking, for example, that the caterpillar had the potential to become a beautiful butterfly.

6. Is idealism — the approaching concept of the divine — desirable? Then must man struggle in an environment of relative goodness and beauty, surroundings stimulative of the irrepressible reach for better things.

7. Is loyalty—devotion to highest duty—desirable? Then must man carry on amid the possibilities of betrayal and desertion. The valor of devotion to duty consists in the implied danger of default.

8. Is unselfishness—the spirit of self-forgetfulness—desirable? Then must mortal man live face to face with the incessant clamoring of an inescapable self for recognition and honor. Man could not dynamically choose the divine life if there were no self-life to forsake. Man could never lay saving hold on righteousness if there were no potential evil to exalt and differentiate the good by contrast.

9. Is pleasure—the satisfaction of happiness—desirable? Then must man live in a world where the alternative of pain and the likelihood of suffering are ever-present experiential possibilities. [Paper 3:5, page 51:5-13]

We look at these beautiful and desirable qualities and long for them to be a part of our characters; there is only one way for experiential creatures to acquire these traits—by and through struggle:

All this must be according to the Father’s plan, which has predicated finite progress upon effort, creature achievement upon perseverance, and personality development upon faith. By thus ordaining the experience-evolution of the Supreme, the Father has made it possible for finite creatures to exist in the universes and, by experiential progression, sometime to attain the divinity of Supremacy. [Paper 115:7, page 1266:3]

But we should not despair of what seems like an impossible task. We are taught:

On millions of inhabited worlds, tens of trillions of evolving creatures who may have been tempted to give up the moral struggle and abandon the good fight of faith, have taken one more look at Jesus on the cross and then have forged on ahead, inspired by the sight of God's laying down his incarnate life in devotion to the unselfish service of man. [Paper 188:5, page 2018:4]

Michael of Nebadon took on human form and lived the mortal life from beginning to finish. By choosing the Father's will, he established how to live the material life with its incessant struggles and simultaneously to live the heavenly life with its spiritual liberation.

He told us that, while we lived in this world, we would have trials and tribulations but that we should be of good cheer...

He told us that, while we lived in this world, we would have trials and tribulations but that we should be of good cheer—he had overcome the world. But most importantly, he taught us that God is our Father and we are His sons and daughters. With an infinite and eternal affection, he revealed and demonstrated the Father's love. Michael revealed that—with our spirit-born faith—we could realize daily these ennobling truths. Ponder this:

Through the appropriation of the faith of Jesus, mortal man can foretaste in time the realities of eternity. Jesus made the discovery, in human experience, of the Final Father, and his brothers in the flesh of mortal life can follow him along this same experience of Father discovery. They can even attain, as they are, the same satisfaction in this experience with the Father as did Jesus as he was. New potentials were actualized in the universe of Nebadon consequent upon the terminal bestowal of Michael, and one of these was the new illumination of the path of eternity that leads to the Father of all, and which can be traversed even by the mortals of material flesh and blood in the initial life on the planets of space. Jesus was and is the new and living way whereby man can come into the divine inheritance which the Father has decreed shall be his for but the asking. In Jesus there is abundantly demonstrated both the beginnings and endings of the faith experience of humanity, even of divine humanity. [Paper 101:6, page 1113:6]

Now we are beginning to gain some inspiration that will allow us to proceed through this material life with the same consciousness of the heavenly Father that Jesus experienced. Imagine that! We can make our way through this valley of human toil spiritually conscious of the heavenly Father. The experience of this great truth does not take away our trials and tribulations, but it does transcend them. When once we realize that a divine spirit lives and works within and as us, we are mightily inspired to look at these struggles from a more positive perspective:



Now, rather, are the sons of God enlisted together in fighting the battle of reality's triumph over the partial shadows of existence. At last all creatures become conscious of the fact that God and all the divine hosts of a well-nigh limitless universe are on their side in the supernal struggle to attain eternity of life and divinity of status. Such faith-liberated sons have certainly enlisted in the struggles of time on the side of the supreme forces and divine personalities of eternity; even the stars in their courses are now doing battle for them; at last they gaze upon the universe from within, from God's viewpoint, and all is transformed from the uncertainties of material isolation to the sureties of eternal spiritual progression. Even time itself becomes but the shadow of eternity cast by Paradise realities upon the moving panoply of space. [Paper, 101:10, page 1117:3]

Like the caterpillar that emerges from his cocoon as a beautiful butterfly, we, too, shall emerge from the dreaded anticipation of another struggle to that high and glorious state, where we have

...learned to feast upon uncertainty, to fatten upon disappointment, to enthuse over apparent defeat, to invigorate in the presence of difficulties, to exhibit indomitable courage in the face of immensity, and to exercise unconquerable faith when confronted with the challenge of the inexplicable. [Paper 26:5, page 291:3]

Our battle cry has become: *In liaison with God, nothing—absolutely nothing—is impossible.* [Paper 26:5, page 291:3] ■

Muslims and Christians

MOUSTAPHA NDIAYE
Senegal, Africa



Symbols of faith to one Father of all creation

THE ISSUE OF ISLAM AND THE TEACHINGS in *The Urantia Book* seem to be a recurrent subject matter for many readers. During the last [UAI] symposium in Chicago, I was asked the same question about my views of Islam several times. To understand this issue, in my humble opinion, it is best that one have direct experience first and then focus on the teachings, suggestions, and conclusions drawn from a careful reading of *The Urantia Book*. Herein I attempt to combine these approaches.

I was born and received a Muslim baptism in Senegal, a country that is predominantly Muslim, has a very active Christian minority, most of which are Catholic. The first president of Senegal was a Christian; the current president is also president of the World Islamic Conference. The former archbishop of the Catholic Church of Senegal, who died a few years ago, had a brother who was Imam in a mosque. There are many communities in Senegal, where parents and siblings are split between the two religions. There is also a common cemetery for Catholics and Muslims in the south of the country (in Ziguinchor).

I received *The Urantia Book* in the mid-1970s. I have taught the teachings to Muslims, Christian Senegalese, and non-Senegalese since 1984. My personal experience with Islamic thought regarding the dissemination of the teachings is characterized by the pedagogy used to teach me and that which I use to teach others. (It is not beneficial to evoke this pedagogy for the purpose of this article.)

During the years of active teaching, we met many seekers of truth, predominantly Muslims engaged in the search for God, and who often possessed a fine knowledge of *The Koran* and Islamic teachings. What we learned from these experiences can be summarized as follows.

It is useful and beneficial to discuss *The Urantia Book* teachings only with people (Muslims or those of other faiths) who are personally motivated in their search for truth. We avoid those who wish only to debate about ideas, ideas very often they have never experienced. Among those Muslims who are sincere in their search, it is easier to instruct those whose search for truth led them to study *The Koran*. There exist in *The Koran* concepts that cannot be imagined a priori. These can serve as a basis for introducing divine truths.

Islam is one of the 12 evolutionary religions mentioned in *The Urantia Book*, and the concept of religion emphasizes the clear presentation of the notion of a personal God. The recognition of divine fatherhood forms the basis by which to live the spiritual brotherhood that we seek to establish.

