

Heber C. Kimball to Helen Mar Kimball, 8 June 1844, LDS archives

~~Kimball~~

Blessing of Heber C. Kimball to Helen Mar Kimball, 28 May 1843, LDS archives

~~Heber C. Kimball~~

In response Heber was to write on 25 October:

I could weep like a child if I could get by myself to think fore one moment that I have been the means of causing you anny sorrow. . . . There has been but a few nits but what I have drempnt about you but most allways I find you distant. My feelings are of that kind that it makes me sick at heart so that I have no apeteite to eat. . . . I go to the wods Evry chance I have and pore out my soul before God that he would deliver me and bless you my dear love for I love you most dear I assure you for my heart ake so it seams as though it would burst. . . . I would bee in tears weeping like a child, about you and the situation that I am in but what can I do but go ahead. . . . I never suffered more in all the days of my life than since these things come to pass. (Bachman 1975:184-85)

Helen Mar Kimball's marriage to Joseph Smith. In the year 1843 Heber C. Kimball began taking active measures to have his only living daughter, fourteen-year-old Helen Mar, become a plural wife to Joseph Smith. Perhaps in anticipation of this event he gave her a father's blessing on 28 May of that year. Among other things he declared:

Thou shalt be blest with immortal glory and enthroned with glory in the presence of the Lord. . . . Thou shalt be blessed with the blessings of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Thy posterity shall become numerous and great in the earth. . . . Be humble and listen with care to thy father and mother and all thy superiors. . . . Let thy treasures be laid up in heaven, where thou shall be enthroned in the presence of God. Deposit it there. And thou shalt be blessed with a companion and he shall be a man of God. Listen with care to his counsel for he shall be thy head. In as much as thou wilt do this thou shalt be honored of God, and shall be inspired with the blessings of God. . . . Be upright, be pure, and whatsoever covenant thou shalt enter into, let it be in view of eternity, that thou mayest look upon thy father and mother and thou will then see their anxiety which they have had for thee. . . . I seal thee up unto eternal life and thou shalt come forth in the resurrection. (Kimball, Heber C., ms g)

Years later Helen Mar was to detail the events that transpired in her life shortly after the blessing was given:

Just previous to my father's starting upon his last mission but one . . . , he taught me the principle of Celestial marriage, & having a great desire to be connected with the Prophet, Joseph, he offered me to him; this I afterward learned from the Prophet's own mouth. My father had but one ewe lamb, but willingly laid her upon the altar. . . . I will pass over the temptations which I had

during the twenty four hours after my father introduced to me this principle & asked me if I would be sealed to Joseph who came next morning & with my parents I heard him teach & explain the principle of Celestial marriage--after which he said to me, "If you will take this step, it will ensure your eternal salvation & exaltation and that of your father's household & all your kindred. This promise was so great that I willingly gave myself to purchase so glorious a reward. None but God & his angels could see my mother's bleeding heart. When Joseph asked her if she was willing she replied "If Heber is willing I have nothing more to say." She had witnessed the suffering of others, who were older & who better understood the step they were taking, & to see her child, who had scarcely seen her fifteenth summer following in the same thorny path, in her mind she saw the misery which was as sure to come as the sun was to rise and set, but it was all hidden from me.

I thought through this life my time will be my own
 The step I now am taking's for eternity alone,
 No one need be the wiser, through time I shall be free,
 And as the past hath been the future still will be.
 To my guileless heart all free from worldly care
 And full of blissful hope and youthful visions rare
 The world seemed bright the threatening clouds were kept
 From sight and all looked fair but pitying angels wept
 They saw my youthful friends grow shy and cold
 And poisonous darts from sland'roud tongues were hurled,

.....
 Pure and exalted was thy father's aim. He saw
 a glory in obeying this high celestial law
 For to thousands who've died without the light
 I will bring eternal joy & make thy crown more bright.
 I'd been taught to revere the Prophet of God
 And receive every word as the word of the Lord,
 But had this not come through my dear father's mouth,
 I should ne'r have received it as God's sacred truth.
 (Whitney, Helen Mar Kimball, ms a)

In June of 1844 Heber C. Kimball (ms h) wrote to his daughter concerning issues evidently associated with the matrimonial sealing that had linked her to Joseph Smith:

I hold you as a blessing that we have received from our Father which is in heaven, so be obedient to the council you have given to you from your dear Father and mother who seek your welfare both for time and eternity. . . . If you should have feelings in your heart keep them to yourself and tell them to no creature on earth but your father and mother, if you do you will be betrayed and exposed to your hurt. Remember my dear child what I tell you, for you will find I tell you the truth in Christ and lie not. You are blest but you know it not. You have done that which will be for your everlasting good for this world and that which is to come. I

Membership qualifications

By the time of Joseph Smith's death the Holy Order had developed various features in terms of which it had considerable affinity to the consecration community of the 1830s as well as some formal similarity to the Puritan church covenant group. First, like both the consecration community and the church covenant group, it consisted of a select group of individuals who had been drawn from the more general body of the Church. It's membership was highly restricted; by the time of the martyrdom only sixty-five individuals had joined its ranks. According to Elizabeth Ann Whitney, a member of