

20190912 **Mormons**
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Elder Gehring and Elder Yuen knocked on my door this evening, as I was eating my roasted pork with soup and rice. I answered the door. We shook hands. Elder Gehring was a handsome young man with black-rimmed glasses. His hair seemed black, and he seemed to have a bit of Mongoloid ancestry, like Amerindian maybe. His skin was a rough light tan, it seemed. He was from the USA. Elder Yuen was from Hong Kong and could speak Cantonese and Mandarin to reach out to the Chinese community here. The Mormon temple was an easy walk from our Casa Medrano.

The Elders asked me if I had read the Book of Mormon. I said that I had read parts of it, but I did not remember much. I said that I collected various versions of it in different languages, including Spanish and Chinese. Elder Gehring read a passage in the Book of Mormon about knowing "the condescension of God."

I said that I was already involved with another group, the Jehovah's Witnesses. Elder Gehring asked if they had already baptized me. I said no. But I mentioned my baptism as a baby Roman Catholic. An NRM, New Religious Movement, in Japan baptized me a second time, wholly in water, as I wore a white gown. I told the Mormons that there were people at the train stations in Japan, and they picked up strangers to go to their temple. Those Japanese said that baptism should be only once, but it was my second. Baptism was all people needed, according to that NRM. The Mormon Elders asked me how long I had lived at Casa Medrano. I told them that my family had lived here since 1977, but I was in Japan in the 1990's for "Software Engineering work," and then I returned. (I forgot to mention that I had lived also in East Vancouver for ten years until 2006.) The Elders did invite me to their temple, but it was raining heavily this evening.

Anyway, I whispered that I was really "a Buddhist." The Elders were to stay in Canada temporarily, and I knew that I could not be friends with them for long. We parted and shook hands. And they stepped into the heavy evening rain...