

The Urantia Book and Quantum Physics - Part 1 - The Forward

"I am planting seeds, nothing more." - Daniel Nahmod

I felt a surge of excitement when I first encountered the concepts of quantum physics. I've longed to discover a way to communicate the ideas presented in *The Urantia Book* to others, but the task felt overwhelming.

With quantum physics, it seemed there was potential for progress. Based on my understanding of these scientific concepts, which have been mainstream for just over a century, and which overlook the early philosophical contributions of Aristotle, Plato, and others, it seems that today's quantum physics researchers are ascending toward what they refer to as "consciousness" to elucidate the phenomena occurring in the quantum realm of particles and waves.

Initially, I thought that if quantum physics aims to unravel the foundational aspects of classical Newtonian physics, it resembles a pursuit toward the highest levels of truth. This ultimate truth, as explained in *The Urantia Book*, is the First Source and Center, also known as God.

While science grapples with the concept of a creator behind science, it seems an increasing number of astrophysicists and other scientists are beginning to acknowledge "intelligent design" or God as a more straightforward explanation, contrasting with the convoluted theories that fail to address the questions raised by quantum physics. (See footnote 1)

One example presented is that the author of *The Return of the God Hypothesis* explains that the Cambrian explosion of animal life, both in quantity and quality, often occurred without a "survival of the fittest" scenario; in fact, it could not have been the case. Too many forms appeared "suddenly" and without precedent. In other words, there are no missing links because none existed. While some creatures have evolved from others, those that cannot be connected will never be. This concept aligns perfectly with *The Urantia Book*.

Today's modern atheists, secularists, and materialist physicists face similar challenges. They are unable to move past the origins of the universe, represented by the so-called "Big Bang" theory, or the origins of life itself, as well as the intricate details of the universe's evolution, which seems perfectly tuned for creating worlds where life can prosper.

In my view, quantum physics aims to reach the sources of all things similarly to how *The Urantia Book* approaches the same ideas from a top-down perspective. This is another reason the Revelators encourage us to begin our exploration of the book from its highest level. Will these two ideas converge? No.

I believe that if quantum physics can move beyond its fixation on a "prove it" mentality—its materialist perspective—it will eventually have to keep reaching up until it recognizes the premise presented in *The Urantia Book*. After all, life transcends materialism; quantum physics acknowledges this, incorporating consciousness into its understanding of causality. However, if quantum physics becomes overly dogmatic in claiming that only observation creates the universe, it will need to retreat from that dangerous stance.

Where do we find the concept of quantum physics within *The Urantia Book*?

Anyone acquainted with quantum physics and its various theories recognizes the principles of potentiality and manifestation. Are particles truly real, or do they simply emerge from a “field” of probability? At what point does a wave transition into a particle? Is it possible for a photon to anticipate its behavior while passing through one or two slits?

Consider the paradox of entanglement. How can two distant entities respond identically to one another’s movements?

How do quantum physics concepts reshape our perception of consciousness? There are numerous recent publications dedicated to this topic.

The initial breakthroughs in quantum physics stemmed from uncovering the wave-particle paradox: observing a particle affects its location within the potential field of its trajectory or wave. When examining the wave, the particle remains unobserved until the “collapse of the wave function” occurs, concluding the particle’s potentiality and leading to its observation.

In Paper 65 we read: *“It is impossible accurately to determine, simultaneously, the exact location and the velocity of a moving object; any attempt at measurement of either inevitably involves change in the other.”* (UB65:6.1) (See footnote 2.)

Before delving into the specifics of the UB, I would like to highlight elements of *The Urantia Book’s* revelations that relate to the aforementioned issues.

First, let’s consider some intriguing information from the book’s *Forward*. It states that the qualities of universal reality—presumably larger than quantum reality—are experienced by humans on multiple levels: body, mind, spirit, soul, and personality.

Reality

The Forward to The Urantia Book addresses Universe reality in Section IV, titled, guess what?, *Universe Reality*.

