

PROGRESSIST

Dedicated to Progressive Mortals Everywhere
From Mark Kurtz, Goshen, Indiana; USA

"This magnificent and universal injunction to strive for the attainment of the perfection of divinity is the first duty, and should be the highest ambition, of all the struggling creature creation of the God of perfection. This possibility of the attainment of divine perfection is the final and certain destiny of all man's eternal spiritual *progress*." *The Urantia Book*, (22:1) 1:0.4

April 2010

Number 4; Vol. 3, No. 1

Chasing Tails

The lady had a cute young kitty, one that bonded quickly to her; they immediately became close friends. She fed the cat and it fed her every day with fun, companionship, and entertainment. Many times she playfully teased the animal with string and little balls of yarn or kitty toys. And many times the kitty entertained itself by chasing its tail in sudden, wild and furious circles, but never catching it. It is amusing to watch kitties go around in ever tighter circles, trying to catch the tip of that furry thing. Rarely do they catch even a slight grip. They never progress.

Puppies chase their tails too and sometimes they actually get a bite. Then they quit.

Interestingly, we humans chase "tails" by holding on to things of the past as though they are forecasts of the future or maybe sacred.

Human beings need personal and social progress. Expand this and we see need for community and national progress. When nations progress we see world progress. Are we mortals progressing when we go around and around chasing legacy, tradition, and familiar habits? Without revelation we are left to solace in familiar things generated from many centuries past. We hang on to authoritative older rulings based on limited knowledge.

Who dares to say that chasing those tails means the completion of God's plan?

Consider the following three statements gleaned from a survey, Personal Reflection: True or False or I Don't Know:

1 My spiritual guide (or law book, if you please) is the final, absolute, replete source and the last forever forthcoming to aid mankind.

2 Since I know what religion I have chosen to aspire I may correctly assume what I believe from this religion justifies disregard of all teachings from all other religions.

3 I can accept the fact (or possibility) there exists beyond my beliefs and all beliefs of all other persons a vast reality not imaginable or comprehensible by all humanity.

Perhaps you would like to privately respond to the above three statements, to determine for yourself if you believe they are true, false, or maybe you do not know for sure.

If we cannot accept the fact we do not know everything, we are ignorant, the belief we benefit from a vast plan of God to upgrade humanity, and if we decide we are comfortable with what we know, we then cannot be open minded; we are like kitties and puppies.

Could the reader accept the fact of real personalities, not visible to our human eyes, are present here and on other spheres and are watching us and who possess far greater knowledge? Consider this statement from an Archangel from Nebadon, our local universe, whose wise counsel is found in *The Urantia Book*:

However wise it may be to glean wisdom from the past, it is folly to regard the past as the exclusive source of truth. Truth is relative and expanding; it lives always in the present, achieving new expression in each generation of men—even in each human life. (888:1) 79:8.8

Someone knows more than we humans and they desire to help us progress. Again, it is good to recommend this formidable resource book for greater understanding of real personal progress. Its sources are non-human personalities who are watching us and through spiritual methods are attempting to nudge our planet for greater understanding and profound new clarity. The book is a rich and extensive source to help us lowly humans rise to new levels of personal confidence in a great Cosmos and of relating to God.

Readers will find it good and wise to cease chasing tails and to move forward with new confidence and enriched living faith in eternal adventures with God. Such joys are real and possible by accepting the realities set by God and enlivened by faith Sons of all creation, men and angels included. Discover your pathways with new *insights* from the book. The adventures are deeply satisfying!

Private time thinking or meditating is valuable time for honestly and willingly facing our Creator to build a lasting relationship. Addressing questions that come to mind helps achieve greater clarity of life. Would this be better than chasing tails? Could *The Urantia Book* be a rich resource for taking off in a clear new direction?

(The full 20 statement Personal Reflection survey is available from Progressist by email request to uranbkmichian@bnin.net).

