

THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE

by Robert L. & Rosemary Brown

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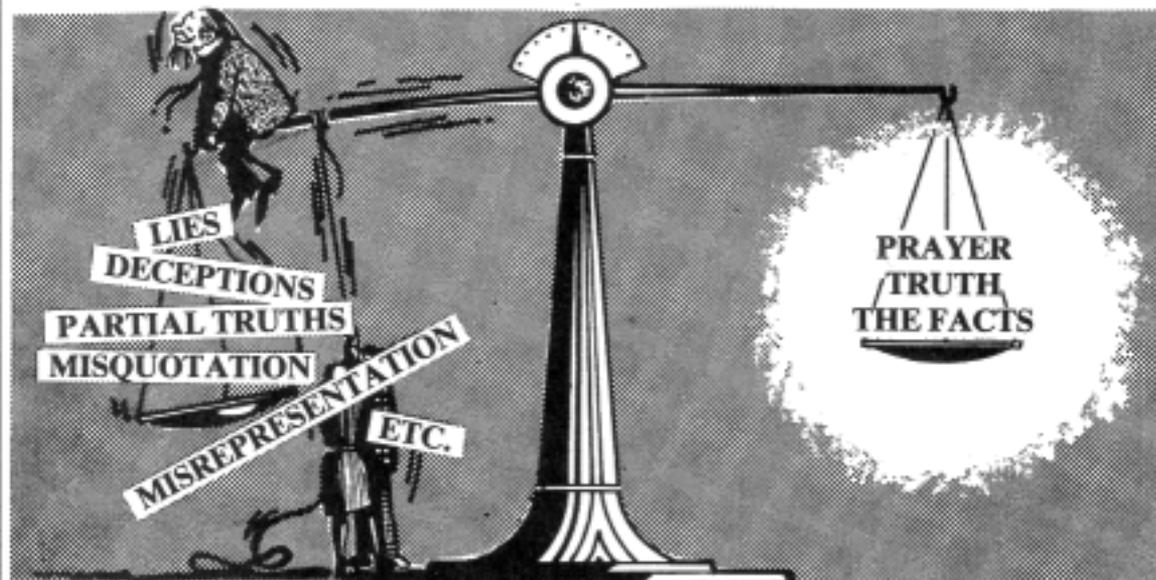
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ERRORS AND DISTORTIONS BY DEE JAY NELSON AND JERALD AND SANDRA TANNER



OBJECTIVES

- To prove that Joseph Smith correctly identified the canopic jars in facsimiles No. 1 and No. 2 in the Book of Abraham.
- To prove that Dee Jay Nelson agreed with Joseph Smith's identification of the canopic jars, and both Nelson and Jerald and Sandra Tanner deliberately misrepresented these facts.
- To prove that Nelson confuses the identity of the canopic jars in both his lectures and writings.
- To prove that the Tanners knew of Nelson's false credentials.
- To challenge any claim to Nelson being a self-taught Egyptologist by either Nelson or the Tanners.
- To prove that the Tanners had the most to gain from pushing Nelson into the forefront with regards to the Book of Abraham, and little to lose if Nelson crashed.

CHAPTER NINE

ERRORS AND DISTORTIONS BY DEE JAY NELSON AND JERALD AND SANDRA TANNER

The founding fathers of our great country created a system of checks and balances in the hopes of promoting honesty. The leaders of the LDS church are occupied using their time and talents in building up the kingdom of God here on earth. For them to spend their time answering all the baseless charges that can be thought up against the Mormon church would be too time consuming and non-productive — especially when the truth can be found through prayer. Therefore, the church has done very little to check the lies and distortions of truth propagated by the anti-Mormon elements. Going unchecked, there are now numerous “Dee Jay Nelsons” to deal with. When word got around that a small group of Mormons were going to research some of the more outspoken anti-Mormons, information began pouring in from all directions from members that have done research on their own and uncovered widespread deception. It was hard knowing where to end this book!

This chapter will show the deception of both Dee Jay Nelson and Jerald and Sandra Tanner. Jerald and Sandra Tanner are authors of the books, *MORMONISM: SHADOW OR REALITY*, *CHANGING WORLD OF MORMONISM*, and several booklets and pamphlets against Mormonism. They would be considered some of the leaders of the anti-Mormon movement. They will be dealt with in depth in a future book; however, this chapter will deal with the deception between Dee Jay Nelson and the Tanners in relation to the identification of the canopic jars in the Book of Abraham.

