

I'm not a robot



Is brandon sanderson a practicing mormon

Brandon Sanderson gazes up at his star chart, lost in contemplation of the constellations above. The warrior and dragon, the oil lamp's gentle glow, and the woman's deep thoughts all blend together in his mind. His eyes wander to the celestial map that dominates his study ceiling, a visual representation of the intricate world he has created - the Cosmere. This vast universe, with its rich magic systems, fantastical creatures, and well-crafted characters, has captivated readers worldwide. Brandon's works have earned him recognition among fantasy enthusiasts, solidifying his position alongside J.R.R. Tolkien as one of the best authors in the genre. His novel "Mistborn: The Final Empire" has been named a best fantasy novel by Time and Forbes, while his book "Oathbringer" debuted at No. 1 on the New York Times Best Seller list. The movie industry has also taken notice, with several of his works being optioned for film or television adaptations. What's truly impressive, however, is Brandon's dedication to his craft beyond writing. He is an avid teacher, podcast host, and founder of Dragonsteel Entertainment, while also secretly writing novels during the pandemic and crowdfunding a campaign that raised nearly \$42 million. On a personal level, Brandon approaches life with a similar sense of scope, prioritizing his faith, family, friends, students, and readers. For him, comfort is key, as evident in his beloved taupe couch, where he spends hours writing every day. Brandon's study seems to be an intimate window into his mind, with dark wooden bookcases lining the walls displaying art from his stories, glittering rocks, and a selection of Terry Pratchett novels. The author's wife, Harriet McDougal, asked Brandon to finish The Wheel of Time series after her husband passed away in 2007, which is evident in this unique edition. A signed copy of the first book, The Eye of the World, by Robert Jordan sits beside a pair of worn black tennis shoes and Brandon's laptop adorned with a Pokémon sticker from his kids. The room exudes writerly energy, yet a few decades ago, that label was Brandon's best-kept secret. Brandon recounts hiding his writing away due to embarrassment, only sharing it with a painting in his room. His love for fantasy ignited during eighth grade when Barbara Hambly's Dragonsbane captivated him. He felt compelled to write, driven by the magical quality of those books. His first manuscript, written on an electric typewriter, was 15 pages long - far removed from later works like Oathbringer. Brandon's mother recalls his exceptional talent becoming apparent in high school. A teacher praised his substantial progress in writing, after reading a story that "blew me away." With the spark of writing ignited, Brandon continued to craft during his full-time mission in Seoul, Korea. He persisted, finishing a book he'd spent two years on eight months later. Though never satisfied with the first draft, Brandon rewrote it from scratch years later. Brandon Sanderson's Journey as an Author: Shaping Culture through Writing Brandon Sanderson credits his experiences in Korea for influencing the content of his books. Living among people who are different from him has helped him understand cultural development and how cultures evolve. He incorporated Korean language elements into his first novel, Elantris, which is based on language magic. The author's decision to change majors at Brigham Young University from biochemistry to English was driven by a passion for writing. His mother initially worried about his choice, thinking that writing wasn't a stable career path. Brandon continued to write despite rejection letters, eventually submitting Elantris, which gained acceptance from Tor Books in 2003. He has since published 32 novels and other works, crediting his spiritual prompting with pursuing writing as a calling. Brandon's wife, Emily Bushman, was introduced to him through mutual friend Isaac Stewart. The couple had a strong connection on their first date, and they married in 2006. Brandon and his wife Emily have found ways to balance their writing careers with family life while working from home as a couple. Brandon, a self-proclaimed night owl, typically wakes up at 1:00 p.m. and dedicates four hours to writing, followed by time spent with his family. After that, he works late into the night, often until 2:00 a.m., while Emily tends to her own work during the day. Their sons have also taken an interest in writing and have each written their own stories, usually under Brandon's guidance. The family enjoys spending quality time together, such as building with Legos on Sundays, and has a small menagerie of pets. Brandon Sanderson's unique ability to accurately depict people's challenges is one of the things he admires most in his writing. He particularly appreciates how he can make his characters relatable by giving them conflicting motivations, which is a theme that resonates with him personally. As a chemist, he praises Brandon's scientific approach to magic, which is often spot on and exciting to see portrayed accurately. Brandon credits the breakthrough that transformed his storytelling to a shift in perspective - instead of viewing characters as archetypes, he sees them as