

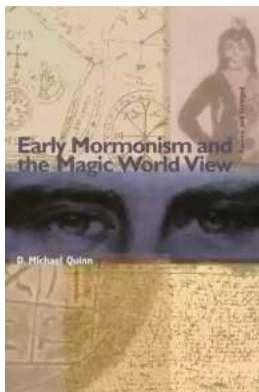
# Discover the Fascinating World of Early Mormonism and its Connection to Magic!

When you think of Mormonism, what comes to mind? Most people associate it with a religious movement founded by Joseph Smith in the early 19th century. But did you know that the origins of Mormonism are deeply intertwined with the world of magic and the occult?

In this captivating article, we will delve into the early days of Mormonism and explore how the magic worldview influenced its formation and teachings. Hold on tight as we uncover the secrets and mysteries behind one of the most intriguing religious movements in American history!

## Magic in Early 19th Century America

The early 19th century was a time of great fascination with the supernatural and the occult in America. From mesmerism to fortune-telling, people were seeking answers and guidance beyond the realm of conventional religion. It was amidst this milieu that Joseph Smith emerged as a charismatic leader with a unique set of beliefs.



## Early Mormonism and the Magic World View

by D. Michael Quinn (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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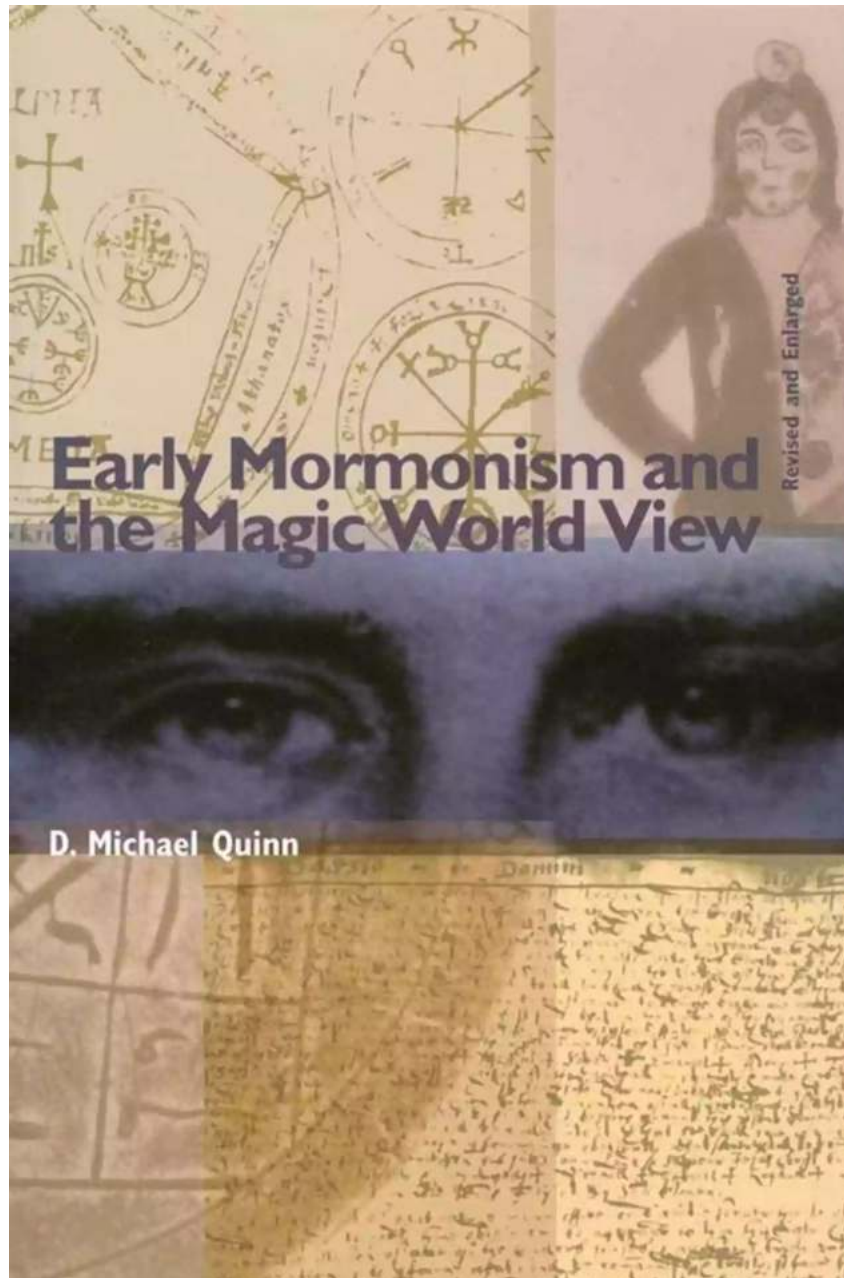
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Joseph Smith grew up in a family that was deeply involved in folk magic and treasure-seeking. Legends tell of Smith using seer stones to locate buried treasure, an activity that was a common practice for many in rural America during that time. This exposure to magic undoubtedly played a significant role in shaping his worldview.