JOSEPH SMITH IDENTIFIED THE CANOPIC JARS CORRECTLY IN THE 1830's WHEN HE IDENTIFIED THEM AS “THIS EARTH IN ITS FOUR QUARTERS” WHICH ARE THE FOUR CARDINAL POINTS OF THE COMPASS

Book of Abraham
Facsimile #1
Figures #5, 6, 7, 8

Joseph Smith identified the canopic jars in the following manner: #5, The idolatrous god of Elkenah; #6, The idolatrous god of Libnah; #7, The idolatrous god of Mahmackrah; and #8, the idolatrous god of Korash.

DR. KLAUS BAER'S IDENTIFICATION . . .

- 8. SOUTH — HUMAN HEAD (IMSETI OR MESTA)
- 7. NORTH — BABOON HEAD (HAPI)
- 6. WEST — JACKAL HEAD (QEBEHSENUEF)
- 5. EAST — FALCON HEAD (DUAMUTEF)



Book of Abraham
Facsimile #2
Figure 6

Joseph Smith identified these same mumiform figures as:
"Represents this earth in its four quarters."



How does Dr. Klaus Baer of the Oriental Institute, Univ. of Chicago, identify the canopic jars?:

"The usual identifications are Imseti (human), Hapi (baboon), Qebehsenuf (jackal), Duamutef (falcon).

The Egyptians viewed the world facing south, directions thus go SNWE: south — Imseti, north — Hapi, west — Qebehsenuf, east — Duamutef (going through the canopic chests in the usual order)."

Louis Herbert Gray, ed. *THE MYTHOLOGY OF ALL RACES*, "Egyptian," by W. Max Mueller, (New York: Cooper Square Publishers, Inc., 1964), p. 112, 388, had this to say about the canopic jars:

"The four sons of Horus represent the four cardinal points of the compass."

The Egyptians considered Egypt as being the exact center of the world, the place of the beginning from which life went forth in all directions to fill the world. (C. DeWit, in *CHRONIQUES d'EGYPTE*, Vol. 32, 1957, pp. 35-37.)

From these references by non-Mormon Egyptologists, you can see that the four canopic jars are recognized as **S.N.W.E. directions** — or **"this earth in its four quarters,"** as identified by Joseph Smith in 1830.

Dr. Hugh Nibley concurs with the above Egyptologists in the "Improvement Era" magazine, August 1969, p. 86. Dr. Nibley states that "Korash" indicates Koash which is the people from Nubia (Nhsy) to the south of Egypt; "Mahmackrah" indicates the people from Palestine and Syria (Retjnu) to the north of Egypt. "Libnah" indicates the people from Libya (Temhiland) to the west of Egypt; and "Elkenah" (Elkkener) indicates the desert people ('Amu) to the east of Egypt.

In his Bakersfield, CA, lecture on Feb. 29, 1980, Nelson chose to attack the canopic jars as represented in Facsimile #1 and #2 of the Book of Abraham. Here is what Nelson had to say about these figures in his lecture:

"We are told by Joseph Smith that the five things under the couch are the idolatrous gods of Elkenah, Libnah, Mahmackrah, Korash, and

Pharoah. Now these names don't ring true in Egyptian. The four things under the couch are canopic jars. I've seen them in many such illustrations. There are no less than 50 of them in the Temple of Osiris at Philae and in those 50, about 18 of them had these canopic jars under the bed. None of them are identical but there are enough similarities to indicate they are the same. The canopic jars represent on their lids the heads of the four sons of Horus, the grandsons of Osiris. The one with the human head, the one on the far left, is the god Hapi. The one with the dog-faced ape head next is Mesta. The next one is Duamutef. And the last one is Qebhsenuf. So, you see, we even have the names of their diety and the viscera of the dead are put in these jars to be preserved."

Nelson, in his lecture, was trying to say that Joseph Smith did not identify the four jars correctly when he named them the four quarters of the earth, and thus Joseph Smith would be a fraud. **It is now a fact that Joseph Smith was the first person in modern times to name them correctly!** (Did you notice here that Nelson didn't identify them correctly — check Dr. Baer's description.)

FAULTY REPORTING BY JERALD AND SANDRA TANNER

Jerald and Sandra Tanner in their book, *MORMONISM: SHADOW OR REALITY*, are very typical of all anti-Mormon propagandists. They like to quote out of context or distort the truth entirely. On p. 348, the Tanners boldly state:

"The four jars which appear below the bier in Facsimile No. 1 prove that it is a funerary scene. These canopic jars were used to hold the soft parts of the body that were removed during the embalming process. (Notice that they appear in some of the other scenes we have shown.) Joseph Smith's statement that they are the gods of Elkenah, Libnah, Mahmackrah, and Korash is **completely wrong**. Dee Jay Nelson states:

Two of the Denderah wall drawings show canopic jars with humanoid and animalistic heads below the bier. They appear in exactly the same order ... human-headed Amset first (at the left). Behind him are the following in this order, baboon-headed Hapi, jackal-headed Duamutef, and hawk-headed Qebhsenuf. These jars traditionally received the internal organs of a deceased person. The gods depicted on the lids of these jars were the protectors of various visceral parts. These are entirely typical" (see *The Joseph Smith Papyri*, p. 42).

