

I read the passage. I read it again. Then, raising my eyes to his said, with a quizzical look, "It looks all right to me, Brother Smith."

"Look again, Brother Durham."

I looked and still could find no fault. Then the kindly scholar, who had read most carefully the book first given him by his father, said something to this effect:

"Who was the father of Isaiah?"

I looked at the passage and quickly said, "Amos."

"Wrong, Brother Durham. Brother Talmage made a mistake when he edited the proofs for that page. Amoz and not Amos was the name of Isaiah's father. You see, we can all make mistakes."

My Ph.D. had not extended to the distinction between Amoz and Amos. The doctrinal leader, who was to become the tenth President of the Church, sent me on my way. I was comforted and uplifted. Two valuable lessons had been received on the same morning from the men who respectively were to become the ninth and tenth Presidents. President McKay taught me the great care with which one should handle the words, phrases, and paragraphs taken from another's writings. From President Joseph Fielding Smith I learned that errors may not always be apparent, that it is human to err, that even the great James E. Talmage, editor of the *Book of Mormon, Pearl of Great Price, and Doctrine and Covenants*, mistook "Amoz" for "Amos." I should take comfort, and do better next time.

The example of the kindly scholar, Joseph Fielding Smith, in the above context, has served me well ever since.

DID YOU LIKE THIS ONE?

A TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

HENRY EYRING

As many people have remarked, President Joseph Fielding Smith was a man without guile. He presented every question exactly as he saw it and accepted the consequences of his position whether they were pleasant or unpleasant. Every one who knew him even remotely knew that he was against sin, but it is only less generally known that he loved the sinner. It is also true that he could love those who disagreed with him. This can be illustrated by a personal experience I had with President Smith a number of years ago. I was trained as a mineral engineer so that it is natural for me to interpret the seven periods of creation as long geological ages. Radioactive dating and other methods of arriving at the antiquity of the earth incline many professionals to this position.

Some years ago President Smith invited Dr. Melvin Cook and me to his office to discuss this and related questions. A lively hour-long discussion ensued. As so often happens each person brought up the argument which supported his position and when the discussion was over each parted each with much the same position he held when the discussion began. But what was much

Alive to how what