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THE BOOK OF MORMON ENDS

I could have continued to print the remainder of *The Sealed Portion* which I wrote to prove that one does not have to be "inspired", "called of God", or have any other special talent, except a vivid imagination and a knowledge of what people want to hear, to write what many will accept as scripture, i.e., "the words of God".

However, I do not wish to be rhetorical or boring in my attempt to show off my scriptorial talents, or continue to belittle Joseph Smith. I could be as noble and as popular as Joseph Smith, if I chose to deceive people into thinking so. I believe Joseph Smith had a good purpose in mind when he wrote *The Book of Mormon* and based his new religion on it. He was not a bad man, just creative and egotistical. Just as egotistical as I am, or anyone else for that matter. The difference between us, is that I don't think it accomplishes good in the long run when a lie or deception is perpetuated. Therefore, I feel Joseph Smith's book and his religion will one day prove to be as devastating to the human race as it was fascinating.

Here are some facts concerning *The Book of Mormon*:

-When the book was first published, there were over 3,500 grammatical and other errors which had to be corrected in subsequent publications. If God had given J. Smith the ability to translate the gold plates through the Urim and Thummim, then this God was a poor speller and had no command of the English language at all. Mormons will claim that the Lord misspelled a few words here and there, and blew it grammatically to throw off Satan and his followers who didn't have the faith to accept it, or they justify the "holy mistakes" on the frailties of the scribe. This argument might hold some water, except that some of the changes were doctrinal.

Fact: Joseph Smith wrote the book with the help of Martin Harris, Oliver Cowdery, and Emma Smith, and possibly others which are not mentioned in the orthodox Mormon history. Though the modern Mormon church will never admit to the fact that all the supposable "*Witnesses to The Book of Mormon*" rescinded their testimonies, honest research proves it. The LDS Church has its members believing that none of these men rescinded their testimonies. This is simply an undeterminable fact which has no facts to back it up, but remains an illusory hope for Mormons. However, what Mormons can not dispute is that all of the witnesses left the LDS Church and turned on Joseph Smith. If these men had actually seen gold plates, which would have been one of the greatest discoveries in the history of the world, and also saw angels, why would they rebel? When I was ready to spring my scripture on the fundamentalist Mormon realm, I was promised by a very intellectual and sincere fundamentalist man who promised me that he would give his testimony to the world of the fact that he had been shown the gold plates by me, if that was the will of the Lord and what would help others accept God's word. Yes, what a fool believes, he sees and shares with others, so that he or she can convince others that they are not foolish.

Fact: When Smith died, all those who were privy to the beginnings of the Church and the formation of the Book of Mormon went one way, and the gullible members who were looking for a charismatic leader like the one they lost, went West with the seductively charismatic Brigham Young. Hence, there are the two major Mormon faiths, i.e., The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the orthodox Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Fact: Most of the stories in *The Book of Mormon* can be found in other texts of literary writings from the early 19th century. The wars discussed, which take up much of the Book of Mormon text, can be found precisely as they are used by Joseph Smith in a study of the Christian Crusades.

For example: In November of 1095, Pope Urban called an assembly of Christians to discuss their religion and their dedication to Christ and his word. When the people came to hear Pope Urban, there was not enough room for all the people, so the Pope commanded that a tower be built upon which he could stand and be heard by all the people. Even then, all the people could not hear his voice, so he caused his words to be written and sent out among the people not in the reach of his voice. In Mosiah of *The Book of Mormon*, the king known as Benjamin did the same exact thing.

"For the multitude being so great that king Benjamin could not teach them all within the walls of the temple, therefore he caused a tower to be erected, that thereby his people might hear the words which he should speak unto them."

"And it came to pass that he began to speak to his people from the tower; and they could not all hear his words because of the greatness of the multitude; therefore he caused that the words which he spake should be written and sent forth among those that were not under the sound of his voice, that they might also receive his words."