If Michael—in his desire to satisfy the mind of a Hindu teenager—collected so many truths about the nature and the personality of the Universal Father in the religions of his time on Earth, we can and must pay more attention to the foundations of the religious faiths of those whose minds we want to expand with new

To understand this issue, in my humble opinion, it is best that one have direct experience first and then focus on the teachings...

presentations of truth. Doing so would only contribute (at the human level) to the vast plan of the angels of the planetary government in their effort to make *the creation of new pictures out of old facts* [Paper 48:6, page 551:1]. Such human initiative will surely be supported and blessed by the epochal and progress angels and the religious guardians whose common task is also to update in the present the religious values of the past and in the promise of future progress.

With this in mind, we share some excerpts from *The Koran* that can be a basis for such an initiative. Many

people are rightly disturbed by the violence, intolerance, and blind fanaticism of some who claim to be Muslim. But consider these excerpts from *The Koran*:

These illustrate the unambiguous will to establish social harmony and religious unity with Islamists, Jews, and Christians of Medina and Mecca in the 6th Century, and the will to oppose violence, intolerance, and fanaticism that characterize some modern Islamists.

O Muslims, we believe Allah and that which has been set down to us that which has been set down to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob and to the Twelve tribes, and that which has been given to Moses, Jesus, and that which has been given to the Prophets from their Lord.

We make no distinction between any of them, and to Him we are submitted. [Sura 2, Verse 136]

This last phrase, “and to Him we are submitted,” is translated in Arabic as “wa naynu layuu Muslimun.” “Muslimu” means the Muslim in Islam. Further,

It is He Who has sent down the Book to you with truth, confirming what came before it. He sent down the Torah and the Gospel. [Surah 3, Verse 3]

Only argue not with the people of the Scriptures (Jews and Christians), unless it be in that better, except with such as do wrong and say: ‘We believe in that which has been revealed to us and revealed to you, while your God and our God is the same, and Him we have submitted.

[Surah 29, Verse 46]

These illustrate the unambiguous will to establish social harmony and religious unity with Islamists, Jews, and Christians of Medina and Mecca in the 6th Century, and the will to oppose violence, intolerance, and fanaticism that characterize some modern Islamists.

Many remark on how difficult it is to approach the concept of the Trinity in the Islamic environment. *The Urantia Book* states:

The followers of the Islamic faith likewise failed to grasp the idea of the Trinity. It is always difficult for an

emerging monotheism to tolerate trinitarianism when confronted by polytheism. The trinity idea takes best hold of those religions which have a firm monotheistic tradition coupled with doctrinal elasticity. The great monotheists, the Hebrews and Mohammedans, found it difficult to distinguish between worshiping three gods, polytheism, and trinitarianism, the worship of one Deity existing in a triune manifestation of divinity and personality. [Paper 104:1, page 1144:9]

Beyond the intellectual approach, we should be able to imagine the conditions of that time and of those tribes to measure the relevance of these words and to understand the difficulties. We should be able now to distinguish between worship of the Father, who is love; prayer to the Son, who is mercy; and the ministry experience with the Spirit through the spiritual brotherhood of men.

The Spirit of Truth has done well since former days. Now for Muslims, however, in addition to worship and the recognition of God in the attestation of faith, the two most important aspects of Islam are the Salat (Prayer) and the Zakat (Charity). These, then, are concepts attributable to the relationship with the Son and the Spirit, as evidenced by the following:

There they were God commanded not, but that they should worship Allah and none but Him alone and perform Salat (prayer) and give Zakat (charity). And that is the right religion. [Surah 98, Verse 5]

This recommendation is made even more lively and social through this excerpt:

It is not piety and righteousness that you turn your faces towards East or West. But the pious is the one who believes in God, the Last Day, the Angels, the Books and the prophets, and gives his wealth, in spite of love for it to the kinsfolk, to the orphans, and to the poor and the wayfarer and to those who ask, and set slaves free, perform as-Salat (prayer) and give Zakat (charity) and who fulfill their covenant when they make it and who are patient in extreme poverty, disease and when the battle is raging, those are the pious. [Sura 2, Verse 177]

Zakat, or social ministry, has long been recognized as charity, but the concept takes on true social ministry under the influence of the altruistic character of some Christian missionaries (in the image of the crescent Red face — the Red Cross). Thus “zakat houses” have proliferated in the world.

About the Trinity, keep in mind that all the verses of the Qur’an begin with “In the name of God,

the Merciful, the Compassionate,” which reflects a unified approach but differentially God in triplicate. (Mercifulness and compassion are understood as living expressions of God towards humanity; we also understand them as the Son and the Spirit.)

Moreover, even if it is true that Islam seems to give God the image of a distant and transcendent Deity, we have no trouble getting our students to accept the idea of a personal presence, relying primarily on the Spirit of Truth and their Thought Adjusters vis-à-vis their souls. This excerpt feeds them:

And indeed We have created man and We know what his soul whispers to him. We are nearer to him than his jugular vein. [Surah 50, Verse 16]

However, there is much room to improve modern religions, for they all are evolutionary. Michael knew more about religion than we could imagine; however, when he taught his apostles he always used the positive truths of their sacred scriptures to enlarge their minds and satisfy their souls. He did not insist on using anything else unless directly questioned. And this reminds us:

If your own mind does not serve you well, you can exchange it for the mind of Jesus of Nazareth, who always serves you well. [Paper 48:6, page 553:7]

The only constraint we impose on ourselves in this process in relation to the Muslims (as with any person with well-established religious beliefs) is wisdom in the approach, based on love and concern of the soul and not the simple desire to convince the mind:

Forms are valueless when lessons are learned. No chick may be had without the shell, and no shell is of any worth after the chick is hatched. But sometimes error is so great that its rectification by revelation would be fatal to those slowly emerging truths which are essential to its experiential overthrow. [Paper 48:6, page 554:6]

We could continue here with other concepts of *The Koran* and *The Urantia Book* as we do for our Muslim students, but what is most important is experience. Ten years ago, a young Muslim woman in our study group was asked what the teachings of *The Urantia Book* had done for her. She replied, “the teachings have made me a better Muslim.” ■



The Urantia Revelatory Process

DENVER PEARSON
USA

WHETHER WE ARE A LONG TIME student or a new reader of *The Urantia Book*, the most often asked question and the most difficult to satisfactorily answer is, “Who wrote it and how?” We all eventually come up with some unsure and therefore uncomfortable answer we have rehearsed over and over again to make it sound intelligently authoritative. But the answer we have devised has been derived from what we’ve heard from others or have read in Urantia apocrypha and as soon as it leaves our lips we feel a little empty. It was because of this feeling I decided to go back to the small amount of information available about the early days and to the revelation itself to see if I could come away with a clearer idea about the origin of the papers.

...in the final analysis it was a spiritual and mental process on a celestial level that resulted in a material phenomenon.