“Reality differentially actualizes on diverse universe levels; reality originates in and by the infinite volition of the Universal Father and is realizable in three primal phases on many different levels of universe actualization:....” From the outset, we identify three levels of reality: The **Undeified reality** *“... ranges from the energy domains of the nonpersonal to the reality realms of the nonpersonalizable values of universal existence...”* which encompasses the presence of the **Unqualified Absolute**, whatever that may entail.

Next is the **Deified reality**, encompassing all infinite “... Deity potentials extending through every realm of personality, from the lowest finite to the highest infinite...” This refers to “... the domain of that which is personizable...” and includes the **Deity Absolute**, whatever that may entail.

The last concept is **Interassociated reality**. See this: *“Universe reality is supposedly either deified or undeified....”* BUT there are *“subdeified beings”* that exist in the realm of reality, *“potential and actualizing,”* difficult to identify, but fall within the realm of the **Universal Absolute**, whatever that is!

We understand that God initiates and sustains Reality (with a capital R). However, the distinctions between the deified and the non-deified introduce a tension in the dynamic

between the Deity Absolute and the Unqualified Absolute, which I can recognize. The Universal Absolute resolves this tension and subsequently eternalizes it. (UB0:4.1-5)

Potentiality

Individuals with some understanding of quantum physics recognize that its theories are deeply rooted in the potentials of possible events or actions. These potentials materialize when one of numerous possibilities transitions from being a mere potential to an actual event or action. Thus, potentials are crucial in these theories, just as they are in the Reality of The Urantia Book.

“From the viewpoint of time and space, reality is further divisible as:

*1. **Actual and Potential.** Realities existing in fullness of expression in contrast to those which carry undisclosed capacity for growth. The Eternal Son is an absolute spiritual actuality; mortal man is very largely an unrealized spiritual potentiality.”*

There are three additional categories: **Absolute and Subabsolute**, **Existential and Experiential**, and **Personal and Impersonal**. But these other three have, it seems, little to do with potentiality and manifestation other than being other qualities of Reality that define the nature of the Universe and its inhabitants. (UB0:4.6-10)

Since the concept of potentiality plays such a large role in quantum physics, I want to go to the *Forward* section (XI) on **The Three Absolutes** of potentiality. These three Deities are, you could say, responsible for the manifestation of all physical matter that culminates in the planets, suns and stars, galaxies, and much more. The three must work together to maintain balance in all things.

*“1. The **Deity Absolute** (aka the **Qualified Absolute**) seems to be the all-powerful activator, while the **Unqualified Absolute** appears to be the all-efficient mechanizer of the supremely unified and ultimately co-ordinated universe of universes, even universes upon universes, made, making, and yet to be made.*

“The Deity Absolute cannot, or at least does not, react to any universe situation in a subabsolute manner. Every response of this Absolute to any given situation appears to be made in terms of the welfare of the whole creation of things and beings, not only in its present state of existence, but also in view of the infinite possibilities of all future eternity.

“The Deity Absolute is that potential which was segregated from total, infinite reality by the freewill choice of the Universal Father, and within which all divinity activities—existential and experiential—take place. This is the Qualified Absolute in contradistinction to the Unqualified Absolute; but the Universal Absolute is superadditive to both in the encompassment of all absolute potential.

*“2. The **Unqualified Absolute** is nonpersonal, extradivine, and undeified. The Unqualified Absolute is therefore devoid of personality, divinity, and all creator prerogatives. Neither fact nor truth, experience nor revelation, philosophy nor absonity are able to penetrate the nature and character of this Absolute without universe qualification.*

“[T]he Unqualified Absolute is a positive reality pervading the grand universe and, apparently, extending with equal space presence on out into the force activities and prematerial evolutions of the staggering stretches of the space regions beyond the seven

superuniverses. ... The Unqualified Absolute is a positive universe overcontrol in infinity; this overcontrol is space-force unlimited but is definitely conditioned by the presence of life, mind, spirit, and personality, and is further conditioned by the will-reactions and purposeful mandates of the Paradise Trinity.