Achieving Believability

People naturally develop favorites and preferences. As we gain adulthood we choose what we like and we tend to hold on to familiar culture and friends. We like our religion and the folks with whom we worship. Some prefer a steady boat, preferring that no one rock it. Change naturally comes slowly as we do things and live like our fore-fathers, granting tradition a lock hold on our lives. Looking back, one could ask, 'When did Jesus become credible'? Each reader may find their own answer.

The following sounds a bit dry and technical, but at the risk of losing attention here, it is presented for getting us all on the same page for understanding. From the online Website Wikipedia:

Credibility refers to the objective and subjective components of the believability of a source or message.

Traditionally, credibility has two key components: trustworthiness and expertise, which both have objective and subjective components. Trustworthiness is based more on subjective factors, but can include objective measurements such as established reliability. Expertise can be similarly subjectively perceived, but also includes relatively objective characteristics of the source or message (e.g., credentials, certification or information quality). Secondary components of credibility include source dynamism (charisma) and physical attractiveness. (Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Credible>)

Many centuries may be needed before widespread credibility for *The Urantia Book* would be found within humanity. Sometimes people are slow to see and accept even divine values and new teachings.

Each person may find the book immediately believable if an honest consideration is given to its high quality teachings. Other persons may require many years or several readings to realize they are granting credibility to the book. We must all give each other as much time as we need. There are those who may never find the book credible.

Given the definition above, we'd be wise to allow any person to do as much technical investigation and allow time for the indwelling Spirit to work in the deep mind to help recognize truth, as the reader uniquely experiences truth in his life, the subjective aspect for the book.

People could be classed as truth seekers or as evidence seekers; we could be both at any one time or neither. An evidence seeker may seek support for a given posit and use *The Urantia Book* to support a belief or doctrine. Another evidence seeker could use the book to support a belief that there must be more than we have known! A truth seeker may be curious and bothered slightly regarding traditional teachings and therefore go in search for greater life understanding. There likely is no shortage of such persons throughout the World.

For evidence and truth seekers, the book is a rich source of new information about the Cosmos, and the relationship of Man to God; plus much, much more. When the book achieves believability and becomes a credible resource for a person could be a quiet moment or it could be a profound moment of satisfaction erupting in joy and new confidence. You have a right to experience your moment at whatever rate and whatever the details may be. A good review of the Part IV narrative of Jesus' life gives a grand look at his growth. His is a magnanimous model for all to peruse and admire, given the difficulties he faced. His (and our) Father achieved high credibility early in his life. He was a divine person here on Urantia *inviting* us to fraternize with his Father, to accept his new teachings. So it is in the same way, as best as we are able, we mortals are invited to read the book.

People need their freedom for a unique relationship with the Father God and for this writer it is sometimes a challenge to step back and not cross over the line to impose acceptance. We'd be wise to recognize the important fact of God's personal invitation to each soul to fraternize in eternity as individuals and persons. Jesus did not use intellectual or cultural force or any kind of coercion to gain acceptance of God or any of his teachings. We would be wise to emulate his ways and love each person as they travel their unique spiritual pathway to heavenly living, even yet as we are now present as humans. As he said so many times, look at the "fruits" of the spirit in his teachings and within each person and we will know they are of God. Seeing these spiritual fruits we recognize believability, especially if we are honest when we look within and see potential! Give each person as much freedom as required to grow their own credible concepts for the book.

Believability and credibility leads us to the next discussion---individual growth creates social progress.

Teaming With Our Fellows

One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is teamwork. The spheres of perfection are manned by those who have mastered this art of working with other beings. Few are the duties in the universe for the lone servant. The higher you ascend, the more lonely you become when temporarily without the association of your fellows. (312:1) 28:5.15

The authors tell us personal growth is important, but also instruct us about teaming together for building great societies. These teachings undergird Jesus' lessons about love, for how can societies work in team fashion without basic love?

People learn from sources they respect and admire, including parents and friends. We must learn to love and to work together to defeat the older ways of hate and revenge or, to replace outworn doctrine and

tradition. We will grow a great world society with new insights.

The book offers many needed new insights for personal increased clarity for understanding our eternal destiny. Teamwork is directly and indirectly themed throughout the book, which leads into the next topic, studying earnestly with friends.