I fully understand that even if we could know the exact process we would still not understand it because in the final analysis it was a spiritual and mental process on a celestial level that resulted in a material phenomenon. Much of what I am saying here is expressed elsewhere with some variations, but I have also introduced what I think are a few new angles and clarifications to the story. I am not claiming to be right in anything I suggest but what I have discovered has made it easier to visualise and understand how the Urantia Papers may have come into being. I satisfied that empty feeling for myself and decided to share my findings in hopes of satisfying the feelings of others.

Part I The Body

In writing this article I am assuming that the reader is fairly familiar with other records on the subject and with *The Urantia Book* itself. I am not so concerned with the details of the early history and the people involved



Human upreach response to Divine downreach — illustration by Bali artist Anif Bahtiar

although I will discuss them at times. I am more interested in the technique or the process of bringing the papers into physical existence. I have always been reluctant to talk much about the origins of the revelation because it seems to detract from the revelation itself. It is the problem of someone being more interested in the messenger than the message itself. There are those who refuse to accept the revelation because they cannot uncover the source of the information. Focusing on the messenger more than the message happened with the fourth epochal revelation as you know. It became the religion about Jesus rather than the religion of Jesus.

The first point I would like to make is that there are many written accounts concerning the early history and origin of the revelation. Some of the authors are Dr. Sadler himself, Larry Mullins, who wrote a history based on the memories of Meredith Sprunger and probably the more accurate and most thorough account, Harold Sherman, a so-called psychic and late-comer to the Forum, Martin Gardner, a science writer who wrote the best failed attempt to discredit *The Urantia Book*, *Urantia: The Great Cult Mystery*, and the writings of Earnest Moyers. Except for the writings of Dr. Sadler, all accounts of the origin of the papers are second-hand at best and are therefore questionable for they may be factual or partly factual, or distorted, misunderstood, misinterpreted and invented. It is really impossible to say. I will give them the benefit of the doubt and use them if necessary, especially for a timeline of events. Although exact dates are in doubt, it really doesn't matter for my purposes.

The first question that came to my mind decades ago when I realized the significance of this revelation was why was a human contact personality needed to bring this information into the English language in the form of a book? Why didn't these authors just write the book themselves or "poof" it into existence? I actually spent many years pondering this subject without coming to any great conclusions. I was aware of the accounts that said his body was used to speak and write. I had difficulty with the possessed body idea because it seemed to contradict statements in the revelation itself.

If you remember the movie "Ghost" where the deceased guy possesses or enters the psychic and performs through her body you will have an idea of how the contact person was not used. In 1929, Dr. Sadler published a book called *The Mind at Mischief*. In his account of a strange case he was investigating involving a man in a deep, unusual sleep, he refers to the written and spoken words of the subject. I believe it is from this statement that all other references derive the idea that the subject's tongue and hands were literally used to convey communications from beyond. But when we read in the UB about the functions of the Midwayers, there is a definite statement indicating that they do not possess people. It is my belief that even rebel Midwayers did not harass feeble mind souls in this manner before Pentecost. They could aggravate a weak mind but not affect them like the girl was tortured in the "Exorcist" when devilish voices came from her mouth and her head turned around. That's Hollywood imagination at its best.

To support my claim we have only to read what Dr. Sadler said about the subject. When he was asked how the celestials did it his reply was always, think of a way and that's not it. I remember reading a list he made of how it wasn't done and automatic writing and automatic speaking were two on that list. Also, in response to the same question of how it was done his answer was "It's in the book" and it is (more on this soon).

But yet in 1929 he wrote in the *Mind at Mischief* about the written and spoken messages of the subject. There is no account in any of the histories about these times which say Dr. Sadler claimed he saw the subject writing. Dr. Sadler's son, Bill Jr., claimed that nobody ever saw information being written and no matter how hard they tried to discover the source of the material they could never do it. Some accounts say the first papers appeared all at once in response to questions Sadler compiled. The story goes that he thought the information was in the handwriting of the subject because the wife of the subject said it was. Sadler apparently checked the man for evidence of having written all night long but there was none. I think we can safely say that Sadler and everyone else did not know how the written information came about. Supposedly the handwriting was eventually analyzed and determined not to be that of the subject or anyone else involved. We do know that

Midwayers can make contact with material things and would have no problem writing papers.

What about the spoken information? Did Midwayers get into the subject's brain and make his tongue move and use his vocal cords? When we become familiar with the Midwayers and their abilities this seems like an inefficient and silly way to communicate higher concepts. But yet we know that somehow celestial beings were communicating with the contact commission, Dr. Sadler, his wife Lena and a few others. The written word came later so we know that there must have been verbal communications in the early stages. The story goes that during one of the earliest night sessions with the subject, the Sadlers noticed him wetting his lips as if wanting to speak. They asked him a question and he seemed to speak but it was not his voice.

This gives us the impression that his mouth was moving like in normal conversation. Remember that this is a story told by someone who claims that Sadler said this. There is no way of knowing whether it is accurate. Also, remember that a Midwayer would be able to speak and be audible and do it as if out of thin air. I imagine the loyal Midwayers are under a mandate to not frighten humans or give them heart attacks by speaking out of thin air.

As you are reading this just imagine a strange voice coming from behind you and no one is there. Your heart would stop. I would say in the early night sessions the Midwayers might have spoken near the subject or even opened his mouth to make it less frightening to have a sleeping man appear to talk. After the contact commission became used to the situation and accepted the fact that they were in communication with celestials, they could probably handle a voice in the corner of the room. Many years ago I met a man who said he met Dr. Sadler who told him the Midwayers had different accents in English depending on what part of the world they worked in. (another hearsay)

In this first part I am trying to get away from the idea that the physical body was used in any way. Midwayers did not need to use the body because they are very capable of writing and speaking for themselves. So, that brings me back to my original question. Why was a human being necessary to manifest the papers that eventually came to be known as *The Urantia Book*?

Part II The Mind

Before discussing why a human being was used and how, we might ask why our world was given an epochal revelation in book form and why at that time and place. Chicago in the early 1900s was one of the main

Midwayers did not need to use the body because they are very capable of writing and speaking for themselves. So, that brings me back to my original question. Why was a human being necessary to manifest the papers that eventually came to be known as The Urantia Book?

the celestials knew English was going to be the language of world business and politics. The US would soon be taking its consumerism to the world and with it the English language and books in English.

commercial hubs of the world and remains so to this day. Ironically, with all the gangsterism and political corruption that has tainted that city, one might very well ask the same question that Nathaniel asked when referring to Jesus and his illustrious hometown, “What good could come out of Nazareth.” If, on the other hand, the revelators had picked Dr. Sadler to be their main contact person, then that is a more conclusive reason for the revelation to take place in that location. Even at that early date, the celestials knew English was going to be the language of world business and politics. The US would soon be taking its consumerism to the world and with it the English language and books in English. Even though there may have been more people who spoke French or Spanish, English was chosen because of its versatile nature, its width and depth of usage. The revelation would be conveying concepts that would need words that could be shaped to fit high spiritual concepts.

