

## Mormon Church Book of Abraham Essay is an Admission It is Not True

Admin note: GA = Mormon General Authorities, TSCC = This so called church, BoA = Book of Abraham

Recovery from Mormonism (RfM) discussion forum.

**Recovery Board : RfM**

### BoA Essay is an admission it is not true

Posted by: Tom Phillips ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 07:11AM

The Book of Abraham was one of the 3 issues I put to GAs. They and BYU professors offered 2 explanations – the ‘missing papyri argument’ and the ‘catalyst for revelation argument’. Neither had merit nor stood up to scrutiny.

Their final ‘proof’ was for me to put aside the translation issues and prayerfully study again the BoA. The truths contained in it, would attest to its truthfulness. I did this and the so called ‘truths’ were obviously false and therefore proved the opposite to what they wished.

Years later TSCC published an essay on the BoA that offers this same basic premise. I therefore gather they, the 15 and BYU academics, accept the BoA is not scripture but they have published this essay to fog the issue and give cover to TBMs looking for an excuse to believe. I see it as their coded statement that the book is not true, but made up by Joe.

The BoA is a smoking gun for TSCC and this essay has been comprehensively debunked by Ritner and others as reported in <http://www.mormonthink.com/essays-book-of-abraham.htm>

However, taking the essay as published by TSCC, it basically admits to those who are aware that the the BoA is made up nonsense.

The conclusion to this essay states:-

“The veracity and value of the book of Abraham cannot be settled by scholarly debate concerning the book’s translation and historicity. The book’s status as scripture lies in the eternal truths it teaches and the powerful spirit it conveys. The book of Abraham imparts profound truths about the nature of God, His relationship to us as His children, and the purpose of this mortal life. The truth of the book of Abraham is ultimately found through careful study of its teachings, sincere prayer, and the confirmation of the Spirit.”

This conclusion in itself is false. When they say the veracity cannot be settled by scholarly debate they are merely stating they do not accept the scholarly and obvious evidence against the BoA.

However, a bigger error, and one they must have deliberately chosen is the reliance on the eternal truths taught in the BoA. These so called eternal truths are all, in fact, false and obviously so to any high school student let alone prophets, seers, revelators and BYU professors. They are wrong on cosmology, on evolution, on the age of the Earth, on Egyptian history and are outright racist.

So what are these eternal truths it teaches?

That blacks are a cursed race

That God has chosen who shall be rulers on earth – divine right of kings

The son of Egyptus (Ham's daughter) was the first Pharaoh of Egypt

The Sun receives (borrows) its light from Kolob (instead of generating its own light through nuclear fusion)

6 day creation of the Earth

Adam names every living creature

The origins and government of Egypt

Abraham learns about the sun, moon and stars (cosmology)

Egyptian Gods

Pre-existence

Foreordination

Not one of these 'eternal truths' is actually true. They are all false. For those interested let's look at them a little closer:-

That blacks are a cursed race

1:21 Now this king of Egypt was a descendant from the loins of Ham, and was a partaker of the blood of the Canaanites by birth.

1:27 Now, Pharaoh being of that lineage by which he could not have the right of Priesthood,

That God has chosen who shall be rulers on earth – divine right of kings

3:23 And God saw these souls that they were good, and he stood in the midst of them, and he said: These I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits, and he saw that they were good; and he said unto me: Abraham, thou art one of them; thou wast chosen before thou wast born.

The son of Egyptus and Ham was the first Pharaoh of Egypt

1:25 Now the first government of Egypt was established by Pharaoh, the eldest son of Egyptus, the daughter of Ham, and it was after the manner of the government of Ham, which was patriarchal.

1:21 Now this king of Egypt was a descendant from the loins of Ham, and was a partaker of the blood of the Canaanites by birth.

The Sun receives (borrows) its light from Kolob (instead of generating its own light through nuclear fusion)

6 day creation of the Earth (in the wrong order)

Abraham 5

Adam (man) made first, then names every living creature

5:20 And out of the ground the Gods formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air, and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them; and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that should be the name thereof.

5:21 And Adam gave names to all cattle, to the fowl of the air, to every beast of the field; and for Adam, there was found an help meet for him.

The origins and government of Egypt

22 From this descent sprang all the Egyptians, and thus the blood of the Canaanites was preserved in the land. 23 The land of Egypt being first discovered by a woman, who was the daughter of Ham, and the daughter of Egyptus, which in the Chaldean signifies Egypt, which signifies that which is forbidden;

24 When this woman discovered the land it was under water, who afterward settled her sons in it; and thus, from Ham, sprang that race which preserved the curse in the land.

