

## Old Fashioned Adultery

By Mark Hines, M.A.

In Edmund Spenser's classic Middle English allegory *Fairie Queen*, Lust was one of the Seven Deadly Sins. Six of the Seven Deadly Sins rode on animals. Satan, walking at the head of the parade, was guilty of pride, the worst sin. Lust rode on a goat. The Greek word "tragedy" literally means "goat's song," and human tragedy itself is directly related to sexual lust. Only by being a Christian and by having the Holy Spirit infuse one, can the ends of lust be conquered.

The exact number of women whom Mormonism founder Joe Smith copulated while being married to Emma, his only legal wife under USA law, is unknown. In 1887, assistant LDS historian Andrew Jenson made a list of 27 women who were "sealed" to Joe Smith (*Historical Record*, vol. 6, page 233). Mormon author John J. Stewart put the number "three to four dozen or more" (*Brigham Young and His Wives*, 1961, pp. 30-31). Fawn Brodie put the number at 48 (Fawn M. Brodie, *No Man Knows My History*, Alfred A. Knopf, 1946, pp. 434-65). Former BYU professor D. Michael Quinn put it at 46, and George D. Smith put it at 43 (Todd Compton, *In Sacred Loneliness: The Plural Wives of Joseph Smith*, Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1997).

The youngest girl whom Smith "married" and copulated was fourteen-year-old Helen Mar Kimball (Ibid., p. 487). As with most of the other women, Smith hid his adultery with her from Emma.

Lavina Fielding Anderson, editor of the *Journal of Mormon History*, wrote, "I was shocked and disgusted to discover that Joseph Smith married a fourteen-year-old girl, fully consummated that marriage, and concealed it from Emma. My image of "prophet" did not accommodate this kind of behavior. I could not begin to find holy motives for such behavior" ("The Garden God Hath Planted: Explorations Toward a Maturing Faith," *Sunstone*, October 1990, pp. 26-27).

With his "church" flunkies, Joe Smith freely talked about his stable of women, and he ranked them according to the sexual pleasure they gave him. William Law, who was a Second Counselor to the LDS "church," recalled a conversation in which Smith discussed a particular woman who had given him the best sex.

"Joseph was very free in his talk about his women. He told me one day of a certain girl and remarked, that she had given him more pleasure than any girl he had ever enjoyed. I told him it was horrible to talk like this" ("Interview with William Law. March 30, 1887," *Daily Tribune*: Salt Lake City, July 31, 1887).

Lewdness was nothing new to Smith, as he had had a long history of being lewd. All of the following quotations are taken from Richard C. Evans book *Forty Years in the Mormon Church-Why I Left It!* (Toronto, Canada, 1920):

Dr. McIntyre, family physician of the Smiths in Manchester, N. Y., declared that the house of Joseph Smith, Sen., was a perfect brothel.

Eza Pierce, Samantha Payne and other school-mates of the Smiths testify that Smith was lewd, and so were the family.

Levi Lewis testifies that while Smith was pretending to translate the plates, he tried to

seduce Eliza Winters, declaring that adultery was no sin.

Eli Johnson led a mob against Smith for being intimate with his sister, Marinda, who afterwards married Orson Hyde. Brigham Young twitted Hyde with this fact, and Hyde put away his wife.

Fanny Brewer testifies that Smith had serious trouble in Kirtland arising from his seducing an orphan girl.

Mr. Moreton told his daughter and her husband that Emma Smith detected Joseph in adultery with a girl by the name of Knight, and that Joseph confessed the crime to the officers of the church.

In his book, Todd Compton notes that a full one-third of the women Smith "married" were already married to other men when Smith married them:

"A common misconception concerning Joseph Smith's polyandry is that he participated in only one or two such unusual unions. In fact, fully one-third of his plural wives, eleven of them, were married civilly to other men when he married them. If one superimposes a chronological perspective, one sees that of Smith's first twelve wives, nine were polyandrous (Compton, pp. 15-16).

A full one-third of the women Smith copulated were other men's wives. Soft-headed people can term it "celestial marriage," or the "Blessings of Jacob," but it is really just old fashioned adultery and fornication.

The sex with Adam Lightner's wife, Mary Elizabeth Rollins Lightner, must have been especially pleasurable. Smith said that all of the devils in hell couldn't keep him from her. Mrs. Lightner wrote:

"Joseph said I was his before I came here and he said all the Devils in Hell should never get me from him. I was sealed to him in the Masonic Hall, over the old brick store by Brigham Young in February 1842 and then again in the Nauvoo Temple by Heber C. Kimball. . . ." (Affidavit of Mary Elizabeth Rollins Lightner, as quoted in *No Man Knows My History*, p. 444).

Smith and Emily Partridge copulated, as Todd Compton notes,

"Emily Partridge Young said she 'roomed' with Joseph the night following her marriage to him, and said that she had 'carnal intercourse' with him."

"Other early witnesses also affirmed this. Benjamin Johnson wrote: 'On the 15th of May . . . the Prophet again Came and at my hosue [house] ocupied [sic] the Same Room & Bed with my sister that the month previous he had ocupied with the Daughter of the Later [late?] Bishop Partridge as his wife.' According to Joseph Bates Noble, Smith told him he had spent a night with Louisa Beaman . . . many of Joseph's wives affirmed that they were married to him for eternity and time, with sexuality included." (Compton, pp. 12-14)

The following excerpt is from a letter Joe Smith wrote when he wanted to arrange a tryst with Newel K. Whitney's daughter Sarah Ann, whom Smith had secretly "married." It reveals Smith's cloak-and-dagger approach to his extramarital affairs: