

## **Singing in the Nephite Tongue and Interpreted (Lucy Mack Smith)**

Shortly after learning of the death of Lucy Mack Smith in May 1856 George A. Smith wrote a tribute to her including a song she sang in tongues titled "Moroni's Lamentation."

She enjoyed the gifts and influence of the holy spirit much, and the following hymn was given her in 1833, which she sang in the Nephite tongue, which caused great sensation and tears to flow in the congregation, and the gift of interpretation followed. The hymn has reference to the last great battle of the Nephites against the Lamanites, around the Hill Cumorah, in the State of New York, when the *plates* were found from which the Book of Mormon was translated. It is called 'Moroni's Lamentation:'

I have no home, where shall I go?  
While I am left to weep below,  
My heart is pain'd, my friends are gone,  
And here I 'm left on earth to mourn.

I see my people lying round,  
All lifeless here upon the ground,  
Young men and maidens in their gore,  
Which does increase my sorrows more.

My Father look'd upon the scene,  
And in his writings has made plain  
How every Nephite's heart did fear,  
What he beheld his foe draw near.

With axe and bow they fell upon  
Our men and women, sparing none,  
And left them prostrate on the ground;  
Lo! here they now are bleeding round!

Ten thousands that were led by me,  
Lie round this Hill call'd Cumorah!  
Their spirits from their bodies fled,  
And they are numbered with the dead.

Well might my Father In despair  
Cry, Oh! ye fair ones, once how fair!  
How is it that you're fallen! oh!  
My soul is filled with pain for you!

My life is sought, where shall I flee?  
Lord take me home to dwell with thee,  
Where all my sorrows will be o'er,  
And I shall sigh and weep no more.

Thus sang the Son of Mormon, when  
He gazed upon the Nephite men,  
And women too, which had been slain,  
And left to moulder on the plain.<sup>1</sup>

William Smith also included this hymn in his 1883 publication *William Smith on Mormonism*: “The following Hymn was sung in tongues by Mother Lucy Smith, and interpreted by Elder Levi Hancock.” William explained that Moroni’s Lamentation “was given to Mother Lucy Smith, sung in the spirit and interpreted, as stated.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> G[eorge]. A. Smith to Editor, July 5, 1856, “Mother Lucy Smith,” *The Mormon* (New York) 2, no. 21 (July 12, 1856):82.

<sup>2</sup> *William Smith on Mormonism* (Lamoni, Iowa: Printed at Herald Steam and Job Office, 1883), 33, 35.