This brings up the question when did the celestials decide to give us a new revelation. It had been two thousand years since the last epochal revelation, Jesus of Nazareth. Christianity, the result of the last revelation, was losing its momentum and becoming stagnant. The industrial revolution was winding down and the world was soon to be transformed into a modern society of mass communication and technology. We would soon be a world of air travel, space exploration, TV and computers, life saving medicine and over population. The celestials could foresee the changes coming and that the religions and philosophies of the past would not satisfy the minds of the future. Future generations would be hungry for higher truth.

Mortal man lacks the concept of morontia mind and material; and revelation is the only technique for atoning for this deficiency in the conceptual data which man so urgently needs in order to construct a logical philosophy of the universe and to arrive at a satisfying understanding of his sure and settled place in that universe. [Paper 103:6, page 1137:2]

We can see there was a need for new revelation so what would be the method. All other epochal revelations were done by personalities but we live in an age that idolizes individuals which would detract from an epochal message. The day of the printed word was here and books were fast becoming the fastest mode of spreading information. The celestial mandate is given to put the revelation into the English language in the form of a book. There is a statement in *The Urantia Book* that gives us an idea of the process. When speaking of the Midwayers they say:

Their chief work today is that of unperceived personal-liaison associates of those men and women who constitute the planetary reserve corps of destiny. It was the work of this secondary group, ably seconded by certain of the primary corps, that brought about the co-ordination of personalities and circumstances on Urantia which finally induced the planetary celestial supervisors to initiate those petitions that resulted in the granting of the mandates making possible the series of revelations of which this presentation is a part. [Paper 77:8, page 865:6]

We might interpret it this way. Conditions were becoming ripe for a revelation and the Midwayers petitioned the celestial supervisors for their approval. The Midwayers were told that once they had the personalities and circumstances in place the petitions would be initiated that would result in the mandates being granted. The personalities and circumstances were the bringing together of Dr. Sadler, his wife and the man who would be used for the communication process. This is where things become interesting.

The divine personalities who would be narrating the revelation, particularly part I and part II, are not able to make contact with material things, not able to write a book. The spiritual world is not real to us who live in a material world. The reverse is also true. The Midwayers and lower angelic orders who work on evolutionary worlds are able to see us as we are and how we live, but this is not true of higher celestial personalities like a Divine Counselor, Perfector of Wisdom or Universal Censor. There is a statement in the paper on Celestial Artisans that reveals this fact. The Archangel who narrates this paper says:

All these activities of the morontia and spirit worlds are real. To spirit beings the spirit world is a reality. To us the material world is the more unreal. The higher forms of spirits freely pass through ordinary matter. High spirits are reactive to nothing material excepting certain of the basic energies. To material beings the spirit world is more or less unreal; to spirit beings the material world is almost entirely unreal, being merely a shadow of the substance of spirit realities. [Paper 44:0, page 498:6]

He goes on to explain what he perceives and says that the Divine Counselor with him perceives even less:

I cannot, with exclusive spirit vision, perceive the building in which this narrative is being translated and recorded. A Divine Counselor from Uversa who chances to stand by my side perceives still less of these purely material creations. We discern how these material structures appear to you by viewing a spirit counterpart presented to our minds by one of our attending energy transformers. This material building is not exactly real to me, a spirit being, but it is, of course, very real and very serviceable to material mortals. [Paper 44:0, page 498:7]

So, if the celestial personalities had a mandate to reveal truth to Urantia in English in book form and they are not able to make contact with material things, then how were they to accomplish their task? How was the gap between the spiritual realm and the material level to be bridged? We already know that the Secondary Midwayers are able to make contact with things material but are they able to speak directly with higher personalities? The answer is no. There would need to be a process in place for a Divine Counselor to communicate with a Secondary Midwayer. One way might be to have a chain of personalities who could communicate with a being higher up or lower down to transmit information back and forth. There are quotes that suggest this idea.

The gap between the material and spiritual worlds is perfectly bridged by the serial association of mortal man, secondary midwayer, primary midwayer, morontia cherubim, mid-phase cherubim, and seraphim. In the personal experience of an individual mortal these diverse levels are undoubtedly more or less unified and made personally meaningful by the unobserved and mysterious operations of the divine Thought Adjuster. [Paper 38:9, page 425:1]

Primary midwayers resemble angels more than mortals; the secondary orders are much more like human beings. Each renders invaluable assistance to the other in the execution of their manifold planetary assignments. The primary ministers can achieve liaison co-operation with both morontia- and spirit-energy controllers and mind circuiters. The secondary group can establish working connections only with the physical controllers and the material-circuit manipulators. But since each order of midwayer can establish perfect synchrony of contact with the other, either group is thereby able to achieve practical utilization of the entire energy gamut extending from the gross physical power of the material worlds up through the transition phases of universe energies to the higher spirit-reality forces of the celestial realms. [Paper 38:9, page 424:8]

The key information above is this. *The primary ministers can achieve liaison co-operation with both morontia- and spirit-energy controllers and mind circuiters. The secondary group can establish working connections only with the physical controllers and the material-circuit manipulators.*

A Divine Counselor from Paradise would speak the language of Paradise and most definitely the language of the superuniverse in which he is assigned, but he probably would not have a need to know the languages of the local universes of that superuniverse. At the other end of the equation a Secondary Midwayer would be fluent in English and the tongue of Satania and perhaps the local universe language but definitely not the superuniverse language because they don't work on that level. But the

Primary Midwayers work with higher spiritual beings and would most certainly know the language of Uversa. There may be more entities involved in the process such as morontia- and spirit-energy controllers and mind circuiters as well as physical controllers and the material-circuit manipulators. In a quote above we find this phrase, *this narrative is being translated and recorded.* Translated from what language to what language and how many translations before being recorded in English?

You might ask why they didn't just sit around a table and translate back and forth. In a sense they did but the table used was not what we might think. As I have pointed out, it wasn't the contact personality's hands and tongue that were used or even attributes of his brain such as his vocabulary. There is a statement in the revelation which gives us our best insight into how the contact personality was used.

On many worlds the better adapted secondary midway creatures are able to attain varying degrees of contact with the Thought Adjusters of certain favorably constituted mortals through the skillful penetration of the minds of the latters' indwelling. (And it was by just such a fortuitous combination of cosmic adjustments that these revelations were materialized in the English language on Urantia.) [Paper 114:7, page 1258:1]

Some Midwayers are able to make some sort of contact with Thought Adjuster by penetrating the mind of the human indwelt by the Adjuster. They make the profound statement that it was by this process the revelations were materialized in the English language on Urantia. There are two distinct ideas here. One is making contact with the Thought Adjuster and the other is skillfully penetrating the mind of the human subject. If the Thought Adjuster was part of the revelatory process, then we must assume that Personalized Adjusters were engaged somehow because the communication was between personal beings and Thought Adjusters are not personal. Personalized Adjusters have been known to act in the affairs of a local universe, but there is nothing in the revelation itself that indicates that this was the case in bridging the gap between high and low beings.

The following quote explains how the Thought Adjuster may have been involved or not involved as you may see it. In much the same way a rebel Midwayer could affect the feeble minded before the Thought Adjusters readily came to indwell mortals after the bestowal of the Spirit of Truth, loyal Midwayers, when working with the Reserve Corps of Destiny, can work through the mind of a Reservist when the Thought Adjuster is detached for some reason. In both situations the Adjuster is absent

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from the personality leaving the mind vulnerable to mischievous acts or ready for planetary duty.

