

## If Joseph Smith Had Been Born in California

*Theric Jepson*

The angel met him once every four years  
in what is now the Ina Coolbrith Park.  
The first time digging them up took longer  
than the angel had anticipated.  
José did not have to dig deeper, no,  
but broader, much broader. The plates had moved.  
They found the stone box a full four vara  
north of where he had left it. And the box  
had split, the rocks crumbled into gravel.  
The sword of Laban, ruined, as were the  
Urim and Thummim. The plates themselves were  
folded like a paperback in the rain.