25 Now the first government of Egypt was established by Pharaoh, the eldest son of Egyptus, the daughter of Ham, and it was after the manner of the government of Ham, which was patriarchal.

27 Now, Pharaoh being of that lineage by which he could not have the right of Priesthood, notwithstanding the Pharaohs would fain claim it from Noah, through Ham, therefore my father was led away by their idolatry;

28 But I shall endeavor, hereafter, to delineate the chronology running back from myself to the beginning of the creation, for the records have come into my hands, which I hold unto this present time.

31 But the records of the fathers, even the patriarchs, concerning the right of Priesthood, the Lord my God preserved in mine own hands; therefore a knowledge of the beginning of the creation, and also of the planets, and of the stars, as they were made known unto the fathers, have I kept even unto this day, and I shall endeavor to

write some of these things upon this record, for the benefit of my posterity that shall come after me.

2:7 For I am the Lord thy God; I dwell in heaven; the earth is my footstool; I stretch my hand over the sea, and it obeys my voice; I cause the wind and the fire to be my chariot; I say to the mountains—Depart hence—and behold, they are taken away by a whirlwind, in an instant, suddenly.

Abraham learns about the sun, moon and stars (cosmology)

3:5 And the Lord said unto me: The planet which is the lesser light, lesser than that which is to rule the day, even the night, is above or greater than that upon which thou standest in point of reckoning, for it moveth in order more slow; this is in order because it standeth above the earth upon which thou standest, therefore the reckoning of its time is not so many as to its number of days, and of months, and of years.

7 Now the set time of the lesser light is a longer time as to its reckoning than the reckoning of the time of the earth upon which thou standest.

9 And thus there shall be the reckoning of the time of one planet above another, until thou come nigh unto Kolob, which Kolob is after the reckoning of the Lord's time; which Kolob is set nigh unto the throne of God, to govern all those planets which belong to the same order as that upon which thou standest.

10 And it is given unto thee to know the set time of all the stars that are set to give light, until thou come near unto the throne of God.

11 Thus I, Abraham, talked with the Lord, face to face, as one man talketh with another; and he told me of the works which his hands had made;

13 And he said unto me: This is Shinehah, which is the sun. And he said unto me: Kokob, which is star. And he said unto me: Olea, which is the moon. And he said unto me: Kokaubeam, which signifies stars, or all the great lights, which were in the firmament of heaven.

17 Now, if there be two things, one above the other, and the moon be above the earth, then it may be that a planet or a star may exist above it; and there is nothing that the Lord thy God shall take in his heart to do but what he will do it.

24 And there stood one among them that was like unto God, and he said unto those who were with him: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell;

Egyptian gods

1:14 That you may have an understanding of these gods, I have given you the fashion of them in the figures at the beginning, which manner of figures is called by the Chaldeans Rahleenos, which signifies hieroglyphics.

[https://www.lds.org/topics/translation-and-historicity-of-the-book-of-abraham?lang=eng&\\_r=1](https://www.lds.org/topics/translation-and-historicity-of-the-book-of-abraham?lang=eng&_r=1)

All of these 'eternal truths' can be debunked as nonsense. I have not used space in this OP to do so. Rather I invite any of you to comment on these errors.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **Cold-Dodger** ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 07:28AM

Don't forget that the Egyptians did not call themselves that or anything like unto it.

<http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=Egypt>

So, the "Egyptus" thing really falls flat on its face, and the history of Egypt as told by our beloved prophet isn't even out the gates yet. There is no level of 'wrong' you can be about something beyond 'utterly and completely ignorant' especially while pretending to be absolutely certain.

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 08/28/2016 07:29AM by Cold-Dodger.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **baura** ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 05:17PM

"Egyptus" is the Latin version of "Aygptos" which is the Greek version of "Hwt-kA-Ptah" (Temple of the soul of Ptah) one of the names for Memphis (center of the cult of Ptah), which was the lower-Egyptian capital city. The Greeks named the whole country for their version of their city.

The word is NOT Chaldean, and does NOT mean "forbidden." Clearly Joseph Smith was creating a "just so story" which gives Egypt its name. However the Egyptians never called their land "Egypt" or anything like it. They called it "kemet" the black land (referring to the rich alluvial soil deposited by the annual overflowing of the Nile), they called it "Tawy" meaning "the two lands" referring to Upper Egypt (Nile valley) and Lower Egypt (the Delta) which were originally separate countries until unified by Narmer around 3200 B.C.E., they

called it Ta-nfr, "Beautiful land."

It is called "Egypt" only in languages which got their word for it through Greco-Roman sources.