Study Groups Throughout the World

The Urantia Book was first published in 1955 after many years of private study by a small group in Chicago. They were given permission to publish the book and then to form thousands of study groups with the main purpose to help people understand its teachings. There are benefits from teaming together, especially for such a profound book as the *Urantia* papers. We benefit when we think together and explore the teachings with energizing mutual support.

Teamwork is profoundly emphasized in different ways throughout the Cosmos as many thousands of orders of Sons of God work in harmony for achieving the Father's purposes. No personality is allowed to work alone for extended time except those especially created Sons for specialized missions.

In civilization much, very much, depends on an enthusiastic and effective load-pulling spirit. Ten men are of little more value than one in lifting a great load unless they lift together--all at the same moment. And such teamwork--social co-operation--is dependent on leadership. (911:2) 81:6.37

Working as teams for study will help each of us to achieve new clarity as the indwelling Spirit within each person attempts to work with other Spirits in other persons. When we are in spiritual unity, we may expect new admiration for new insight and new appreciation for our fellow mortals.

We would do well to get together for real study of the book's many gems for the soul. What could you do to find other readers in your area? *Urantia* Foundation, the original and continuing book publisher, is a source in Chicago. Their phone number is 773-525-3319. The Foundation is currently developing, in concert with reader associations, an Internet central resource list of groups focusing solely on *Urantia* Book studies.

Earnest UB students have been meeting in a variety of places including private homes and libraries since the book was published. Now, new and greater emphasis is coming to promote group study.

The book has not been given to this planet to gather dust on shelves, but to aid mankind with new and updated concepts of God and the Cosmos. The rich teachings are profound---aiding friends and acquaintances with faith insight and for recognizing a new frame for seeing the larger Creation. An important role for each reader is to help each other progress through the book!

Imagine the possibilities for refreshing new insights if study groups pray together and help each other. A few minutes of quiet meditation with the Father may yield great benefits for each person. Imagine the possibility of thousands of groups on all world continents, each studying in their preferred language! Imagine the possibilities for worldwide transformation from warring human nature to divine nature! The transforming process is to grant each soul opportunity to choose by faith the divine definitions of life.

People gathering in small groups to earnestly attempt to learn what the authors have given us is the one most important aspect of world teamwork that will lead people to greater clarity of God and his Master Son of Nebadon, our Local Universe .

Imagine the impact as, one-by-one, people of this confused planet realize we are profoundly loved by an Original personality who prevails and sustains. Imagine the joy shared in groups with reader friends as new light is experienced and imagine if resulting greater interest in peace would be desired worldwide. We mortals do not see the whole Plan! We can take up the task of team study in groups, but the consequences for ultimate achievement are God's!

Urantia Book authors patiently guide readers into a new vista of possibilities of greater realities, a plan so large in scope that we cannot fathom it all or imagine such an undertaking. We need each other to "bounce" ideas off one another. Jesus' role here on *Urantia* and within his local universe domain is explained and presented so as to enlighten our minds with new understanding for relating to him. We see love from him and we read his instruction for sharing with one another. What better way than to share in a small group of fellow readers.

There is in the mind of God a plan which embraces every creature of all his vast domains, and this plan is an eternal purpose of boundless opportunity, unlimited progress, and endless life. And the infinite treasures of such a matchless career are yours for the striving! (365:3) 32:5.7

What Others Say

The following excerpts from *UAI Journal*, March 2010, Vol. 17, No. 1 found at <http://www.urantia-uai.org/Journal/> are from addresses by Kathleen Swadling, Nigel Nunn, and William Wentworth from Australia who presented *The Urantia Book* at the Parliament of World's Religions at Melbourne Australia, December 2009. The title of their presentation was "*The Urantia Book--What's Love Got to do with it?*"

First from Kathleen, "This afternoon we'd like to share with you a little bit about *The Urantia Book*---a book that many people from every walk of life and from

every cultural and religious background are finding truly inspiring. They are finding the teachings have profoundly impressed and changed their lives, stimulating them to new levels of spiritual growth and enlightened living.”

