

(Not wanting to jump ahead too far ahead in my memoirs about my dealings with Marcee, it seems appropriate for me to introduce an issue of *Reality Quest* that explains some of the reasons why Mormons are forced to accept polygamy as a righteous and inspired practice. Marcee will be mentioned later, as well as Vicky , whose involvement with me will also be mentioned.)

REALITY QUEST

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Issue XXIII

WHY I LIVED POLYGAMY

Yes, I did practice polygamy. But why not? Every righteous Mormon male must in order to enter the highest kingdom of God.

Though it is quite embarrassing to the modern Mormon Church, polygamy is and always will be a major part of their religion and beliefs.

In 1831, or thereabouts, no one really can agree as to when, Joseph Smith Jr., the founder of Mormonism, claimed to have received a revelation from God instructing him to take more than one wife. With this revelation came an institution of marriage in the Mormon faith that would haunt it forever.

From that time forward, many Mormon men have gloated in the belief that God has chosen them worthy to have more than one wife.

Heber C. Kimball, first counselor to Brigham Young said, *"I have noticed that a man who has but one wife, and is inclined to that doctrine, soon begins to wither and dry up, while a man who goes into plurality looks fresh, young and sprightly. Why is this? Because God loves that man, and because he honors his word. Some of you may not believe this, but I not only believe it but I also know it. For a man of God to be confined to one woman is small business... I do not know what we should do if we had only one wife apiece."* (Deseret News, April 22, 1857)

In the same Salt Lake City newspaper, the Deseret News, August 6, 1862, Brigham Young stated: *Monogamy, or restrictions by law to one wife, is no part of the economy of heaven among men. Such a system was commenced by the founders of the Roman Empire... Rome became the mistress of the world, and introduced this order of monogamy wherever her sway was acknowledged. Thus this monogamic order of marriage, so esteemed by modern*

Christians as a holy sacrament and divine institution, is nothing but a system established by a set of robbers...

Why do we believe in and practice polygamy? Because the Lord introduced it to his servants in a revelation given to Joseph Smith, and the Lord's servants have always practiced it. "And is that religion popular in heaven? It is the only popular religion there..."

There is no doubt, (I knowing from first hand experience), that polygamy boosts a man's ego and gives him a great sense of purpose and pride. An acclaimed Mormon Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, proclaimed: *"We breath the free air, we have the best looking men and the handsomest women, and if they envy us our position, well they may, for they are a poor, narrow minded, pinch-backed race of men, who chain themselves down to the law of monogamy and live all their days under the dominion of one wife. They ought to be ashamed of such conduct, and the still fouler channel which flows from their practices..."* (Deseret News, April 16, 1856, by George A. Smith)

The Apostle of the Lord, Jesus Christ, Heber C. Kimball proclaimed: *"In the spirit world there is an increase of males and females, there are millions of them, and if I am faithful all the time, and continue right along with brother Brigham, we will go to brother Joseph and say, "Here we are brother Joseph; we are here ourselves are we not, with none of the property we possessed in our probationary state, not even the rings on our fingers?" He will say to us, "Come along boys, we will give you a good suit of clothes. Where are your wives?" "They are back yonder; they would not follow us." "Never mind," says Joseph, "here are thousands, have all you want." (Journal of Discourses, vol. 4, p 209)*

The early Mormon leaders further condemn monogamy by touting: *"...the one wife system not only degenerates the human family, both physically and intellectually, but it is entirely incompatible with philosophical notions of immortality; it is a lure to temptation, and has always proved a curse to a people.* (Millennial Star, vol. 15, p. 227)

There is no doubt in the mind of any Mormon who honestly studies the history of their church and its doctrines of salvation that plural marriage is essential for one to be exalted in heaven.

The sixth prophet of the church, Joseph F. Smith states: *"Some people have supposed that the doctrine of plural marriage was a sort of superfluity, or a non-essential to the salvation of mankind. In other words, some of the saints have said, and believe that a man with one wife, sealed to him by the authority of the Priesthood for time and eternity, will receive an exaltation as great and glorious, if he is faithful, as he possibly could be with more than one. I want here to enter my protest against this idea, for I know it is **false**.... Therefore, whoever has imagined that he could obtain the fullness of the blessings pertaining to this celestial law, by complying with only a portion of its conditions, has deceived himself. He cannot do it. When that principle was revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith... an angel of God, with a drawn sword, stood before him and commanded that he should enter in the practice of that principle, or he should be utterly destroyed....*

If then, this principle was of such great importance that the Prophet himself was threatened with destruction, and the best men in the Church with being excluded from the favor

of the Almighty, if they did not enter into and establish the practice of it on earth, it is useless to tell me that there is no blessing attached to obedience to the law, or that a man with only one wife can obtain as great a reward, glory or kingdom as he can with more than one....