"Egyptus" is not a word that Abraham would have known. Woody Allen wrote a humorous essay called "The Scrolls" which is a spoof on the story of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. In his essay he mentions that doubt has been cast on the authenticity of "the Scrolls" due to the appearance of the word "Oldsmobile" in them. "Egyptus" is Joseph Smith's "Oldsmobile."

And as far as the "missing scrolls" theory goes, we can avoid all that and still show that JS had no clue what he was doing. In Facsimile 3 there is a readable Egyptian text that is IDENTIFIED BY JOSEPH SMITH and interpreted by him. You can learn what that text actually says here:

<http://exmormon.org/phorum/read.php?2,1569142,1569142#msg-1569142>

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **Justin** ( )

Date: August 29, 2016 11:28AM

And yet Joseph Smith III and his branch were clearly able to see the Book of Abraham was not scripture. If there is an inspired branch of Mormonism you can find it there.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **gemini** ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 11:14AM

The BofA was the thing that broke my shelf. When I discovered that it was completely made up by JS, my thoughts immediately went to "If he made that up, he made it ALL up!" And, mentally, I was out at that moment.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **Babyloncansuckit** ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 11:36AM

By that logic, Marvel Comics impart profound truths. Why don't they adopt comic books as scripture?

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true** Posted by: **Elders Quorum Drop-out** ( )  
Date: August 28, 2016 11:43AM

This is great. Thanks for taking the time to put this together!

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true** Posted by: **messygoop** ( )  
Date: August 28, 2016 12:37PM

And we all know that when you make up stuff, that it's difficult to keep the story straight and this whole enchilada is full of contradictions.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true** Posted by: **Bruce A Holt** ( )  
Date: August 28, 2016 12:50PM

Great post! This was the ton of TNT that destroyed my shelf.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true** Posted by: **CrispingPin** ( )  
Date: August 28, 2016 01:02PM

In "No Man Knows My History," the main problem Fawn Brodie saw with the BoA was the fact that it established LDS racism in scripture: "the Book of Abraham was the most unfortunate thing that Joseph ever wrote...its racial doctrine preserved the discrimination that is the ugliest thesis in existing Mormon theology."

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true** Posted by: **Stray Mutt** ( )  
Date: August 28, 2016 01:21PM

It doubled down on the racism of the BoM, adding people of African descent to the native people of the Americas.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true** Posted by: **Stray Mutt** ( )  
Date: August 28, 2016 01:19PM

Their case boils down to, "We know it looks like total bullsh!t, but just trust us."

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true** Posted by: **Chicken N. Backpacks** ( )  
Date: August 28, 2016 01:30PM

Even though the church position on the BoA is "It's true even if it isn't true, and that's good enough for us", I have found an authentic picture of the absolutely historically correct event depicted of Abraham and the idolatrous priest and the angel guy.

Once again, 100% correct in its depiction of the ancient Middle East, and proof of the authenticity of the Book of Abraham:

<http://blog.fairmormon.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Abraham.jpg>

**HA! Love it. (n/t)**

Posted by: **imaworkinonit** ( )  
Date: August 28, 2016 02:00PM

**That painting helped me to leave the church...**

Posted by: **randyj** ( )  
Date: August 28, 2016 05:34PM

It originally accompanied a March 1997 Ensign article titled "The Book of Abraham: A Most Remarkable Book."

[https://www.lds.org/ensign/1997/03/the-book-of-abraham-a-most-remarkable-book?lang=eng&\\_r=1](https://www.lds.org/ensign/1997/03/the-book-of-abraham-a-most-remarkable-book?lang=eng&_r=1)

Repeating my experience in learning of the BOA's fraudulence:

Early on, around 1997, I had read scholarly articles from Mormon scholars such as Stephen Thompson and Edward Ashment which stated that the papyrus had nothing to do with Abraham, and the lion-couch scene did not depict Abraham being attacked by a wicked priest. I also read Charles Larson's book "By His Own Hand Upon Papyrus."

At that time, I had assumed that church leaders and writers were honest men, and that they would surely make changes to fall in line with these scholars' findings. But then shortly after that, I got my monthly Ensign in the mail and it featured an article about the BOA, which had an artists' rendering of the wicked priest attacking Abraham, as depicted on the altered "lion-couch" facsimile. This painting accompanied the Ensign article:

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/images/abraham-39462?lang=eng>

Of course, that entire storyline is based on Joseph Smith's nonsensical "translation" of the vignette. The fact that church leaders continue to maintain that discredited interpretation and storyline told me they MUST KNOW the truth, but that they choose to maintain the lie. That was one of the biggest realizations that led me out of the church.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **elderolddog** ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 06:58PM

It would be sooooo cool (in my estimation), to put sun glasses on Abraham and a missionary badge on the angel.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **elderolddog** ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 07:08PM

Did JSjr use his seer stone to translate the BofA?