According to the Tanners, Joseph Smith is completely wrong and Nelson is

quoted to prove it. The reference given was the booklet “The Joseph Smith Papyri,” p. 42. I looked up p. 42 and checked the reference. As I was thumbing through this booklet, I happened to notice the same quote by Nelson on p. 32, but with an entirely different meaning:

“... names are (from left to right), human-headed Amset or Mesta, baboon-headed Hapi or Hep, jackal-headed Duamutef, and falcon-headed Qebehsenuf. (Note that the heads of the same four gods are on the canopic jars seen under the bier in the Book of Abraham, Facsimile No. 1. Note also that the gods appear in the same order in both cases.) I have seen hundreds of illustrations of the four sons of Horus upon papyri and in every case the order in which the gods appear is the same. They may face in the other direction but always the association of one to the other is identical. (As Joseph Smith, Jr. indicates in his explanation of Facsimile No. 2, Fig. 6, they were the gods of the four cardinal points of the compass. **This statement is quite correct.**)”

WHAT!!! NELSON SAID JOSEPH SMITH IS CORRECT IN HIS INTERPRETATION? You certainly didn’t get that idea from reading Tanner’s account of Nelson’s quote in **MORMONISM: SHADOW OR REALITY** did you! In Nelson’s lecture, he forgot he agreed with Joseph Smith, too. Why didn’t the Tanners use the entire reference? Why did they omit the part where Nelson verifies the fact that Joseph Smith did correctly identify the four canopic jars? In case there is any doubt in your mind that this is a clear case of **intended deception**, Nelson made this same statement in his other booklet, “Joseph Smith’s Eye of Ra” on p. 4:

“... four mummiform standing gods (figure #6, in facsimile #2): The sons of Horus, Amset (Mesta), Hapi, Qebehsenuf, and Duamutef. **Joseph Smith correctly identified them as representing the four quarters of the earth.**”

Isn’t it easy to see that both Nelson and the Tanners are guilty of deception? They knew what they were doing. They just didn’t count on anyone checking their references so closely. Even if someone caught their deception — up until now, who would advertise it? There are always many, many more people who would just take their word ... after all, wasn’t the reference given? “The Joseph Smith Papyri” and “Joseph Smith’s Eye of Ra” by Dee Jay Nelson have been published by the Tanners for years. As “students of Mormonism”, are they now going to claim that they weren’t aware of this “oversight”?

The identification of the compass directions tie both the Egyptologist and Joseph Smith’s explanation together. It is quite clear that the prophet Joseph Smith knew what he was talking about when he identified the four canopic jars. He got his knowledge from the Lord —there was no way he could get the answers from any books or his own limited educational background.

DEE JAY NELSON CONFUSES IDENTITY OF CANOPIC JARS

Dee Jay Nelson has extreme difficulty trying to identify the four canopic jars correctly in his lectures and also in print. The following references apply to the table below:

- Line #1 Dr. Klaus Baer's identification
- Line #2 Nelson's Bakersfield, CA, lecture (see p. 157).
- Line #3 Nelson, "Eye of Ra," p. 2, 4, & 27
- Line #4 Nelson, quoted in Tanner's book **MORMONISM:
SHADOW OR REALITY**, p. 348. (p. 343 & 346
were correct)¹
- Line #5 Nelson, "Joseph Smith Papyri," p. 32 & 42

Line #	Human	Baboon	Jackel	Falcon
1	Imseti or Mesta	Hapi	Qebehseuef	Duamutef
2	(Hapi)	(Mesta)	(Duamutef)	(Qebehseuef)
3	Mesta	Hapi	Qebehseuef	Duamutef
4	Mesta	Hapi	(Duamutef)	(Qebehseuef)
5	Mesta	Hapi	(Duamutef)	(Qebehseuef)

*NOTE: NOTICE THAT NELSON IDENTIFIED THEM CORRECTLY
ONLY ONCE IN LINE 3.*

You will note that Nelson cannot remember the names of the canopic jars! (Errors are in parenthesis.) His booklets were published by Jerald and Sandra Tanner, Modern Microfilm Co., Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1968, which means that he has been familiar with their identity for at least the last fourteen years and still he can't remember their correct names! His answers weren't right in most of his publications, but he messed them up even worse in his Bakersfield lecture — **He was 100% wrong!** (Line #2 above).