*“3. The **Universal Absolute** ... is the Deity phenomenon indicative of the resolution of the tension created by the freewill act of thus differentiating universe reality, and functions as the associative co-ordinator of these sum totals of existential potentialities.*

“The tension-presence of the Universal Absolute signifies the adjustment of differential between deity reality and undeified reality inherent in the separation of the dynamics of freewill divinity from the statics of unqualified infinity.

“... Potential infinity is absolute and inseparable from eternity. Actual infinity in time can never be anything but partial and must therefore be nonabsolute; neither can infinity of actual personality be absolute except in unqualified Deity. And it is the differential of infinity potential in the Unqualified Absolute and the Deity Absolute that eternalizes the Universal Absolute, thereby making it cosmically possible to have material universes in space and spiritually possible to have finite personalities in time.

“ The finite can coexist in the cosmos along with the Infinite only because the associative presence of the Universal Absolute so perfectly equalizes the tensions between time and eternity, finity and infinity, reality potential and reality actuality, Paradise and space, man and God. Associatively the Universal Absolute constitutes the identification of the zone of progressing evolutionary reality existent in the time-space, and in the transcended time-space, universes of subinfinite Deity manifestation.” (UB0:11.1-13)

Personality

“Personality is a level of deified reality and ranges from the mortal and midwayer level of the higher mind activation of worship and wisdom up through ... [the] spiritual to the attainment of finality of personality status. ... Reality is subject to universal expansion, personality to infinite diversification, and both are capable of well-nigh unlimited Deity co-ordination and eternal stabilization. While the metamorphic range of nonpersonal reality is definitely limited, we know of no limitations to the progressive evolution of personality realities.” (UB0:5.1-2)

This concept of Personality (capital P) is quite different from that which we generally think of as personality. It is a unique quality that each of us has that is a gift of the First Source and Center. It is not the ego, nor the attributes (for the most part) that we display to the rest of the world. But it is our true self. It is directly connected to the First Source through the Personality Gravity Circuit. I like to think that as we build our character, as David Brooks defines it, we are peeling away the layers of who we are not to discover at our foundation is who we are—love, and all that love means.

“The Universal Father is the secret of the reality of personality, the bestowal of personality, and the destiny of personality. The Eternal Son is the absolute personality, the secret of spiritual energy, morontia spirits, and perfected spirits. The Conjoint Actor is the spirit-mind personality, the source of intelligence, reason, and the universal mind.” (UB0:5.5)

Human experience of universal reality

The qualities of universal reality found in our experience occur on several levels:

*“1. **Body.** The material or physical organism of man. The living electrochemical mechanism of animal nature and origin.*

*“2. **Mind.** The thinking, perceiving, and feeling mechanism of the human organism. The total conscious and unconscious experience. The intelligence associated with the emotional life reaching upward through worship and wisdom to the spirit level.*

*“3. **Spirit.** The divine spirit that indwells the mind of man—the Thought Adjuster. This immortal spirit is prepersonal—not a personality, though destined to become a part of the personality of the surviving mortal creature.*

*“4. **Soul.** The soul of man is an experiential acquirement. As a mortal creature chooses to “do the will of the Father in heaven,” so the indwelling spirit becomes the father of a new reality in human experience. The mortal and material mind is the mother of this same emerging reality. The substance of this new reality is neither material nor spiritual—it is morontial. This is the emerging and immortal soul which is destined to survive mortal death and begin the Paradise ascension.*

*“[5] **Personality.** The personality of mortal man is neither body, mind, nor spirit; neither is it the soul. Personality is the one changeless reality in an otherwise ever-changing creature experience; and it unifies all other associated factors of individuality. The personality is the unique bestowal which the Universal Father makes upon the living and associated energies of matter, mind, and spirit, and which survives with the survival of the morontial soul.”*

(UB0:5.6-11)

Energy

The *Urantia Book's* use of the word energy can be applied to spiritual, mind, and material realms of existence. The word physical energy is used “... denoting all phases and forms of phenomenal motion, action, and potential.” In speaking of the physical-energy forms of power, the words used are:

*“1. **Cosmic force** embraces all energies deriving from the Unqualified Absolute but which are as yet unresponsive to Paradise gravity.*