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **eunice** ( )

Date: August 29, 2016 03:17AM

And the angel looks a tad bit Joseph Smithish:

<https://www.josephsmithjr.org/photos/Joseph%20teaching.jpg>

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **Elders Quorum Drop-out** ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 01:33PM

They are all so clean shaven and white. I never knew that. Art teaches you something new everyday. Especially church art.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **randyj** ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 07:03PM

"They are all so clean shaven and white. I never knew that."

I noticed that in that painting too, when I first saw it 19 years ago. Abe and the angel have missionary haircuts---but the church publishes lots of paintings of Jesus with long hair and a beard.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **tikbalang** ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 02:37PM

I just read here on RFM the other day the statement...."Just because he made it all up...doesn't mean it isn't true !" (I can't remember whose post it was and who authored the comment...I don't take credit for it but I love the comment as it applies so well to all of Mormonism.)

I love that statement and where more does that apply than here to the BOA....and those comments from the essay....isn't that what they're really saying through all there gobble-de-goop??

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **randyj** ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 05:37PM

"I just read here on RFM the other day the statement...."Just because he made it all up...doesn't mean it isn't true!"

Richard Packham and I have repeated that quote several times. It comes from a low-budget Mormon-themed movie called "Plan 10 From Outer Space."

[http://www.echocave.net/plan\\_10\\_from\\_outer\\_space.html](http://www.echocave.net/plan_10_from_outer_space.html)

Yes, the aliens had beehive heads and one all-seeing eye.

**Noah supposedly lived thousands of years before the Greek language existed**

Posted by: **anybody** ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 03:37PM

And "Aigyptos" (the Greek name for Egypt) is derived from the name of the temple of the god Ptah in Memphis.

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 08/28/2016 04:13PM by anybody.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **tamboruco** ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 04:05PM

Thanks Tom!

As others have mentioned, understanding the BofA controversy was a first step out. Many years ago, I saw a showing of IRR's DVD, "Lost Book of Abraham: Investigating a Remarkable Mormon Claim" at the University of Utah that really got me thinking. BTW – in case folks are interested you can get a free copy from IRR – <http://mit.irr.org/category/book-of-abraham>.

About the same time, I went through the Thomas Stuart Ferguson papers at the University of Utah library (special collections). Thomas' change of heart (basically lost his testimony) and the fact that the NWA found absolutely nothing to support the BofM was another huge nail in the coffin.

Then there was Tom Murphy's paper that really shook things up. Some folks may remember the church wanted to X Tom but there were demonstrations and vigils held for him outside church headquarters that brought a lot of publicity to the issue. <http://mormonscripturestudies.com/bomor/twm/lamgen.asp>

And of course, you mentioned Ritner's review which is yet another nail in the coffin. I have to think that anyone that can stay the course in ChurchCo is simply stupid. And unfortunately, this is now how I view friends and family that stay in – they are stupid and I can't help them. So be it – we all have our own lives to live the way we want.

**Joseph Smith translation of Facsimiles proves it all**

Posted by: **Honest TBM ( )**

Date: August 28, 2016 04:27PM

The only people who don't believe that the Joseph Smith translation of the Book of Abraham Facsimiles are true are anti-Mormons. Anyone who believes in the Church has to believe these Facsimiles were translated correctly. It is canonized scripture. Now of course any of you are free to reject the sacred doctrines of the Church just as Tom Phillips has demonstrated by his radically contradictory theory against sacred doctrine that the temporal existence of the earth might exceed 7000 years. But to be a TBM we need to accept and fully believe that all these doctrines are factual truths. If we don't believe these things then we aren't TBM or we are just phony liars.

Oh how wonderful it would be if every Bishop in the world would hold a press conference today to denounce the anti-Mormon beliefs of Tom Phillips about the Book of Abraham facsimiles, temporal existence of the earth being blasphemously longer than the timeframe that Revelation declared, and other clarifications on

church doctrine. That way Mormons would get the respect they deserve for our prophetic doctrines.

**Re: Joseph Smith translation of Facsimiles proves it all**

Posted by: **Tom Phillips** ( )  
Date: August 28, 2016 04:51PM

I assume this is meant as satire. If so, well done.

If not, please support your claims that JS did truly translate the papyri and the claimed 'eternal truths' stated in the OP are indeed true instead of being obviously false. Please provide evidence that the temporal existence of this planet will only be 7000 years.