It would seem that Nelson could make far better use of his time if he would spend his time studying Egyptian instead of running Joseph Smith down. However, studying has not been as **lucrative** for him as his baseless anti-Mormon campaigns.

DID THE TANNERS SUPPRESS THE TRUTH ABOUT DEE JAY NELSON?

While this author was reading all the information about Dee Jay Nelson, it occurred to me that the Tanners were the only anti-Mormon propagandists that didn't refer to Nelson as "Prof." or "Dr." Nelson. We thought it quite strange that with all the publicity surrounding Nelson, they would be the only ones not to fall for his phony credentials. Every other writer referred to Nelson as "Dr." or "Prof." Nelson when quoting him. Not long after this discovery, we were shown a letter sent by Sandra Tanner to Richard Ball of Glendale, Arizona. This letter cleared up our question as to why they never referred to Nelson by his phony credentials — Sandra Tanner said, as shown below, "By the way, we never claimed he was a Ph.D. ... all he claimed to us was that he was self-taught.":

MODERN MICROFILM CO.
BOX 1884
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84110

Jan. 3, 1981

MODERN MICROFILM CO.
BOX 1884
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84110

Jan. 3, 1981

Dear Mr. Ball,

Thanks for the photos. I had the Con. Christ. art. but not Mr. Browns.

Moody did ask us to revise the sec. on Mr. Nelson - which we have done - & they will be bringing out a new ad. soon. By the way, we never claimed he was a Ph.D. - so it wasn't a matter of changing that type of thing. I still believe he knows Egyptian - all he claimed to us was he was self-taught. This problem does not in any way change the Book of Abraham problem.

I haven't heard anything about Cowdery of late. So don't know whether he can prove his claim.

Brown's can investigate us to their hearts content! I'm willing to stand on my record.

Sincerely,
Sandra Tanner

Dear Mr. Ball,

Thanks for the photos. I had the Con. Christ. art, but not Mr. Browns.

Moody did ask us to revise the sec - on Mr. Nelson - which we have done - & they will be bringing out a new ad. soon. By the way, we never claimed he was a Ph.D. - so it wasn't a matter of changing that type of thing. I still believe he knows Egyptian - all he claimed to us was he was self-taught. This problem does not in any way change the Book of Abraham problem.

I haven't heard anything about Cowdery of late. So don't know whether he can prove his claim.

Brown's can investigate us to his heart's content! I'm willing to stand on my record.

Sincerely,
Sandra Tanner

Sandra, why did you keep it a secret from everybody? For the past three years, all over the country and especially in Utah, Nelson has been advertising his false degree as well as his other false credentials. Have you never heard his wild claims?

Putting a little pressure on the scales of checks and balances helps make people

honest — I noticed in the revised edition of the Tanner's newest book, **CHANGING WORLD OF MORMONISM**, p. 339, it states:

“In March, 1980, we learned from a woman in Arizona that this school could not be located, and, therefore, asked Mr. Nelson for verification. Nelson furnished us with a diploma from the school, but after a great deal of investigation, we finally learned that Pacific Northwestern University in Seattle was only a ‘diploma mill of the worst kind’.”

“Although we made a number of quotations from Nelson's work in the first edition of this book, we believe that it is unwise to continue quoting him in this edition.”

WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN DID THE TANNERS DECIDE TO INVESTIGATE NELSON?

In making the above revision, the Tanners also received encouragement from the Moody Bible Institute which published their book **CHANGING WORLD OF MORMONISM**. This book has a copyright date of 1980 by the Moody Press. This author, in the latter part of 1980, sent information about Dee Jay Nelson to Moody Press. A call to Moody Press indicated that the material had been passed on to Jerald and Sandra Tanner with the instructions to revise the section concerning Dee Jay Nelson. At this time they were also informed that no more copies of their just printed book would be released for sale, and all future editions must also be revised. In 1981, the new revised edition was printed containing the reference to Dee Jay Nelson in the above quotation. In the front of this newest printing you find the copyright date of 1980, 3rd Printing (1st printing of revised edition). **Between the Moody Press and us, it looks like the Tanners had no choice but to come clean.**

CAN DEE JAY NELSON CLAIM TO BE A SELF-TAUGHT EGYPTOLOGIST?