On no world can evil spirits possess any mortal mind subsequent to the life of a Paradise bestowal Son. But before the days of Christ Michael on Urantia—before the universal coming of the Thought Adjusters and the pouring out of the Master's spirit upon all flesh—these rebel midwayers were actually able to influence the minds of certain inferior mortals and somewhat to control their actions. This was accomplished in much the same way as the loyal midway creatures function when they serve as efficient contact guardians of the human minds of the Urantia reserve corps of destiny at those times when the Adjuster is, in effect, detached from the personality during a season of contact with superhuman intelligences. [Paper 77:7, page 863:6]

That leaves the penetrating of the mind, not the brain, of the subject. The brain is the instrument that

connects with the mind circuits, or rather the mind rests gently on the brain, at which point the Thought Adjuster might reside. It was in the arena of the mind circuits that the revelation took place. It is a crude illustration, but if we think of the subject as a telephone or a switchboard and the Thought Adjuster as the operator allowing the connection to take place and the phone line as the mind circuit where the communications are made, we can see how a Divine Counselor could speak to a Primary Midwayer who then speaks to a Secondary Midwayer. This is surely oversimplified because the true mechanics of the transaction transpires in the spiritual realm in the arena of cosmic mind. It would be impossible for us to fully discover and understand the process.

So, we might say the contact personality was an involuntary apparatus, but you might ask why the mind of a sleeping man and not the mind of a Midwayer? It is because the mind of the Midwayer is always active with an actively engaged personality. I might add here

that the human mind would be very compatible to the Midwayer mind as they share the two highest adjutant mind spirits, worship and wisdom.

But what about the free will of the human subject? Has the sanctity of the human mind been invaded? No, not really because the Midwayers are not accessing the physical brain and its memory, the soul or the personality. They are only accessing an unimpeded mind circuit. We can be certain that if the subject had been disturbed by the process he would have been exchanged for one more cooperative. The following quote reveals perfectly the nature of the situation.

The Adjuster of the human being through whom this communication is being made enjoys such a wide scope of activity chiefly because of this human's almost complete indifference to any outward manifestations of the Adjuster's inner presence; it is indeed fortunate that he remains consciously quite unconcerned about the entire procedure. He holds one of the highly experienced Adjusters of his day and generation, and yet his passive reaction to, and inactive concern toward, the phenomena associated with the presence in his mind of this versatile Adjuster is pronounced by the guardian of destiny to be a rare and fortuitous reaction. And all this constitutes a favorable co-ordination of influences, favorable both to the Adjuster in the higher sphere of action and to the human partner from the standpoints of health, efficiency, and tranquillity. [Paper 110:5, page 1208:6]

Part III The Timeline

While doing research on the revelatory process, I noticed something in the timeline that I had not considered before. We know that Dr. Sadler informed us that the first encounter with the contact personality was in 1911. It has also been recorded that the forum was organized in 1923. That was a twelve year period. The dates we have for the completion of the first three parts of *The Urantia Book* are 1934 and 1935, another twelve year period. Why are these two twelve year periods important? They are significant because what took place in each was different.

Before doing my research I, like many others, thought that over all those years up until 1935 the celestials were dictating information through the sleeping subject while someone was writing it down. Nothing could be further from the truth. The period between 1911 and 1923 seems to have been a time of testing the process, expanding the minds of the contact commission, and a period for the celestials to research human records, formulate, compile, and even write the first three parts of the revelation before ever involving the forum members in 1923.

Even before 1911 there was activity and preparations being made. Remember that the Midwayers needed to bring about the co-ordination of personalities and circumstances which induced the initiation of the petitions that resulted in the granting of the mandates making possible the series of revelations we now have as the Urantia Papers. It is impossible to say how long that process took. My feeling is that Dr Sadler was the key person in the equation. He had the experience and background needed as well as an objective, investigative mind. He was probably guided to move to Chicago because of its strategic location or perhaps because the chosen contact personality lived there. It is hard to say, but somehow they were brought together.

It was in the arena of the mind circuits that the revelation took place. It is a crude illustration, but if we think of the subject as a telephone or a switchboard and the Thought Adjuster as the operator allowing the connection to take place and the phone line as the mind circuit where the communications are made, we can see how a Divine Counselor could speak to a Primary Midwayer who then speaks to a Secondary Midwayer.

Another thing we don't know is how long the Midwayers worked to perfect the communication technique. As far as we know, this was the first and only time on Urantia the approved processes was attempted. How many links to the higher personalities were made before Dr. Sadler was called to the scene? We do know from personal accounts that the earliest sessions had no communications at all.

In 1929 Dr. Sadler wrote that there were about 250 of the night sessions. Over an eighteen year period that averages out to around one per month. We are also told that a stenographer made voluminous notes. Were these notes part of the revelation? No. We already know that the Midwayers can write and produce entire first draft versions of the papers. The human notes have since disappeared. What were they? Perhaps they were a result of an exercise to expand the minds of the contact commission and others who may have been called in to witness and evaluate the strange happenings. We have to remember that the state of the most advanced minds on the planet at that time did not have clear concepts in astronomy and the other sciences and were almost totally void of any high concepts of God, divinity, and the structure and administration of the spiritual realms. The enlightenment of an entire world would have to start with a few well rehearsed individuals. Even at that, Dr. Sadler was in doubt for many years until he read the paper on the twelve apostles, so we are told. I don't find this too surprising because Dr. Sadler, in 1929, didn't seem to have a good grasp some simple concepts because he said he was dealing with extra-planetary personalities from other planets. This makes it sound like he was communicating with extra-terrestrials. Furthermore, the revelation never refers to architectural worlds as planets. Planets are always evolutionary worlds.

Another reason we might conclude that the early communications, verbal and written, were not the proto-papers, the first drafts, is because Dr. Sadler says that it was student visitors who were coming and going. None of the authors of the final papers were student visitors.

One more thing that was probably taking place during the first twelve years was research and compilation of the more than one thousand human concepts representing the highest and most advanced planetary knowledge of spiritual values and universe meanings. We learn this in the acknowledgment at the end of the **Forward**. We know how beautifully the human concepts were uplifted and woven into the pure revelation. We can rest assured that a project of this magnitude takes a great deal of planning and preparation. It is only after reading it for many years that I have come to appreciate the artistry of these wordsmiths.

I have no doubt that before the Forum was involved around 1923-1924, the first three parts were completed in a first draft form. There are some accounts that say complete papers appeared in response to questions the contact commission provided. It could be that a simple question such as where does God live could have produced the Isle of Paradise paper. The mandates for the revelation contained guidelines for what could or could not be revealed so we know that the information to be included was known from the beginning. The forum was perhaps necessary to stimulate a paper, but the basic information was probably completed before 1923. I will go out on a limb and suggest that the Jesus papers were also completed long before they were given to the contact commission in 1935 according to some accounts. I personally knew two forum members who said the **forth** part of the book came all at once. I have heard it said over the years that there was some question among the revelators as to whether or not to include the life and teachings of Jesus, but reference is made to him as early as the first paper. It would be impossible to imagine the book without his life's story even if you took all references of him out. Urantia is his hometown, we are a part of his creation, and the first three sections of the book are a fantastic backdrop for the play.