*I understand the law of celestial marriage to mean that every man in this church, who has the ability to obey and practice it in righteousness, and will not, shall be damned. I say I understand it to mean this and nothing else, **and I testify in the name of Jesus that it does mean that.** (Journal of Discourses, vol. 20, pp. 28-31)*

All of the early leaders of the church taught that the doctrine of plural, or celestial marriage, is the most holy and important doctrine ever revealed to man on the earth; and that without obedience to that principle, no man can ever attain to the fullness of exaltation in the celestial glory.

The Millennial Star proclaimed: *"And we... are believers in the principle of plural marriage or polygamy, ...as a principle revealed by God, underlying our every hope of eternal salvation and happiness in heaven... we cannot view plural marriage in any other light, that as a vital principle of our religion." (Volume 40, pp. 226-227)*

"Upwards of forty years ago the Lord revealed to His Church the principle of celestial marriage... the command of God was before them in language which no faithful soul dare disobey.

"For behold, I reveal unto you an new and an everlasting covenant and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant, and be permitted to enter into my glory..."

Damnation was the awful penalty affixed to a refusal to obey this law. It became an acknowledged doctrine of the Church; it was indissolubility interwoven in the minds of its members with their hopes of eternal salvation and exaltation in the presence of God... Who could suppose that... Congress would enact a law which would present the alternative to religious believers of being consigned to a penitentiary if they should attempt to obey a law of god which would deliver them from damnation! (Ibid., vol. 47, p. 711)

All my life I had been convinced that the Lord had withdrawn his command of living polygamy with what became known in the Mormon church as the Manifesto. The Manifesto was publicly issued by Wilford Woodruff, the Prophet and President of the Church at the time, in October of 1890. It maintained that the Church no longer practiced polygamy, *"Inasmuch as laws have been enacted by Congress forbidding plural marriages, which laws have been pronounced constitutional by the court of last resort."* W. Woodruff goes on to say that he intends on obeying the laws of the land, and would have all other members do the same or loose their membership.

All this made great sense to me; and would have continued to make great sense had I not worked Security for the Church, got into documents I shouldn't have seen, and initiated an investigation into this church which changed my life and beliefs forever.

My conclusions were simple: the Manifesto given by the leadership of the Mormon Church in 1890, was a farce. It was presented as smoke and mirrors to stop the government from

intervening into the affairs of the Church and allow them to keep their lands and status as American citizens.

I vehemently disagree with the course of action the United States Government took against the Mormons. The constitution guaranteed all citizens the right to practice religion according to the dictates of their own conscience. The Mormons weren't harming anyone by living plural marriage. However, every Priest, politician, or orthodox male whose wives wouldn't hear of such a thing, were outraged, and probably a little jealous of what the Mormons were perpetuating. I have no idea why; Americans who base most of their beliefs on the *Bible* cannot see that there is quite an amount of evidence therein to make the argument that at times, polygamy was justified, and even commanded by God. The Mormon's constitutional rights were denied and blatantly overlooked by over zealous politicians and law enforcement officials who didn't like what the Mormons were doing with their new religious freedom.

Today, the Government refuses to prosecute Mormon polygamists, because they are sure, with the properly acquired legal help, that they would be granted the right to do so. Homosexuals would have been treated the same as the polygamist, or even worse, during the 1800's. Today, homosexuals are allowed the freedom to live as they wish. Homosexuality is against the laws of most of the 52 states, but in no State are homosexuals prosecuted for living their lifestyle. So why should the polygamists be?

In Utah, where polygamy is more abundant than anywhere else, the Government will not touch the issue with a ten-foot pole. They know that if the Supreme Court rules the practice constitutional, there will be nothing to keep the Mormon Church from reinstituting their former practice. Ironically, it is the Mormon Church who is the Government's best supporter of leaving the polygamists alone so that the case doesn't get appealed to the Supreme Court where this highest court is sure to rule that polygamy is protected under the constitution. Why? Because the leaders don't want to have to tell their 50 and 60 year old wives that they are to be wed, by the command of God, to a voluptuous 20 year old.