(*The Book of Mormon*, Mosiah chapter 2, verses 7 & 8)

Pope Urban told the Crusaders to take upon them the name of Christ, and stand firm in their Lord so that they would triumph over their enemies. The Crusaders were very moved by the words of Pope Urban, and thus began the Christian Crusades. King Benjamin of *The Book of Mormon* story had the same effect on his people.

(Perhaps Pope Urban had a copy of *The Book of Mormon* account in 1095? However, it is much more likely that Joseph Smith had a copy of the actions of Pope Urban and the beginnings of the Crusades when he put together his text in the late 1820s.)

During the Crusades, The legendary Bohemond waged a battle for Antioch in the year 1098, in which, at night, rope ladders were let down inside the walls of the city, so that the people inside the city could arm themselves and conquer it the next morning. This battle sounds familiar to students of *The Book of Mormon*, because there is a very similar scenario which took place during one of the Nephite/Lamanite battles. (See Alma chapter 65, verses 16-22)

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out where Joseph Smith got almost every incident of *The Book of Mormon* text. He was well read on many things. Though he is praised for coming up with *The Book of Mormon* without much education, one should stop and reconsider when one takes into account the amount of time he spent reading whatever he could get his hands on at the time. A little research and study proves that *The Book of Mormon* text is a plagiarized fairy tale which was well written by an extraordinary thinker.

Why don't modern, supposedly intelligent Mormons see this fact? They don't want to see it. Humans can close their minds and intellect to the most provable logic in order to protect their egos. This is the case in many families where the parent declares with conviction, "My kid doesn't use drugs, or have sex!" Right! What a fool believes, he sees. The wise man has the power to lead these fools in any direction he or she desires.

Though I respect all human beings as my fellowmen and women, (and can love them in spite of any respect I might have for them,) I have no respect for anyone of any religion who blindly follows their faith, never considering that they might be wrong. Yet, these same zealots will continually mock and ridicule someone like me for opening my mind and using it for what it was intended for, not what others intend for it.

There are many facts which I could present which would prove logically that *The Book of Mormon* is not what it is presented as being. However, no matter how reasonably logically the proof may be, ignorant Mormons will continue to testify about the truthfulness of their scriptures because of their emotional faith, and nothing will cause them to waiver. Faith is the opposite of intellect and reason.

I said in my very first issue of *Reality Quest*: "I have concluded that I must find the truth for myself. To do this properly, I must reject everything which I study and learn from others as "real truth" and establish my own. It is quite a challenge to do this without offending my fellow beings with whom I share this small planet. Everyone has his or her own opinion; and everyone thinks they are right. It is rare for me to encounter a person who does not think their opinions are right. Nevertheless, because of my search, I have been alienated from those who call themselves my family. Most of my family is of the

opinion that I am "not playing with a full deck of cards". All I can say to them is, "You don't need a full deck of cards to win the hand. All one needs are the right cards."

I eventually discarded all things which I had been taught by my parents and others to accept by faith. Doing this, I knew I would lose the filial relationships which existed between us. I made the sacrifice of these relationships to improve my chances of finding "real truth". Having rid my mind of all faith, I was able to finally realize what faith really was. (Better yet, I was able to finally have my own understanding of what faith is to me.) Faith is simply the easy way out for the human species. (I say human species, because we are the only animals on earth who exercise any type of faith.) When we can not explain something, or the explanation is not understood to our satisfaction, we accept what ever it is we can't understand by faith. Therefore, faith appears to be more for children and the ignorant rather than for an intelligent being.

I once accepted the fact that if there was a God, he was God because he was much more powerful and knowledgeable than me. It was taught to me that we have the potential to become like God and know and do the things which he does. Well, having thrown this doctrine out the window with the rest of the things I had ignorantly accepted on faith, I came to the understanding that perhaps whoever came up with this idea could have been on the right track. I came to this conclusion by realizing that the more I learn and understand, the more "real" power I have over my own life. Therefore, I realized that there is tremendous power in knowledge. However, I learned that faith is not knowledge, it is faith. Since it is assumed that God is omniscient, or all knowledgeable, then it is safe to assume that he has no faith. If God has no faith, then it is not one of his attributes. If it is not one of his attributes and he created us in his "own image", then it should not be one of our attributes. Using this method of reasoning, I realized that it is knowledge I must pursue and not faith.