Because church leaders and BYU professors are unable to support their claims.

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 08/28/2016 05:03PM by Tom Phillips.

**Re: Joseph Smith translation of Facsimiles proves it all**

Posted by: **Emmabiteback** ( )  
Date: August 28, 2016 05:00PM

I also have to say that's some clever satire "honest tbm". On the other hand maybe Tom's comments triggered a twitch right under the skin and he couldn't stay quiet.

**Re: Joseph Smith translation of Facsimiles proves it all**

Posted by: **Templar** ( )  
Date: August 29, 2016 08:21AM

Tom Phillips Wrote:

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> I assume this is meant as satire. If so, well  
> done.

Tom,

After carefully reading the ten postings of "Honest TBM" on this board, I have concluded that they are all satire. It's just too good to be otherwise, unless, of course, the poster is seriously demented which I doubt.

Templar

**Re: Joseph Smith translation of Facsimiles proves it all**

Posted by: **Templar** ( )

Date: August 29, 2016 06:25AM

Honest TBM Wrote:

- 
- > The only people who don't believe that the Joseph
  - > Smith translation of the Book of Abraham
  - > Facsimiles are true are anti-Mormons.

What a ridiculous illogical and self serving statement. All recognized Egyptologists who have examined the papyri and so-called facsimiles over the past 180 years have come to the same conclusion – they are common funereal objects buried with the dead and have no connection with Abraham whatever. To my knowledge, NONE of these professionals has ever written an anti-Mormon book nor sought to bring down the church. They have merely expressed their profession opinions regarding the material when requested.

Joseph's "inspired" translations are nonsense which is abundantly clear to anyone who spends a few minutes with a basic book on Egyptian hieroglyphics. Truth is not anti-Mormon and it's rather foolish to label it as such. Whether you choose to accept it is your own choice, but doesn't change it in the least.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **Albinolamanite (not logged)** ( )

Date: August 28, 2016 07:27PM

Tom, I stopped attending church at 17. Never felt a part of it and always found it silly. I still deal with it daily through my family, however, and you have been an instrumental person in helping me resolve some of the issues I've had. I still remember the day I listened to your entire interview with Dehlin. Thanks for everything you've done.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **Tom Phillips** ( )

Date: August 29, 2016 02:52AM

Kudos to you for getting out at 17, rather than waste most of your life on it.

Best wishes.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **Templar** ( )

Date: August 29, 2016 06:00AM

Shortly after returning from my mission in the early 1960's, I became acquainted with Jerald and Sandra Tanner who made me aware of the truth regarding Mormonism. I was on the fence for several years since I was enrolled at BYU and went on to receive a BS in business management. By the late 1960's I was pretty sure the church was false, but was not absolutely convinced "beyond a shadow of a doubt" as Mormons love to say.

The translation of the rediscovered papyri in 1968 was the final "nail in the coffin" for me. I simply ran out of justifications, weak explanations and illogical excuses for "Brother Joseph". The truth about the BofA forced me to accept reality – he clearly made it all up as he went along.

I fully severed all connection with the church in 1970 and have never looked back. Everything that has happened since has only convinced me further that Mormonism is nothing but a cult build on false promises and lies.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **pettigrew** ( )

Date: August 29, 2016 02:25PM

All I'm saying...all I'm saying is that what got translated got translated into the word of God. The vehicle for that, I do not understand and don't claim to know and know no Egyptian.

**Re: BoA Essay is an admission it is not true**

Posted by: **Templar** ( )

Date: August 29, 2016 03:05PM

One could assume that except for the fact that Joseph also "translated" the writings and figures on the facsimiles. None of them were translated correctly. Whether or not one accepts the BoA as scripture (i.e. "the word of God") is immaterial. Clearly, when Joseph Smith had the one opportunity to prove that he was inspired by God,

he blew it big time. Also, the claimed writings found in the BoA itself are nonfactual as pointed out the Tom Phillips in his OP.

Most thinking members, myself included, did not leave the church as a result of sinning as mistakenly assumed by TBMs. We left because the truth about the BoA facsimiles establish well beyond reasonable doubt that Joseph Smith was not inspired by God and clearly made it all up. Further, the BoM has also now been shown to not contain a true history of the Americans and the so-called Lamanites (ancestors of the Indians) never descended from Jews.

It's up to individual Mormons whether or not they continue to accept Mormonism's falsehoods, but any attempt to base those ill founded beliefs on other than personal feelings is fool-hearty, to say the least.

**Official Mormon Church Book of Abraham Essay is an Admission It is Not True**  
**<http://www.exmormon.org> Recovery from Mormonism**