Apostle John Henry Smith made this affirmed statement to Walter M. Wolfe in the congressional hearings, which were being held to determine whether or not Reed Smoot, the Utah Senator, should keep his seat in the United States Senate. The hearings were called, "The Proceedings Before the Committee on Privileges and Elections of the United States Senate in the Matter of the Protests Against the Right of Hon.. Reed Smoot, a Senator From the State of Utah, to Hold His Seat.": *"Brother Wolfe, don't you know that the manifesto was only a trick to beat the devil at his own game?"* (Reed Smoot Case, vol. 4, p.13)

With a little of my own honest investigation, I found Apostle Smith's statement to be the fact indeed.

The Reed Smoot case proved to be one of the most embarrassing incidents in Mormon history. It was ascertained through the hearings, that the Mormon Church continued to practice polygamy a long time after the Manifesto was issued. Did the leaders of the Church break the laws of the land by continuing the practice? Heaven's sake, no! They established a stake in Mexico where the members of the Church were sent to be sealed to their wives for time and all

eternity. The Mexicans didn't care how many wives a man had.

It is common knowledge in the Church that many of its leaders had to hide from authorities in order to avoid being arrested for practicing polygamy. I always assumed that this was **before** the Manifesto was given. Wrong again!

Lorenzo Snow, John Taylor, Heber J. Grant, and Joseph F. Smith were all polygamists who practiced "Celestial marriage" behind the closed doors of public scrutiny and the eyes of the general membership of the Church. All of these men were prophets of the Church long after Woodruff issued the manifesto.

Though the Church has always been good at suppressing things and keeping them from the public, they almost blew it in November of 1906, when the Deseret Evening News slipped up and reported that President Joseph F. Smith had been brought up on charges of unlawful cohabitation: *"...President Smith appeared forthwith and entered a plea of guilty and was fined three hundred dollars. The fine was promptly paid and the defendant discharged."* (Deseret Evening News, November 23, 1906)

Why shouldn't they have deceived the Devil and his followers, i.e., the United States Government?" I thought. "God had given the commandment and we must obey!" My continued investigation into the Church and its hidden secrets would lead me to find out that the modern Mormon church continues to practice this deception of the public, more especially of its own members, to this day in that they are very secretive not only with their finances, but with their most sacred doctrines and ordinances, and most of their historical documents.

It was through my investigation that I determined that the modern church had failed to live up to the commandments of God and therefore had lost the Holy Priesthood and all its rights. I knew the secret works of the General Authorities. I knew the riches that they had and their desire for power and status. Surely, so I thought, this church is corrupt and as was prophesied before: *"Let the Presidency of this Church, and the Twelve Apostles, and all the authorities unite and say with one voice that they will oppose the doctrine (polygamy), and the whole of them will be damned."* (The Journal of Discourse, vol. 5, p. 203)

The Church had fallen into corruption and the leaders were damned.

When I had determined this line of thinking in my mind, I could no longer continue my adherence to the Church, which at that time was no better to me than the other churches of the devil that existed in the world. I proceeded to study early church history and find out extraordinary things that would eventually lead me to conclude that without polygamy, no man can be exalted.

"It is time that members of the Government and the public at large should understand the true state of the question, and the real issues involved in these propositions. The doctrine of polygamy with the "Mormons," is not one of that kind that in the religious world is classed with "nonessentials." It is not an item of doctrine that can be believed, and faith in the system remain. "Mormonism" is that kind of religion the entire divinity of which is invalidated, and its

truth utterly rejected, the moment that any one of its leading principles is acknowledged to be false....

*The whole question, therefore, narrows itself to this in the "Mormon" mind. **Polygamy was revealed by God, or the entire fabric of their faith is false.** To ask them to give up such an item of belief, is to ask them to relinquish the whole, to acknowledge their Priesthood a lie, their ordinances a deception, and all that they have toiled for, lived for, bled for, prayed for, or hoped for, a miserable failure and a waste of life.*

All this Congress demands of the people of Utah. It asks the repudiation of their entire religious practice today; and inasmuch as polygamy is, in "Mormon" belief, the basis of the condition of a future life, it asks them to give up their hope of salvation hereafter... in requiring the relinquishment of polygamy, they ask the renunciation of the entire faith of this people...