individuals with complex desires. This insight has helped him craft more realistic and engaging stories, not just for readers but also for real people, who are often multi-dimensional and cannot be reduced to simple categories. This attention to the complexities of human nature is reflected in Brandon's approach to character development, which acknowledges that people are often hypocritical or motivated by contradictory desires. He believes that embracing these contradictions is essential for growth and learning in life, and that seeking to understand others' perspectives can make stories more compelling. Despite his focus on storytelling, Brandon remains dedicated to his community, supporting causes such as literacy promotion through the Lightweaver Foundation, a nonprofit he co-founded with his wife Emily. Brandon Sanderson's books have had a profound impact on people's lives, as seen in his book signings where readers would become emotional after being touched by his stories. According to Isaac Stewart, Brandon cares deeply about people's experiences and is generous with sharing what he has. Stories hold value for many reasons, including helping readers learn empathy and live vicariously through characters, making their own lives better. Brandon believes that reading helps people deal with life's circumstances by practicing vicarious storytelling. He says his reason for writing is not just about himself but also about the memory of his younger self who embarked on a journey to create something meaningful. Brandon feels a moral obligation to use his talents and share his stories with others, having been in a position where he had to wait 10 years before selling one of his novels. He writes because it's a burning need within him, but ultimately, it's for the readers who have inspired him to keep creating. Brandon's personal point of view is often reflected in his novels, which is why some people might be interested in knowing about his religious views. However, he believes that reading others' perspectives on life can be beneficial, allowing us to experience what we might not otherwise encounter. Somehow, around halfway through this book, I sensed that Sanderson must be affiliated with the Mormon faith. It's difficult to pinpoint exactly when or why this impression formed. Perhaps it was just my intuition or a nudge from something more divine (after all, the Spirit of God can reveal many things). Over time, I've come to notice that certain creations - songs, books, films - tend to evoke a distinct Mormon feel. This doesn't always mean I'm correct in my assessment, but it does happen occasionally. I attribute this phenomenon to the Uncanny Valley of Christ's teachings being subtly embedded into these works by their Mormon creators. Their unique cultural influences often seep into humanity's creative expressions, and we tend to be most oblivious to our own cultural nuances. On his personal website, Sanderson answers a question about why he believes in Mormonism. I'll respond to his response with a general critique of the reasons people might accept Mormonism - not specifically targeted at him but rather for anyone who could benefit from understanding the truth behind these assertions. He cites three main reasons: experience, logic, and feelings. In terms of experiences, Sanderson shares that many profound moments in his life were linked to his faith and its teachings. He attributes the closeness he feels with his family to Mormon teachings on family values, and believes they also influenced him to seek a partner. Additionally, he finds comfort and truth in the religion's guidance on living a good life. While I have no issue with people finding happiness through their beliefs, I question whether Sanderson would truly be single without the influence of Mormonism. If the primary goal of life is happiness, then perhaps any religion can claim to excel at this. However, many individuals within various faiths share similar experiences and testimonials. Furthermore, while marriage is beneficial for some, my personal belief is that it's better to remain single for God if one is capable of doing so without attachment. The Mormons advocate for marrying as a means to attain the highest level of perfection in their religious hierarchy. My understanding of God's teachings, however, suggests otherwise (Rev 14: 1-5). What does Mormonism offer that contradicts these principles? As I continue reading, Sanderson also discusses how certain beliefs make logical sense to him. His experiences as a missionary and the challenges he faced in answering critical questions about his faith are mentioned. From his website: How can you believe in God when there's so much suffering in the world? What about all the people who aren't of your religion? They go to hell because they happened to live at the wrong time, when there were no missionaries to teach them? He answers that the LDS teaches that we lived as spirits before being born, needed to be born to experience life and all its consequences, and had a choice to decide whether to experience pain and suffering to learn and grow or not. He also talks about free will, stating that God had to let us make our own decisions or the whole thing would be meaningless. Additionally, he mentions that we are responsible