If one has the knowledge, there is nothing wrong with being self-taught. However, in the case of Dee Jay Nelson, I can see no evidence of being self-taught academically in anything. When he can plagiarize from authorities, or have noted authorities check his work, he can make out well enough to fool a lot of people. But, let's give him the benefit of the doubt for a moment. A call to Arizona State

University verified a practice that most colleges and universities have of giving credit to one who is self-taught. If one has a great deal of knowledge, there are **"proficiency examinations"** which are available; if they are passed, indicating a satisfactory academic knowledge of the subject, college credit is given without having to take the course. If one has the knowledge, a lot of undergraduate credit could be gained in that manner. If Nelson is going to be hailed as a self-taught Egyptologist, then let's make it impressive by showing that he is **self-taught by academic standards, not by the standards of the Tanners or his own.** When Nelson is left to his own devices, this author will go on record as stating that he doesn't have the background or knowledge to pass any proficiency examinations. **If he has no academic knowledge, then let's see the anti-Mormon propagandists stop deceiving people by quoting Nelson like he knew what he was talking about.**

It soon became obvious to this author that Jerald and Sandra Tanner had the most to gain from pushing Dee Jay Nelson into the forefront with regards to the Book of Abraham, and the least to lose if Nelson crashed. In the Tanner's book, **MORMONISM: SHADOW OR REALITY**, they quoted Nelson throughout the 75 pages of the section "The Fall of the Book of Abraham". The next anti-Mormon writer closest to this record was Walter Martin with 38 pages. This book by the Tanners contains 587 pages — which means references to and quotes by Dee Jay Nelson comprised 13% of the entire book! The price just recently went up from \$11.95 to \$13.95 per book. With over 35,000 copies sold by 1980, at \$12 per book, it comes to a hefty sum of over \$420,000. Is this the reason why the Tanners were not eager to expose Dee Jay Nelson, their No. 1 witness against the Book of Abraham?

IN SUMMARY . . .

Until now, there has been very little checking done on anti-Mormon claims. Because of being given practically free reign to say or print anything regardless of truth, there is now a dearth of investigation that needs to be done to set the record straight.

Joseph Smith identified the canopic jars correctly in the Facsimiles of the Book of Abraham when he identified them as "this earth in its four quarters" which are the four cardinal points of the compass. **Both Nelson and the Tanners knew this, but carefully chose an incomplete reference to make it sound like Joseph Smith was wrong.** As Nelson stated in **THE JOSEPH SMITH PAPYRI**, p. 32, "As Joseph Smith, Jr. indicates in his explanation of Facsimile No. 2, Fig. 6, they were the gods of the four cardinal points of the compass. This statement is quite correct." This illustration is an example of the deception practiced by anti-Mormon propagandists.

Dr. Klaus Baer supplied the names of the canopic jars. **Dee Jay Nelson confused these names in both his lectures and publications.**

It was noted by this author that Jerald and Sandra Tanner were the only anti-Mormon propagandists that hadn't referred to Nelson as either "Professor" or "Dr.". Not long after this discovery, we read a letter to Richard Ball of Glendale, AZ., by Sandra Tanner in which Sandra admitted that "... we never claimed he was a Ph.D. ... all he ever claimed to us was that he was self-taught." It may be said here that it took some real talent on the Tanner's part to quote Nelson as an authority on 75 pages of *MORMONISM: SHADOW OR REALITY* and make it sound as good as they made it sound! However, when Moody Press discovered the truth about Dee Jay Nelson (with help from this author), they insisted that the Tanners remove references to him. In a hastily revised edition of *CHANGING WORLD OF MORMONISM*, the Tanners indicated that because they just learned from "a woman in Arizona" that Nelson didn't have a valid degree, they believed it was unwise to continue quoting him.

Any claim made that Nelson is self-taught may be backed up by Nelson taking Proficiency Examinations at just about any college or university. He can receive college credit for his academic knowledge, which would give considerable weight to any claim to being self-taught. **If he cannot show any evidence of academic knowledge, then he should not be quoted as an authority.**

It is strongly recommended that all references in anti-Mormon literature and lectures be thoroughly investigated. If Mormonism must be fought with lies and misrepresentations, perhaps it is worth an honest investigation!

(It should be noted that after the first printing of this book, the Tanners had removed Nelson's material from both "*MORMONISM: SHADOW OR REALITY*" and "*CHANGING WORLD OF MORMONISM*," revised 1981-1982.)

FOOTNOTES

¹Notice that Nelson identified the canopic jars correctly only once in line 3. It was reported correctly in *MORMONISM: SHADOW OR REALITY* because of a mistake made by the Tanners — They quoted Nelson's "Joseph Smith Papyri" on p. 32 (which is wrong) and inadvertently switched them around which made them appear correctly on p. 343 & 346.