## **The Book of Mormon and the Seer Stone**

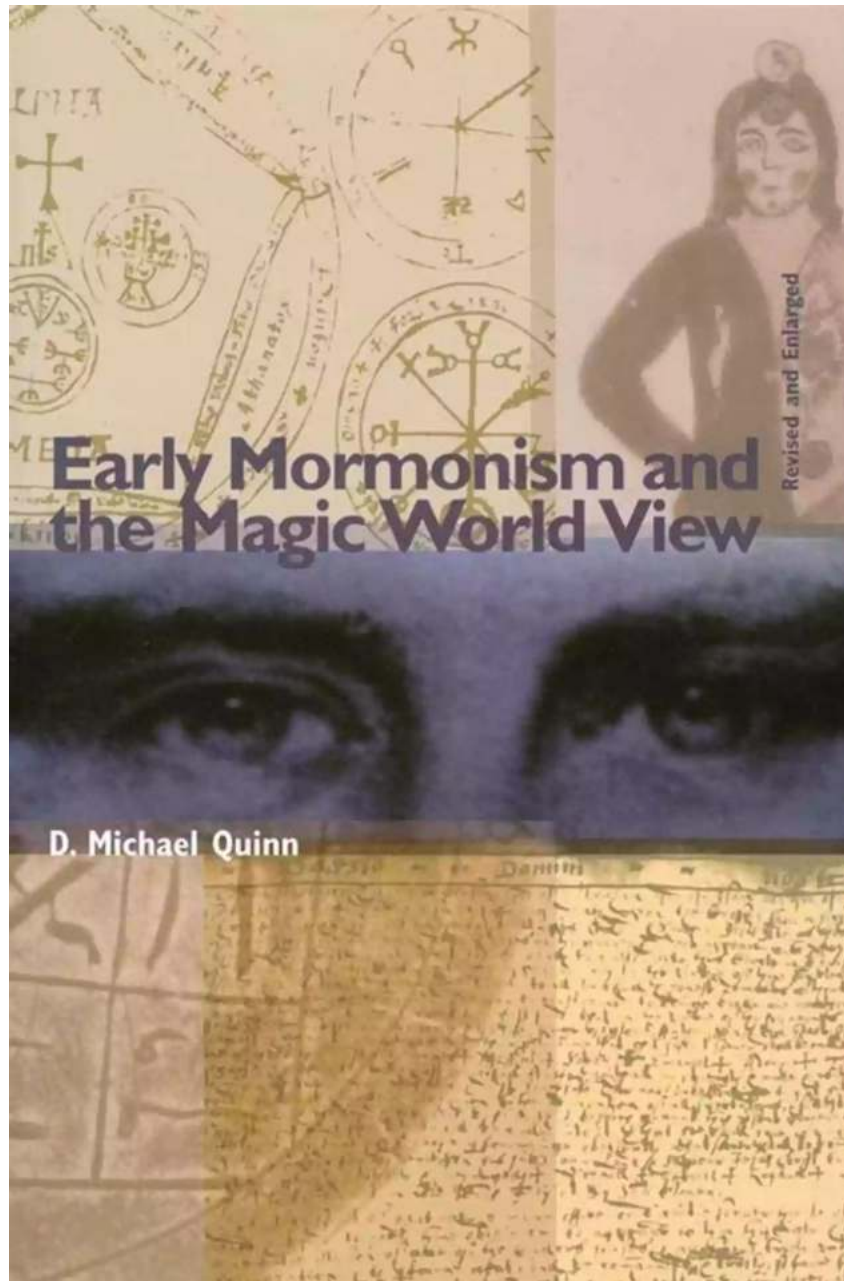
One of the cornerstones of Mormonism is the Book of Mormon, a sacred text that Smith claimed to have translated from ancient golden plates. But here's where the magic intertwines with the origins of this holy book.

According to Smith's account, he used a seer stone, known as the Urim and Thummim, to translate the hieroglyphics engraved on the plates. This magical device, which Smith claimed to have found buried with the plates, allowed him to discern the hidden meanings and messages contained within.

This belief in the power of divination and the ability to access hidden knowledge through magical means became integral to the teachings of Mormonism. It offered followers a glimpse into a mystical world beyond the ordinary, where ancient truths could be unearthed through supernatural means.

## **Ordinary People Performing Extraordinary Acts**

Mormonism saw itself as a restoration of the true gospel, harkening back to the early days of Christianity. In this restorationist perspective, miracles and divine manifestations were not only possible but expected. The power to heal the sick, speak in tongues, and even perform miraculous feats was believed to be available to ordinary individuals.



