

Objections to the Book of Abraham

In 1967, Dr Aziz Atiya of the University of Utah discovered fragments of the original papyrus scrolls Joseph Smith bought from Michael Chandler, including the (modified) facsimiles published with the *Book of Abraham*, and fragments identified as being part of the untranslated *Book of Joseph*. Joseph Smith's *Egyptian Alphabet & Grammar* [Smi] is a document by Joseph Smith written to clarify the Reformed Egyptian translated from the *Book of Abraham* scroll fragments. However, these scrolls, when translated by scholars, were found to be common funerary scrolls (the *Book of the Dead* and *Book of Breathings*, respectively) of the first and second century. (See *By His Own Hand Upon Papyrus* [Lar92].)

Is the Book of Abraham, a canonized work of scripture which includes fundamental doctrines, a revelation inspired by an Egyptian funerary scroll, or is it a deliberate fraud? The parallels with another prophetic translation, the *Book of Mormon*, seems oddly familiar.

References

- [Lar92] Charles Larson, *By His Own Hand Upon Papyrus: A New Look at the Joseph Smith Papyri* (Institute for Religious Research, 1992; ISBN 0-960963-2-6).
- [Smi] *The Joseph Smith Papers*, Utah Lighthouse Ministry, 2009, compiled by H. Michael Marquardt, a photo reprint of Joseph Smith's Reformed Egyptian, as well as hand written documents from Joseph Smith showing the translation characters and meaning.

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