

Julian Mitranethicist.
New Age Naturalism

Representations of Moroni in Mormon scriptures and sacred art

Mitran Ilie Iulian

Bello Troy

Editor: Bello (Sadler) Jennifer

Ovidius University of Constanta

The Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences

Dixie University of Saint George of Utah

Faculty of Science

Our understanding of the celestial seems to become more and more narrow— especially as we age. Critical thinking and rationality are core components of a healthy mind but they can generate "*secondary effects*" as also. Images that we have stored in our minds since our childhood depict lands that are very different from the ones we are walking on now; their existence is not limited by rigid lines, norms, or laws of physics. Having a heterogeneous essence, being characterized by a high degree of malleability, fantastic realms that we were the authors of in our childhood seem to violate every basic aspect of a adult's everyday life. Making a deep analysis of the creatures that we created back then, we can see a lot of very interesting aspects which we weren't conscious of in the moment we created them from a simple thought. Our imaginary friends from our early childhood were archetypes, solid projections, personifications of the data that we collected from our living environment.

If we make a quick analysis, the bad characters, the monsters that were living under the bed were the solidified projection of our fears, of everything that we regarded as undesirable. Beings, living organisms, aren't necessarily made out of a material substance, their existence is not limited to one plane, one realm, and their existence can go beyond manmade structures and boarders, translating in to eternity. *As we are creators of the surreal, God - expression of supreme knowledge, perfection and eternity - was the author of reality and of the surreal,*

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creating beings of which existence can be perceived through the basic senses, He also was the author of all that is inaccessible, tenebrous and heavenly. In the Christian theology, angels represent the archetype of purity and beauty — both of the mind and of the appearance. They are messengers, servants and helpers; their presence in our earthly realm was never discontinued. The canons that were used for their representations, both in the Church's sacred art and in popular culture, changed over time; varying from monumental idealized depictions to ones that are the subject of stylistic simplicity.

The Holy texts of Mormonism make references to the Angel Moroni, a main figure in the Mormon traditions that is immortalized in various instances in the most distinctive writing of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - *the ¹Book of Mormon*. The depictions that describe the presence of Moroni can be divided in to two classes - textual/scriptural depictions: describe the anthropomorphic appearance, spiritual nature and actions; sacred art depictions: the translation of the image of the sacred being in to works of sacred art.

Many times, it implies the construction of an anthropomorphic image that can be the subject of a canon— norm that specifies the physical features, symbols and representation techniques and materials.

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¹ One of the most distinctive religious books of the Mormon faith, it has its name from Mormon , the father of the Angel Moroni which will guide Joseph Smith in order to find the Plates on Nephi on Cumorah Hill (Mormon Hill).