So, what other purpose did the forum serve? What happened between 1923 and 1935 and even into the forties by some accounts? These are much simpler questions to answer. We don't know how many, if any, proto-papers were in the possession of the contact commission before the forum was formed. We do know that new papers were brought forth as questions were asked by the forum during these years. The questions were not the reason a paper was written, and we know this because there were pre-existing mandates stating what and what not to reveal, but rather signals indicating which paper to bring out. As papers were read before the members more questions were raised for clarification and then refinements were made. These years seem to have been a time of fine tuning the revelation to make it understandable to the human mind. The process was continued until the day came when the revelators said the mandates were fulfilled.

We were left with an amazing collection of information that deeply affects the transformation of the minds and souls of those who dare to engage it while the revelatory commission from Uversa moved on to perhaps repeat the process on another isolated world. ■

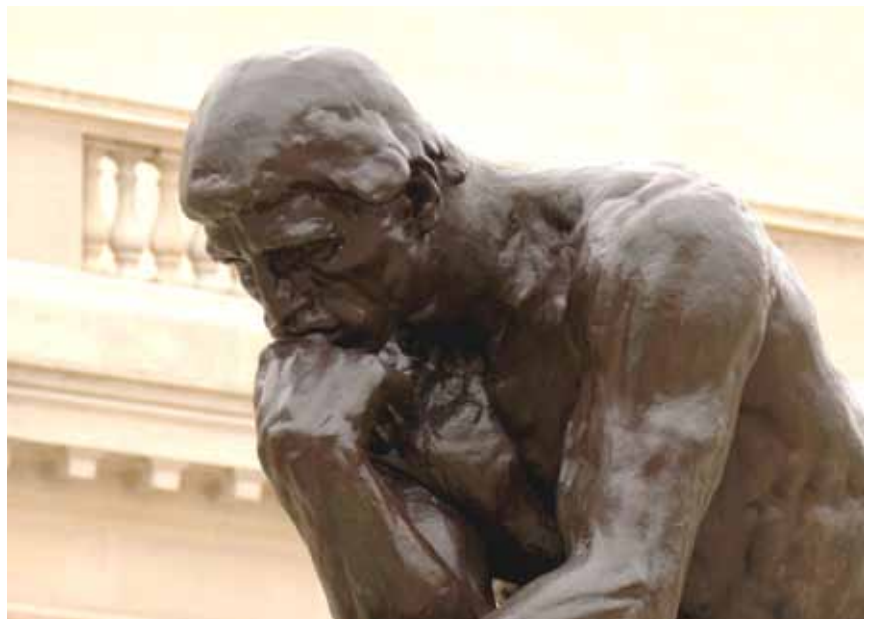
The forum was perhaps necessary to stimulate a paper, but the basic information was probably completed before 1923. I will go out on a limb and suggest that the Jesus papers were also completed long before they were given to the contact commission in 1935 according to some accounts.



The Logic of Theism

This piece is a composite of a series of emails I exchanged with my brother. During the process of our exchange he moved from an avowed atheist, to an avowed agnostic. Ha! That's progress!"

SCOTT BROOKS,
Columbus, Ohio, USA



The Thinker, sculpture by Auguste Rodin (1879–1889).

WE HAVE A GOOD RECORD OF OUR early attempts at flight. Engineering a flying machine took a series of designs which have become the subject of comical [YouTube videos](#). Each designer gained insight from the failures of the previous attempt. It was Edison who said “I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.” Eventually, the use of analytical thinking and with benefit of the trial and error method, humankind eventually developed a machine that would actually fly.

With that in mind, let’s place our attention on the development of the flying animal, [the bird](#). Current thinking among scientists is that birds evolved from small [theropod dinosaurs](#). No one is sure how the dinosaur developed flight. Some say that birds’ ancestors first glided down from trees and then acquired other modifications that enabled true flight. Some argue that birds’ ancestors were small, fast predatory dinosaurs. When feathers developed they evolved further to provide first lift and then true powered flight.

Given the number of experiments thinking humans had to perform to accomplish flight. Shouldn’t non-thinking, random evolution produce the bones of thousands of failed attempts? And unlike Edison, where [knowledge of 10,000 failed attempts lead to a successful design](#). In random, non-thinking evolution there can be no benefit of trial and error since there’s no intelligence by which pass on experiential knowledge. Where are the equivalents of the funny flying machines in the fossil record—creature designs that failed to fly?

This is a stumbling block to Darwin’s theory of evolution of the species. While it’s clear that the technique of evolution is at work in nature, the idea that random, unintelligent events could cause a theropod to become a bird has to be a matter of faith—faith in the belief that random mutations might produce the good fortune of progressive evolution. Since the proof isn’t in the fossil record, where a record of the failed attempts might exist, one has to go on faith alone.

Isn’t it more logical to imagine some intelligence at work in crafting this exquisite design?

When a bird flaps its wings, its wings develop lift due to the physics of air—[the Bernoulli Principle](#)—the same principles employed by aircraft to fly. Then, as the bird’s wing rotates forward, the lift is shifted to provide thrust to increase speed to overcome drag. This has the effect of further increasing lift allowing the bird to rise up in the air. Then, in the up-stroke the bird’s wing is folded inwards to reduce resistance. What a cool design.

It’s not just the design of the flying mechanism, but the design of air itself and its physical properties that make flight possible. The air surrounding our planet and the [water in the oceans, rivers and atmosphere](#) create an environment where life can flourish. The idea that these elements could randomly eventuate is not only difficult to grasp, but lacking in scientific evidentiary proof.

There are hundreds of thousands—millions—billions—of [design ideas at work on this planet](#). Design ideas that succeeded. The development of animal flight is just one instance of successful design that should lead the thinking person to deduce that some intelligence was needed to create not only individual instances of

It’s not just the design of the flying mechanism, but the design of air itself and its physical properties that make flight possible. The air surrounding our planet and the water in the oceans, rivers and atmosphere create an environment where life can flourish.

successful design, but an environment of matter and physics in which these design ideas could operate.

The idea of creation by a series of random accidents, given what we know about the creative process—the scientific method of discovery, is not supportable by any logical analysis or by the evidence discovered in fossils.

Evolution is a powerful force at work in nature. But, it's a huge leap of faith on the part of a believer in random, non-thinking, mechanistic evolution to produce a bird that flies with all the many systems in their brain and anatomy that must cooperate to make this possible. That some non-planned, chaotic, vibration of matter could eventuate into a universe of life in all its forms by chance and without thought has absolutely no factual evidence to support it. It's all theory—or *faith*—no matter how you slice it.