“*The Urantia Book* was first published in 1955 in the United States by Urantia Foundation. The first two questions people usually ask are ‘who wrote the book’ and ‘what does Urantia mean?’”

“To be receptive to the teachings of the book, it’s advisable to be open minded to the assumption that the universe is teeming with highly intelligent life and that it’s possible that from time-to-time some of these supermortal personalities find ways of revealing information to us that may assist us in our spiritual journey. That is what we believe happened with *The Urantia Book*.”

“There are no human authors of this book. It is a compilation of information given to us by a variety of universe personalities. They tell us that much of the time they’ve drawn from the highest levels of human philosophical thought. We’re told that Urantia is the name they have given our world---to our planet. We are told about the origin, history and destiny of our world and of the human race.”

“The authors don’t describe or advocate a new religion, rather they build on the religious heritage of the past and present, encouraging a personal and living religion based on service to one’s fellows. The central message is that all human beings are one family, the sons and daughters of a loving God whose attitude toward creation is that of a Universal Father. He’s given us a fragment of himself to indwell us and if we so choose to follow the leadings of that indwelling spirit then there’s an amazing voyage of eternal discovery ahead of us.”

William Wentworth commented, “*The Urantia Book* is not in itself a religion. Rather, it focuses on the spiritual impulse which gives rise to religions. While there is some truth contained in all religions, it is to the common root of all religions that the book directs attention. It seeks to strip away the fear of God, the dread of sin and transgression, and replace it with faith in the friendly nature of God, who is wholly benevolent and fatherly in his attitude to his creatures. He understands his creatures, knows their limitations, and loves them, and wants them to know him as an inspiration rather than as something to be feared.”

“The book reiterates again and again that God yearns to conserve all men, and that his attitude is friendly and fatherly. Men can experience sonship with God by including him in their inner life. This personal spiritual experience is what constitutes true religion.”

Nigel Nunn then proceeds to offer a marvelous experience-based opinion of why love is so valuable between the Father’s creatures. Here is just a short lift from his address: “Could new truth about ourselves---about who and what we are, about what this world is

for---help us as we try to make a difference, to help us heal? But, how do we access new truth about ourselves?”

“This is where *The Urantia Book* may be able to help.”

You remember that poet, in Palestine, almost 3,000 years ago, whispering to God: What is man, that you are mindful of him?” [Psalm 8:4]

“Even today this remains a really good question: Why should the Author of Reality be interested in us? What’s one more planet-full of humans to the Creator of an eternal infinity? Well, this is precisely the question addressed by *The Urantia Book*.”

“The Urantia Papers reveal **personality** to be so fundamental---as first source of everything and the destiny of all---that the Universal Father did not, or could not, delegate its care. The Papers also reveal an absolute transition---of particles of personality into free-will universe Sons.”

Nigel reminds us of one of Jesus’ many responses to his Apostles’ questions regarding love and quotes the Master: “But I declare to you that my Father in Paradise does rule a universe of universes by the compelling power of love. Love is the greatest of all spirit realities. Truth is a liberating revelation, but love is the supreme relationship”. (1608:1) 143:1.4

Nigel concludes his remarks thus, “Within the frame set up by these papers (the book), we can now trace the rise and role of **Love**, from the eternal core of the Absolute directly into the human heart. We are meant to be here, we are not alone, and every single one of us is very greatly **Loved**.”

Attendees at this Parliament symposium heard three enthusiastic UB readers share their experiences from the book. We may assume many were inspired to find the book and to discover its many “gems”. Book sales at the Urantia Foundation booth increased significantly.

When all is said, in the last analysis, *The Urantia Book* is a worthy resource!

Urantia Foundation and reader organizations have adopted a new standard reference system, which is parentheses around page number and paragraph number, followed by paper number: section number. and paragraph number not in parentheses as in the following examples: (54:1) 4:0.1 and (945:7-946:0) 85:2.4.

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TAKE SOME TIME TO PUT “WHITE SPACE”
AROUND YOU; TO REFLECT.