Such beliefs resonated with a population hungry for spiritual experiences that went beyond rote theology. Ordinary men and women became the new prophets and healers, performing extraordinary acts under the guidance of their faith. Smith himself was known for his charismatic and theatrical preaching style, which undoubtedly added to the magical aura surrounding the early Mormon movement.

### **The Influence of Masonry and Rituals**

Another fascinating aspect of early Mormonism's magic worldview lies in its connection to Freemasonry. Many early Mormons, including Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum, were members of the Masonic Lodge. This connection is reflected in the rituals and symbolism found within the Mormon temple ceremony.

The temple rituals, which are considered sacred and not discussed openly by Mormons, involve secret handshakes, symbolic garments, and a complex initiation process. These elements bear a striking resemblance to Masonic rituals, suggesting a strong influence from the world of Freemasonry on early Mormonism.

## **The Evolution of Early Mormonism**

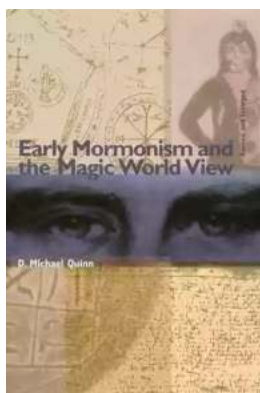
As the movement gained followers and expanded, the magical elements of Mormonism gradually faded into the background. The focus shifted more towards establishing a structured religion, with doctrinal teachings and a hierarchical leadership system.

Did the magic worldview of early Mormonism vanish entirely? Or does it still linger in the depths of its teachings and practices? Today, the answer to that question is up for interpretation and debate, but the magical origins of this religious movement add an intriguing layer to its history.

## **A Final Thought**

Exploring the connection between early Mormonism and the magic worldview opens up a whole new world of understanding and fascination. It sheds light on the historical context in which the movement emerged and offers insights into its beliefs and practices.

So, embark on this enchanting journey into the magical past of Mormonism. Unlock the secrets of seer stones, divination, and mystical rituals. Discover the foundations of a religious movement where the line between the natural and the supernatural was blurred. Start your exploration today and let your imagination soar!



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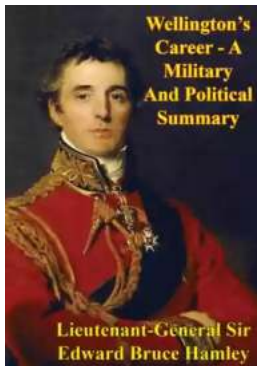
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In this ground-breaking book, D. Michael Quinn masterfully reconstructs an earlier age, finding ample evidence for folk magic in nineteenth-century New England, as he does in Mormon founder Joseph Smith's upbringing. Quinn discovers that Smith's world was inhabited by supernatural creatures whose existence could be both symbolic and real. He explains that the Smith family's treasure digging was not unusual for the times and is vital to understanding how early Mormons interpreted developments in their history in ways that differ from modern perceptions. Quinn's impressive research provides a much-needed background for the environment that produced Mormonism.

This thoroughly researched examination into occult traditions surrounding Smith, his family, and other founding Mormons cannot be understated. Among the

practices no longer a part of Mormonism are the use of divining rods for revelation, astrology to determine the best times to conceive children and plant crops, the study of skull contours to understand personality traits, magic formula utilized to discover lost property, and the wearing of protective talismans. Ninety-four photographs and illustrations accompany the text.



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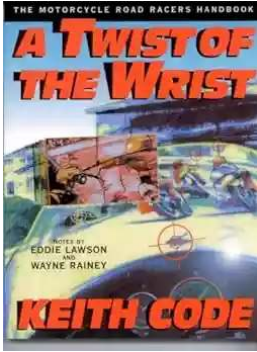
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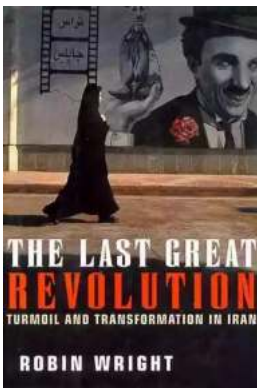
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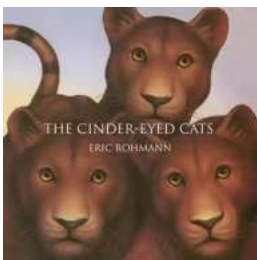
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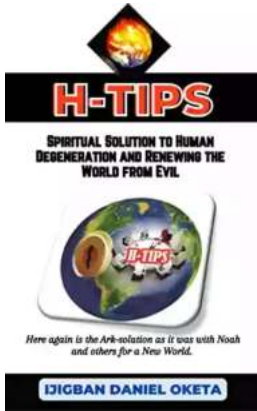
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