Beat: Local

BEN CARSON BELIEVES JOSEPH BUILT EGYPTIAN PYRAMIDS TO STORE GRAIN

PYRAMIDS WERE STORAGE, NOT TOMBS

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USPA NEWS - Last Wednesday, a 17-year-old video surfaced of Ben Carson claiming that the Old Testament figure Joseph built the Egyptian pyramids to store food. “My own personal theory is that Joseph built the pyramids to store grain,“ Carson said in a 1998 commencement speech at Andrews University,...

Last Wednesday, a 17-year-old video surfaced of Ben Carson claiming that the Old Testament figure Joseph built the Egyptian pyramids to store food. 'My own personal theory is that Joseph built the pyramids to store grain,' Carson said in a 1998 commencement speech at Andrews University, unearthed by BuzzFeed. 'Now all the archaeologists think that they were made for the pharaohs´ graves. But, you know, it would have to be something awfully big, when you stop and think about it, and I don´t think it´d just disappear over the course of time, to store that much grain.'

Yesterday, November 4, marked 93 years to the day that the tomb of King Tutankhamen was opened in Egypt, revealing spectacular artifacts and a magnificent mummy of the boy king. The celebration was somewhat marred, at least here in the U.S., by a leading Republican candidate for president, former neurosurgeon Ben Carson, who confirmed a statement he´d made in 1998 “” that he believes the Egyptian pyramids were grain silos, not tombs.(Forbes)

'The pyramids were made in a way that they had hermetically sealed compartments,' he said. 'You wouldn't need hermetically sealed compartments for a sepulcher. You would need that if you were trying to preserve grain for a long period of time.'

'Does he even deserve a response? He doesn´t,' said the antiquities minister, Mamdouh el-Damaty, on the sidelines of a news conference about recent thermal scans of the pyramids that could reveal hidden tombs.

But to claim that the pyramids, which American kids learn about in grade school, were not tombs for pharaohs but grain silos built by a biblical hero appeared to rise to another level. To some critics, it was akin to Dan Quayle´s infamous “potatoe“ gaffe. And when Carson confirmed to CBS Wednesday night that he still believes Joseph built the pyramids as granaries, the video began to assume Mitt Romney '47 percent' proportions as the moment when Carson´s flaws as a candidate suddenly crystallized into a single quote. (Washington Post)

Carson has expounded his 'personal theory' that Joseph built the pyramids to store grain. He referred to the Old Testament story of Joseph predicting famine and advising the pharaoh to store surplus food.

As a Seventh-Day Adventist, Carson appears to subscribe to the idea that the book of Genesis is literal history. And therefore that the Joseph of the Old Testament, who was sold into slavery in Egypt, built the pyramids to store grain during the seven years of abundance mentioned in Genesis. As Carson specifically said in the 1998 talk, 'My own personal theory is that Joseph built the pyramids in order to store grain.' (Forbes)

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