Faith is essential for the ignorant who depend on it to bring them the hope they need to make it through the non-understandable reason for our existence. Faith is necessary to help a human through the pain and sorrow of death, which in itself is inexplicable. Faith is necessary to help the complacent justify their complacency. Faith helps the bad be good, and the good continue to be good. (For these it is easier to obey a commandment based on faith rather than finding out why the commandment was given. "Because God says!" is much easier to digest than because if we do such and such, it causes certain problems.)

Faith is a term which meaning is found inside each person who possesses it. It is a great help to most, but a great hindrance in the pursuit of truth. "

In a court of law, I have no doubt I could convince an unbiased jury that *The Book of Mormon* is not what Mormons accept it as. Faith is the only thing Mormons have to back up their testimonies of the book's divinity. It is this faith that keeps many Mormons locked up in the dogma which blinds their eyes and hardens their hearts. I will fail to prove to anyone that they are wrong and misled. One must first, desire to know and understand the truth, admit that they don't have it, (For how can someone search for something they think they have?), and then with honesty and integrity search for the truth. More than likely, the truth will never be known to the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There is so much emotion bound up in the windings of the human psyche, that a grain of truth, like a grain of sand in a pocket watch, can cause those windings to come unraveled.

I end my discussion of *The Book of Mormon* by giving testimony, just as strong as the testimony of faith given by most Mormons, except mine is a testimony of reason, that the book is not what it appears to be. It was created by J. Smith in the same way I created my *Sealed Portion*. Though it gives a sense of order and hope to a frail human stuck in the "Twilight Zone" of life, the bigotry and arrogance it has caused its adherents, outweighs the good it has caused. Like the fanatic followers of the Koran, who would fight to the death against anyone who speaks ill of their "holy book", the Mormons could soon place death sentences on all those who oppose their sacred text. (They all ready have in the sense that if one rejects their scriptures, and does not repent, they will be burnt at the second coming of their Lord, and receive the second death, which they believe to be a spiritual death which happens to all those who refuse to accept their gospel.) When this happens, I will have no desire to stay among a people who can let a myth destroy the peace of another.

I have seen the affects of religious fanaticism caused by *The Book of Mormon* in my own life and the lives of those who call themselves my family. I write this text for them, so that perhaps they might open

their eyes and minds a little and start accepting and loving others based on being human, and not on being a member of their little, elite centered group.

Alas, my written words are like the whippoorwill's song sung underneath a busy freeway overpass; sung with love and hope, yet unheard by those who drive along life's busy freeway never slowing down to hear the graceful tune.

Please my children, hear my plea,
It isn't much, but listen to me.
Faith in something that's unsure,
Will lead your soul to the ignorant's door.

Inside us all God's placed a seed,
One that will grow when we're in need.
The seed of truth which cannot grow,
With the water of what fools know.

Search for the light that all plants crave,
Don't give up the search until the grave.
And then what ever lies beyond,
Will harvest the fruit that you have spawned.

This light cannot be found in a book,
For there are many who have looked and looked.
It can't be found in what others say,
It can't be found in the orthodox way.

Light exists without man's help,
It's found in the inner regions of the self.

Chris M. Nemelka-1994

HOW I GOT BEHIND

I got behind on my newsletter, because I have been involved in a service project aimed at a homeless mother and her six children I met. It is quite an experience, and will be discussed in length in another issue of *Reality Quest*.

However, I sometimes wonder if those who have interested themselves in my thoughts really care. Oh well, it's a good incentive to think they do, so I'll continue for now.