The theory of creative design, where some great intelligent system created the universe we live in is not some anthropomorphic urge to create a *wise holy father*. It is a reasoned, scientific examination of the facts of life. Without the theory of intelligent design, you are left with the theory that all of material creation, all of universe space, even the relativity of time itself, is not the creation of an intelligence beyond our ability to comprehend, *it's just...oh, I don't know... it's just... well, it just happened. So forget about it!*

Most atheists operate on faith—even though it's faith that they despise. There is no scientific evidence that non-thinking chaos can create matter, time, energy or anything else. This has to be a matter of faith. In fact, the theist seems to have one leg up on the athiest in that current observations favor the theists' conclusion. We all must make any analysis based on observable evidence. We know that intelligent systems (humans) tend to create things. And, especially in recent years, tend to create other intelligent systems from robotic welders to malicious Trojan horse software. We make things that mimic intelligent life in countless flying, driving, working, computer-aided systems in today's world. We make non-thinking machines as well. We also make structures. We grow crystals. We take whatever material we can get our hands on and create new, useful things with it. This behavior is clearly what thinking critters do. So, it's not anthropomorphic to hypothesize that the creation we observe was the work of another, Great Critter that has great intelligence and resources in order to forge into being *all that is*.

On the other hand, the athiest has no model to draw from in concluding that the things we observe have been created by *nothing*, or *nothing that has intelligence*. Sure, we can see a tree grow out of the ground and know that it grew without any intervention of any intelligent

system. But, we know the tree has instructions somehow encoded in its DNA. So, the scientist in me asks “who wrote the code” I'm sorry! but that's NOT a desperate anthropomorphic act of someone trying to find a *holy father*. It is an act of logical thinking based on my observation of the way things I observe tend to work. To me, It's far less logical to think the code sprung into being by a series fortunate mutations, the hallibut's eyes notwithstanding. Who or what created the rules of this adaptive behavior?

And, assuming the “creator” is intelligent enough to create things and life, it's no stretch at all to think that this intelligent system has other attributes similar to a thinking person, only on a grand scale. In other words, that grand intelligence is a being that knows and can be known.

But, there is a *Holy Father* aspect to my personal belief. It is my belief (again, arising from my own observations) that this intelligent system we call “God” is not only great, but also good. I know my own impulse to be good, correct, true, honest, trustworthy--all those things we intuitively know are good. It seems logical to me that this impulse for good is shared by the grand creator or creators. You might challenge the premise that the human thinking system is fundamentally good because it's clear that people do horrible things all the time. But, imagine this thinking system without the need to earn money. Take away bad events that may have occurred during childhood. Take away the fear of death, the need to survive. Take away childish emotions like jealousy and feelings of inferiority. Take away fatigue and aging. Take away nationalistic and racial pride, prejudice or shame. Take away ignorance and limited intelligence. Finally, strip away selfishness and in its place imagine the perspective of a father or mother toward its offspring. If you strip away all the baggage that our current struggle in the material world imposes on us as thinking systems, you are left with beings that naturally love and nurture and have an innate desire to do right. It's the world in which we exist that turns our good impulses into bad acts. If you doubt me, reader, just look at your own thinking and you'll see the desire for good is fundamental.

If we assume there is a *grandfather creator intelligence*. That “person” has no childhood traumas, no need for daily bread and no need to conquer himself. He/she/they exist in pure thought already--no baggage. And this creator regards all his creation as his offspring. It's easier to understanding that only good exists in the mind of the creator. The thought of an angry God is an absurd and superficial form of anthropomorphism. ■

We all must make any analysis based on observable evidence. We know that intelligent systems (humans) tend to create things. And, especially in recent years, tend to create other intelligent systems from robotic welders to malicious Trojan horse software. We make things that mimic intelligent life in countless flying, driving, working, computer-aided systems in today's world.

Expanding Leaders and Teachers

TONIA BANEY
USA



Speaking with confidence photo

SO YOU WANT TO BE A LEADER? HOW about a teacher? Well, they are mostly the same; a lot of work. Work that is challenging, exciting, and fulfilling, but it is difficult at the best of times.

This is well known to me as I was part of a group who was asked to build an organization eventually called Urantia Association International. Trustees called on a small group of readers and requested what seemed to be an impossible task; to build a new international reader group to support Urantia Foundation.

The story of how a new group was created through teamwork, creativity and leadership is an excellent example of how a few people working together can achieve an almost impossible task.

Trustees called on a small group of readers and requested what seemed to be an impossible task; to build a new international reader group to support Urantia Foundation.

The adjusters are loving leaders, your safe and sure guides through the dark and uncertain mazes of your short earthy career. They are the patient teachers who so constantly urge their subject forward in the path of progressive perfection. They are the careful custodians of the sublime values of creature character. [Paper 110:1, page 1203:4]

I can tell you, our adjusters had their work cut out for them!

Before the tale is told, much appreciation is given to the then Trustees, previous Trustees, today's Trustees, and other key advisers. What I am about to present can work in most organizational situations which require starting from the beginning with virtually little information or support.

Identify the Problems and Opportunities

Problems:

Due to disagreements, misunderstandings and personality clashes, a majority of the original Urantia Brotherhood Association separated themselves from Urantia Foundation and started a separate fraternal group. Essentially, Urantia Foundation was crippled as far as book dissemination, fundraising and readership outreach.

(When you are eventually successful, which you will be, you must understand that sometimes this causes misunderstanding by your fellow readers which you must endure in able to get the basic work done. Jesus suffered much the same when men did not understand what he was doing. Turning the other cheek is always the best policy.)

Religion is first an inner or personal adjustment, and then it becomes a matter of social service or group adjustment. The fact of man's gregariousness perform determines that religious groups will come into existence. What happens to these religious groups depends very much on intelligent leadership. [Paper 99:5, page 1090:10]

Opportunities

A copy of an updated mailing list was found. The original mailing list was the key to building an organization to support Urantia Foundation spiritually and financially into the near future.

The Urantia Foundation had been a viable non-profit for almost fifty years. History is important to readers and to the book distributors.

There were still a number of long time readers who supported Urantia Foundation and were willing to assist in building another organization of support.

The vacancy of three Trustee positions was an opportunity for new ideas from new Trustees.

Form Solutions

This is the difficult part of any marketing plan as solutions must be based on past experience or tried and true market planning involving expensive research.

- In spite of the lack of readership files and a full staff, research was proposed to find additional readers who supported Urantia Foundation.
- A committee, the Advisory Committee to the Trustees, (ACT,) was formed from older experienced readers, and asked to evaluate and create a solution to the problem. This group was made up of retired Trustees, and volunteers.
- Members of UAI can attend meetings such as this one and learn how to raise funds and train others to do the same. Fundraising is not that difficult if a plan is formed and carried out by all.

He invariably taught his apostles by questions and answers. [Paper 138:8, page 1546:1]

Actions

- The Coordinating Committee with the help of the Foundation mailing list contacted over 400 readers throughout the U.S. and Canada forming the beginning of what is today Urantia Association International.
- Provision was made for the financing of calls which could not be personally financed by volunteers.
- Opinions of the organizational split were solicited.
- Readers were asked for their suggestions regarding the continuation of the revelation’s goals.
- Readers were asked if they would volunteer if needed.
- Membership was also solicited worldwide to form a new fraternal organization which would support the Foundation’s Declaration of Trust, its publishing mandate and the Foundation’s programs.
- Readers were invited from all parts of the world and the US to attend a brainstorming week-end, the subject being what was needed for a new organization. UAI was the child of many readers’ opinions and hopes for the future.