*“2. **Emergent energy** embraces those energies which are responsive to Paradise gravity but are as yet unresponsive to local or linear gravity. This is the pre-electronic level of energy-matter.*

*“3. **Universe power** includes all forms of energy which, while still responding to Paradise gravity, are directly responsive to linear gravity. This is the electronic level of energy-matter and all subsequent evolutions thereof.” (UB0:6.2-7)*

Mind and Light

*“**Mind** is a phenomenon connoting the presence-activity of living ministry in addition to varied energy systems; and this is true on all levels of intelligence. In personality, mind ever intervenes between spirit and matter; therefore is the universe illuminated by three kinds of light: material light, intellectual insight, and spirit luminosity.*

*“**Light**—spirit luminosity—is a word symbol, a figure of speech, which connotes the personality manifestation characteristic of spirit beings of diverse orders. This luminous*

emanation is in no respect related either to intellectual insight or to physical-light manifestations.” (UB0:6.8-9)

Pattern

Pattern is a very important concept in *The Urantia Book*. When the book speaks of “Truth, Beauty, and Goodness,” beauty connotes pattern.

“Pattern can be projected as material, spiritual, or mindal, or any combination of these energies. It can pervade personalities, identities, entities, or nonliving matter. But pattern is pattern and remains pattern; only copies are multiplied.

“Pattern may configure energy, but it does not control it. Gravity is the sole control of energy-matter. Neither space nor pattern are gravity responsive, but there is no relationship between space and pattern; space is neither pattern nor potential pattern. Pattern is a configuration of reality which has already paid all gravity debt; the reality of any pattern consists of its energies, its mind, spirit, or material components.

“In contrast to the aspect of the total, pattern discloses the individual aspect of energy and of personality. Personality or identity forms are patterns resultant from energy (physical, spiritual, or mindal) but are not inherent therein. That quality of energy or of personality by virtue of which pattern is caused to appear may be attributed to God—Deity—to Paradise force endowment, to the coexistence of personality and power.

“Pattern is a master design from which copies are made. Eternal Paradise is the absolute of patterns; the Eternal Son is the pattern personality; the Universal Father is the direct ancestor-source of both. But Paradise does not bestow pattern, and the Son cannot bestow personality.” (UB0:6.10-13)

Now, remember Plato’s idea that master patterns exist in different realms for all material creations, which the book refers to as copies. Take the chair, for instance. Although there is a single pattern that defines “chair,” countless types and styles of chairs can exist. This might seem unrelated to quantum physics. However, how our consciousness interprets the singular concept of a chair is vital for our manifestation, utilization, and appreciation of these objects we often overlook.

Next time, I dive into *The Urantia Book and Quantum Physics - Part 2 - Matter and Energy*.

James Leese
April 30, 2025

Footnotes:

1. *The Return of the God Hypothesis: Three Scientific Discoveries that Reveal the Mind Behind the Universe*, by Stephen C. Meyer, New York, HarperCollins Publishers, 2021. Another compelling idea the author makes is that for all the things, events, manifestations, miraculous things to happen to make a world a place for something living to live, is impossible to surmise, the odds are so very great and the time so very short, for it all to be happenstance. Another is the question of what came before the “Big Bang”? With all the manipulations of theories, astrophysicists can only determine one logical and possible answer: intelligent design. As the author states, “... any cause capable of explaining the

origin of the universe and its fine tuning must in some way stand causally separate from the Universe or ... transcend matter, space, time, and energy.” Additionally, life can only come from life. Science will never create a living thing from scratch.

2. This paragraph is not about quantum physics but uses QP as a lead-in to the concept of the creation of life. The paragraph continues: *“The same sort of a paradox confronts mortal man when he undertakes the chemical analysis of protoplasm. The chemist can elucidate the chemistry of dead protoplasm, but he cannot discern either the physical organization or the dynamic performance of living protoplasm. Ever will the scientist come nearer and nearer the secrets of life, but never will he find them....”* (UB65:6.1)

James Leese
April 30, 2025