There is no half way house. The childish babble about another revelation is only an evidence how half informed men can talk... those who so unwisely seek to stir up the Government to wrath, will yet learn there is but one solution of the "Mormon" problem- "Mormonism" allowed in its entirety, or "Mormonism" wiped out in blood!" (Millennial Star, October 28, 1865)

"God has told us Latter-day Saints that we shall be condemned if we do not enter into that principle; and yet I have heard now and then.. a brother or sister say, "I am a Latter-day Saint, but I do not believe in polygamy." Oh what an absurd expression! What an absurd idea! A person might as well say, "I am a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, but I do not believe in him." One is just as consistent as the other... If the doctrine of polygamy, as revealed to the Latter-day Saints, is not true, I would not give a fig for all your other revelations that came through Joseph Smith the Prophet; I would renounce the whole of them, because it is utterly impossible, according to the revelations that are contained in these books, to believe a part of them to be divine-from God-and a part of them to be from the devil... I did hope that there was more intelligence among the Latter-day Saints, and a greater understanding of principle than to suppose that nay one can be a member of this Church in good standing, and yet reject polygamy. The Lord has said, that those who reject this principle reject their salvation, they shall be damned, saith the Lord...

*Now I want to prophecy a little... I want to prophecy that all men and women who oppose the revelation which God has given in relation to polygamy will find themselves in darkness; the Spirit of God will withdraw from them the very moment of their opposition to that principle, until they will finally go down to hell and be damned, if they do not repent... if you want to get into darkness, brethren and sisters, begin to oppose this revelation. Sisters, you begin to say before your husbands, or husbands you begin to say before your wives, "I do not believe in the principle of polygamy, and I intend to instruct my children against it." Oppose it in this way, and teach your children to do the same, **and if you do not become as dark as midnight there is no truth in Mormonism.**" (The Journal of Discourse, vol.17, pp.224-25)*

How could any honest Mormon not agree that if polygamy is false, so is the whole of the Mormon faith. Not that the principles of Christianity taught therein are good, but so are the principles of Buddhism and Zoroastrianism and many other religions. But the fact remains that the Mormon people, at least the male part of them, which is all the leaders, maintain that in the hereafter, yea, even sooner than that for some, in the Millennium when Jesus establishes his truths once again, plural marriage will again be instituted on the earth.

I am not, nor have I ever, or will I ever be a hypocrite. I told people I was a Mormon, I lived Mormonism how it was taught by its founder, Joseph Smith Jr.. Every other Mormon that claims to be such but does not live by *"every word that issued forth from the mouths of his servant, the Prophet,"* is a hypocrite. Joseph Smith and many other early leaders testified and prophesied that the day would come when the Church would fall into corruption because of greed, materialism, and non-adherence to the doctrines and ordinances of salvation, which will always include, (or Mormonism is false all together), plural marriage. The modern leaders of the Church were fallen prophets and did not have the Priesthood of God. How, therefore, could I possibly follow them to hell which according to the earlier leaders of the Church, was exactly where they were leading me? I was a very good, true-blue Mormon.

If you are a Mormon woman, I would be for getting out while you still can. There is no doubt in the minds of the leaders of the Church and all the Priesthood holders therein, which includes your husband, that when the Lord comes again, he will reinstitute plural marriage. You can count on it!

Bruce R. McConkie states that all though the practicing of polygamy is a "gross wickedness" at this time, *"Obviously the holy practice will commence again after the Second Coming of the Son of Man and the ushering in of the Millenium."* (Mormon Doctrine, pub. 1958, pp. 522-23)

The Mormon apologist, John J. Stewart, states:

"...the Church's strictness in excommunicating those advocating and practicing plural marriage today has apparently been misconstrued by not a few loyal Church members as an acknowledgment that the evil falsehoods... and other misconceptions about plural marriage, are true, and that the Church's near silence on the doctrine today is further evidence that it regrets and is embarrassed by the whole matter of plural marriage. Such an inference is, of course, unjustified and unrealistic. The Church has never, and certainly will never renounce this doctrine. The revelation on plural marriage is still an integral part of LDS scripture, and will always be. (Brigham Young and His Wives, pp. 13-14)

What do you think about that, members of the Relief Society?

Mormons don't want to admit it. The women fight the thought of having to share their husbands with someone else. However many changes the Mormons may make in their doctrine and policies, one thing will always tarnish their shiny religious armor—they once believed in the degrading and inequality of plural marriage and continue to believe that the most righteous will live in polygamy for ever.

Mormon men secretly look forward to the day when they can righteously have sex with many women. Of course they will never admit this to their dear wife, but women, put yourselves in their shoes and believe for a moment that one day you will be able to have sex with all kinds of different men and the Lord will not only condone it, he will command it. Can't wait can you?

