

"THE LITTLE KNOWN DISCOURSE"

"The author of this work is not a Mormon, although it is printed by their press. It was the most convenient. But the public will soon find out what he is, by his work".

Udney Hay Jacob
The Peace Maker p-2

-- a documentary,
by Ogden Kraut

The authenticity of the "Little Known" discourse of Joseph Smith has been the matter of speculation for many years. Its only source has been taken from the Biography of Warren and Amanda Smith. However more information and authenticity for this work has recently come to light. The portion known as the "Little Known Discourse", was a part of a larger work entitled "The Peace Maker" published in Nauvoo in 1842. This also is an extract, comprising of two chapters, of a larger work, which probably was never published. This work, Chap. 18 entitled "On The Law of Marriage", and Chap. 19 entitled, "Several Important Laws of God" were written and published, not by Joseph Smith, but by Udney Hay Jacob. It is, according to his own words in the preface, "The author of this work is not a Mormon, although it is printed by their press. It was the most convenient." Thus the "Little Known Discourse" by Joseph Smith actually was a lesser known writing by another man who was not even a member of the Church.

Udney Hay Jacob was born in 1781 and had nine children, one of whom was Norton, the eldest, born in 1804. Norton heard of, and was converted to, Mormonism in La-harp Illinois and was baptized March 15, 1841. His father Udney said he would rather hear that his son was dead rather than a Mormon. Udney was a religionist himself and composed his works for a publication, at which time he came to Nauvoo to have part of it published. The press at Nauvoo was under the proprietorship of Joseph Smith but was handled by a "foreman" who discharged the work and accepted work for publication from anyone who should desire the use of the press. It was later noted that Joseph Smith did not know that this Jacobs publication was contracted, nor did he have any favorable comment towards it. The name of Joseph Smith did appear on the frontpiece of the pamphlet and therefore many have assumed that this "discourse", or rather writing, was actually the work of Joseph Smith. Many thought the publication was "inspired by Joseph Smith to break ground for the public adoption by the Mormons of the doctrine of plural marriage". The title of the tract or pamphlet is as follows:

AN EXTRACT
FROM A MANUSCRIPT ENTITLED
THE PEACE MAKER
OR
THE DOCTRINES OF THE MILLENIUM:
BEING A TREATISE ON RELIGION
AND JURISPRUDENCE.
OR A NEW SYSTEM OF RELIGION AND POLITICS

For God, my country, and my rights.

By Udney Hay Jacob,
an Israelite, and a shepherd of Israel

Nauvoo, Illinois
J. Smith, Printer

.....
1842

Norton Jacob wrote in his journal, under the date of November 1, 1845:

"my father Udney H. Jacob came to my house from Pilot Grove (Ill.) and in the evening he said he now fully believed this work, viz Mormonism, to be true. Indeed he now knew it to be the work of God foretold by the prophets, but when he was baptized two years ago he did not know it to be true. "

Life of Norton Jacob p-20 (typed copy Utah Hist. Society)

Hence, Udney H. Jacob had become converted to the Church a year after his publication of the "Peace Maker" in Nauvoo in 1842. Udney came west with the immigration from Nauvoo and came to the Great Salt Lake Valley and was, by trade, a carpenter. The date and place of his death has not been found.

In 1850 a Mormon apostate by the name of Paul Harrison published a 15 page pamphlet in Manchester England, in which he makes mention of the "Peace Maker".

His title page read:

"An extract of grand selections from a manuscript entitled 'The Peace Maker' by the great Mormon prophet, J. Smith, wherein is contained all the secrets of Mormonism, in relation to the vows of marriage, polygamy, spiritual wives, whoredom, adultery, fornication, rapes, concubinage, virginity, etc., etc. Doctrines, however strange, if true,