for doing all we can to alleviate suffering. However, some critics argue that this perspective leads to victim blaming, particularly when considering those who suffer or have died due to circumstances beyond their control. Given text here The Mormon faith has been criticized for its problematic history, particularly with regards to its treatment of dark-skinned people as inferior and justifying their enslavement and land appropriation during the 1800s. The church's doctrine suggests that those who convert will become "white and delightsome," a notion rooted in racist ideology. The LDS Church's teachings on hell and repentance have also been called into question. According to some interpretations, those who do not learn about Christ in this life will still be saved in the next, but this provision is largely based on the idea that everyone has opportunities to discover the gospel. However, critics argue that this view ignores the concept of original sin and the importance of faith in Christ. Moreover, the church's stance on hell is often seen as simplistic, portraying it as a place where individuals suffer for their own mistakes rather than acknowledging the role of systemic injustices and societal pressures. The idea of self-inflicted pain being the primary cause of hellfire is also concerning, as it suggests that those who are already marginalized and oppressed will be held accountable for their circumstances. In contrast, many Christian denominations emphasize the importance of love, compassion, and forgiveness, particularly towards those who are perceived as enemies or outsiders. The Bible teaches that God commands us to love our neighbors, regardless of their background or circumstances, and to treat others with kindness and respect. Ultimately, the LDS Church's teachings on salvation, hell, and repentance raise important questions about its role in promoting justice and equality for all people, particularly those who have been historically marginalized and oppressed. Christ's Teachings Emphasize Personal Responsibility and Reverential Awe The will of God is known to those who follow its principles, but disobedience results in severe consequences, while doing good earns a more lenient judgment. Mistakes are an integral part of life, serving as a means for growth and self-improvement. However, repentance goes beyond personal improvement, involving a deep sense of reverence and respect for God. Many may claim to follow Christ, but true faith comes from a genuine relationship with Him, not just feelings or emotions. The Bible and the Book of Mormon are incompatible, as one is the source of guiding doctrine and principles, while the other is not. Those who wrote the Book of Mormon were flawed individuals with racist and elitist views, making it difficult to consider their testimony as credible. Only those who stand on shaky spiritual ground would question the Bible's authority or seek a prayer that pits two holy scriptures against each other. I have experienced personal encounters with Jesus that cannot be denied, which has deepened my faith and trust in Him. I must admit that my experiences with Sanderson's The Way of Kings were quite an adventure. Despite feeling manipulated by the novel's slow pace and drawn-out storyline, I found myself enjoying it - especially towards the end. In fact, I was so invested that I checked out a second copy from the library just to finish it. Of course, this means that I had already reserved and checked out the next book in the series, Words of Radiance, without having finished the first one. But then Sanderson killed God - or rather, a fictional god with similarities to the actual God of the Bible - which felt quite presumptuous to me. As it turned out, this was only the beginning of my frustration, as I found myself stuck in a never-ending cycle of slaughter, delay, and more slaughter. I eventually had to put the book down due to its meandering pace, feeling manipulated and betrayed by my own reading pleasures. First off, let me express my dissatisfaction with your writing style. I get this feeling that there's supposed to be some massive payoff later on in the series, where all these plot threads come together in a satisfying way. But right now, you're just giving us "suck" - no real resolution or payoff for any of the characters. It feels like an afterthought, like you added some minor battles here and there because someone told you to include more action. And don't even get me started on the major battles at the end. The heroes are killing people who aren't actually their enemies, and it's not just confusing - it's also kinda sickening. It's like, what's the point of all this? Wasn't enjoyable for the heroes, wasn't enjoyable for us readers either. I tried to push through with Elantris too, but it was a total slog at first. Just non-stop exposition, followed by some minor action and then more exposition. I mean, who needs that much background info right off the bat? And don't even get me started on this prince character - he's supposed to be from a kingdom next to the cursed one, but we're hit with all this info about his youth and how he never visited the place as a kid. Come on, can't you just sneak in some vague memories or something? Anyway, that's my two cents. Do what you want with it.