Does knowing this deter the millions who pay ten percent of their income to the Mormon

Church? Of course it doesn't bother the men. All I used to hear as a member of the Church when a good-looking woman walked by was, *"I can't wait until polygamy comes back!"* Mormon women just don't want to talk about it.

At the time I entered plural marriage, I had no testimony of Mormonism, only in that I believed that there is a spiritual existence of beings who concern themselves with what is going on in mortality; and that these "spirits" gave men and women ideas, or inspiration, on better ways to improve their mortal lot. I believed Joseph Smith was inspired to deceive as he had done for the betterment of religion and the human race. However, I didn't agree with his egoism in establishing polygamy, but I knew that Jackie, Marcee and Vicky had strong testimonies that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. They wanted to live in plural marriage to become righteous, exalted daughters of God; and if Mormonism was true, they were doing what was right. I simply played the role as their polygamist husband to fulfill their need to feel special in God's eyes. Yes, no doubt, I thought it quite fulfilling to know I could have justifiable sex with more than one woman, but I want to reiterate that I would never have done such a thing to Jackie, my first wife, Marcee, or Vicky, unless I believed they were in some way benefiting from it.

In *Reality Quest*, issue XII, I state:

"I soon realized that plural marriage was not really helping anyone. My first wife couldn't stand it any longer when she realized that two other women wanted her husband. I couldn't blame her for this. I realized that there can be no happiness in polygamy without manipulation and brainwashing by the man. I got to the point where I could no longer manipulate and brainwash. I told these three women the truth. They readily accepted the things I told them about religion, more especially Mormonism and the problems that fanaticism causes.

These women soon realized that the world and other people were not as bad as they had been led, by men, to believe. All of them broke away from the beliefs that they once held, and began to desire to know the truth. Each of them began to study; one started going to school. They saw life in a totally different way...."

I have been ridiculed and alienated from my own family and friends, who foolishly believe they are righteous Mormons, just for trying to live the "fullness of the gospel". My brothers and their wives, (more especially their wives), have mocked me to oblivion, because I would do such a thing. Other women who think they are "stupid, weak, ignorant women" have slandered Jackie, Marcee, and Vicky. I would hold any of these three against any woman as being much stronger, more compassionate, and much more knowledgeable about life. No, none of them will ever be involved in the ridiculous, male oriented, faith of Mormonism, (however, at present date I am unsure about Vicky, and Marcee could be a good candidate for mainstream Mormonism), because they have felt the pains of polygamy and witnessed the destruction it has had on their self esteem and womanhood.

Needless to say, any woman that can handle the abuses to her womanhood that polygamy perpetuates has to have some very good qualities. However, a woman would be a fool to allow her dignity to be abused in this way unless, of course, she was dignifying herself by obeying what she thought was the commandment of God.

Mormons have no room to mock Jackie, Marcee, Vicky, or me for doing what can be proven to be the only thing possible to gain exaltation in their own religion.

What are other Mormon women telling their husbands? *"I will never allow you to take another wife!"*

"But, if the Lord commands it, Honey, what are we to do?" the loyal Priesthood holder will proclaim.

"Well, if I knew the Lord commanded it, I would do it then."

Sure you would. You might as well be prepared to go to Hell alone, or prepare for the hell you're going to go through when you realize your exalted husband is in a Celestial bedroom having an orgasm with another woman, who perhaps, he enjoys having sex with more than you.

Polygamy as it is and has been practiced by the Mormon faith, though I also disagree with current monogamous marriages, is the excuse men have used to hide behind their lusts and desires to have sex with more than one woman. Mormonism as well as most other major religions was created by men, for men. These same men might be a little more humble when they find that their own wives also notice the beauty of other men and often comment, *"Oh, if only God would allow me to have more than one husband!"*

Well men, what do you think about the cliché, "What's good for the goose, is good for the gander!"

(end of *Reality Quest*)

After the meeting, Gary asked me if I believed in polygamy. At that instance I had to make the decision whether or not to get involved in Mormon Fundamentalism. I was the author of the unauthorized sealed portion of the gold plates of Mormon. If I wanted people to accept the scripture and have it inspire them to do good instead of bad, I had to accept the fact that their beliefs meant more to them than any rational explanation that I could come up with as to why certain aspects of their religion were incorrect. I had to become what Joseph Smith was. Yet, unlike Joseph Smith, I did not have the authority at the time.

"I guess anyone that has a strong testimony of the work and divine revelation of Joseph Smith has to believe in polygamy," I responded.

"Well, I have the perfect woman that I would like to introduce you to," he excitedly responded.