Results

- A fraternal organization was formed with less restrictions and reporting and more autonomy.

- Urantia Association International was born with fraternal organizations in Australia, Canada, Finland, and the United States.

NOTE: The above marketing plan is simple due to time constraints but there are enough ideas to at least help you and your group organize to better serve your local readership.

Nothing seemed so important to Jesus as the individual human who chanced to be in his immediate presence. He was master and teacher but he was more-he was also a friend and neighbor, and an understanding comrade. [Paper 138:8, page 1545:10]

Study groups were never supposed to be political groups but because of past problems they began to choose between the two membership groups.

Study Groups

Fostering study groups can be organized much the same way as the new organization was born. Identify the goals, problems, opportunities and solutions; act upon these with positive activities, be a friend, neighbor and understanding comrade, and watch the UAI grow!

- Study groups were never supposed to be political groups but because of past problems they began to choose between the two membership groups. Before then there was no need as there was only one fraternal organization.
- Politics have no place in the study group. Study groups are not to be a political forum and this should be carefully explained to new readers. Essentially each individual who joins a study group is there to study and learn more about the revelation of God to mankind.
- Politics is a separate discussion meant to be part of organizational issues. (Man cannot totally eliminate politics from this revelation as the teachings themselves address politics.) Politics in this group seemed to be more intense once the internet was born and misunderstandings occurred.
- Neither channeling nor any other isms’ belong in the study group.
- Study Groups have always been autonomous and should continue to be so. No one should dictate to study groups as to who and what they support as long as they concentrate on *The Urantia Book* and its teachings at their meetings.
- Study Groups are free to participate in service or not. Each group can find its own projects if they so wish or participate in UAI projects.
- We as study group members or leaders can and do use many of Jesus techniques in our study groups, particularly those of us who have attended or hosted groups for many years.

- We study group leaders have learned by our mistakes and we have learned what makes a good group better: Leadership; consistent, caring, nurturing, and informed, we make sure everyone has refreshment, a chair and a Urantia book

UAI Membership Groups

Who will inspire the young people if it is not us?

Religion does need new leaders, spiritual men and women who will dare to depend solely on Jesus and his incomparable teachings. If Christianity persists in neglecting its spiritual mission while it continues to busy itself with social and material problems, the spiritual renaissance must await the coming of these new teachers of Jesus' religion who will be exclusively devoted to the spiritual regeneration of men. And then will these spirit-born souls quickly supply the leadership and inspiration requisite for the social, moral, economic and political reorganization for the world. [Paper 195:9, page 2082:9]

We who have read and accepted the teachings of *The Urantia Book* have a responsibility to continue this important work of creating a loving growing brotherhood based on what we have accepted as the Fifth Epochal Revelation. I have given you an outline of what was done in the past to build a new organization out of virtually nothing except the personalities who were waiting to be called, and of course those of us who called them. They were eager to tell us their stories, excited about being needed and enthusiastic about what they could do for the revelation.

All organizations need funding and everyone is aware of this fact. The membership group needs to identify what are the ongoing needs for the group and form a standing fundraising committee as part of the organization. A fundraising committee should be active at all times with ideas, events, meetings and solicitations for those who want to be involved on a higher level of giving of time and resources. People appreciate the attention and the solicitation of their ideas as well as the financial assistance they can provide. So do not forget to ask them their opinions, you may receive great advice!

The Jewish religion persisted (also) because of its institutions. It is difficult for religion to survive as the private practice of isolated individuals. This has ever been the error of the religious leaders: Seeing the evils of institutionalized religion, they seek to destroy the technique of group functioning. [Paper 97:10, page 1076:4]

If growth is what we desire then we must all participate in organizing our time and talent to reach out to our fellow man and ask them to a part of the most exciting activity on this planet. The building of a mighty group of souls devoted to serving mankind and our Father

within. Who will do this but those of you in this room? Who will inspire the young people if it is not us? This is not easy work, but as a group, with wise leadership, we can accomplish great things.

Leadership and teaching is service on a high level.

Service—more service, increased service, difficult service, adventurous service, and at last divine and perfect service—is the goal of time and the destination of space. [Paper 28:6, page, 316:4]

To be a leader you must appreciate your fellow man; be tenacious, have vision, take the time to plan, implement and follow up. It is time for us to use the referrals given to us, and to find others... to call these readers, invite them to meetings, suppers, or take them out for coffee.

Leadership is vital to progress. Wisdom, insight, and foresight are indispensable to the endurance of nations. Civilization is never really jeopardized until able leadership begins to vanish. And the quantity of such wise leadership has never exceeded one per cent of the population. [Paper 81:6, page 911:7]

One percent of the population may be born leaders, but most anyone can be a leader through planning, hard work and faith that what you are doing is important to our world. Give yourself a break by understanding no one is perfect on this world, just do what you can.

As you view the world, remember that the black patches of evil which you see are shown against a white background of ultimate good. [Paper 195:5, page 2076:3]

People are looking for answers, and we have them. We are all our unseen friends have!

Jesus needed his apostles, we need each other.

Religion inspires man to live courageously and joyfully on the face of the earth: it joins patience with passions, insight to zeal, sympathy with power, and ideals with energy. [Paper 99:7, page 1093:1] Emphasis mine.

How long has it been since you called an old friend and asked him to join you for coffee? We have found this revelation for a reason, not to hide it under a barrel, but to spread the teachings of Jesus by living a life of Goodness, by speaking and living Truth and by being and creating Beauty, and most of all by Loving each other.

It is time: we have everything, all the tools to make this happen. More than ever before in the history of this earth have we as truth seekers had such an opportunity.

Readers of *The Urantia Book*, take out your phones, get on your computers, devote some time each week to spreading the good word and be glad and thankful that in your short time on Urantia you can make a difference.



Getting the message across photo

The Adjusters are loving leaders, your safe and sure guides through the dark and uncertain mazes of your short earthly career; they are the patient teachers who so constantly urge their subjects forward in the paths of progressive perfection. [Paper 110:1, page 1203:4]

And finally Jesus tells us:

I have taught you much by word of mouth, and I have lived my life among you. I have done all that can be done to enlighten your minds and liberate your souls, and what you have not been able to get from my teachings and my life, you must now prepare to acquire at the hand of that master of all teachers—actual experience. And in all of this new experience which now awaits you, I will go before you and the Spirit of Truth shall be with you. Fear not; that which you now fail to comprehend, the new teacher, when he has come, will reveal to you throughout the remainder of your life on earth and on through your training in the eternal ages.

[Paper 181:2, page 1961:4]

Each of you received *The Urantia Book* for a reason. You have chosen to give untold hours reading and trying to comprehend these teachings. Your hour has come to

act, to teach, to lead, and most of all to live these teachings as best you can. ■



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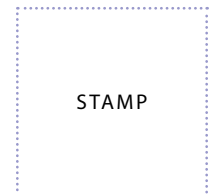
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