

THE TESTAMENT OF THE BLOOD AND THE FIRE

Attributed to President Brigham Young

Delivered in private council, 1833 — *Not published in the Deseret News*

“Verily. I say unto you, there are sins which no man may wash clean in this life, save it be by the shedding of his own blood. For the blood is the soul’s aether, and when it is corrupt, it must be spilt for the spirit to be freed.

“Some there are among us who do not die as men die. They walk still though their hearts beat no more, and they thirst for the blood of the living. These are the cursed of the east, but even they may be brought to repentance—if they spill their blood in sacred sacrifice and not in hunger.

“Should the Lord God raise one among them who seeks not dominion but redemption, whose eyes see Zion and not Babylon, then let his path—cleared. For his blood may yet turn the curse backward, if offered upon a holy altar.

“Yea, I have seen it in vision: a man who died but rose again, his mouth red with atonement. He shall build an engine of salt and scripture, and by it shall the damned find mercy, if they walk in fire willingly.”

— Preserved in fragments by Elder S. Martineau, Church Historian’s Vault (Sealed Archive #SIC-27)