



### 3. URIM AND THUMMIM



The **Urim and Thummim** are a mysterious set of objects first mentioned in the Hebrew bible's *Book of Exodus* — believed to be a set of “seeing stones” used by the **High Priest** to engage in **cleromancy** (*discerning the will of God*).

They were traditionally worn as a part of the **Hoshen** (*sacred breastplate*) attached to the **Ephod** (*sacred vest*), though their exact composition is never directly described, as the stones were kept carefully hidden from view.

In the tradition of **Mormonism**, the “Urim and Thummin” came to signify any set of tools, objects, or instruments that could be used for receiving divine revelations, such as **Joseph Smith**'s pair of spectacles that he used to translate the **Golden Plates** into the *Book of Mormon* in 1827.

In Smith's subsequent 1835 *Doctrine and Covenants*, the scope of the *Urim and Thummim* is described as being even broader than that:

*The place where God resides is a great Urim and Thummim. This earth, in its sanctified and immortal state, will be made like unto crystal and will be a Urim and Thummim to the inhabitants who dwell thereon, whereby all things pertaining to an inferior kingdom, or all kingdoms of a lower order, will be manifest to those who dwell on it; and this earth will be Christ's.*

*Then the white stone mentioned in Revelation 2:17, will become a Urim and Thummim to each individual who receives one, whereby things pertaining to a higher order of kingdoms will be made known;*

*And a white stone is given to each of those who come into the celestial kingdom, whereon is a new name written, which no man knoweth save he that receiveth it. The new name is the key word.*

The phrase “Urim and Thummim” is usually translated as “lights and perfections” or “revelations and truth” — and its Latin equivalent, **Lux et Veritas** (*light and truth*), is used as the motto of several prominent universities, including **Yale**, which many of my ancestors attended.

In **Paolo Coelho**'s popular 1988 novel, *The Alchemist*, the *Urim and Thummim* are black and white fortune-telling stones that Melchizedek gives to Santiago, with black indicating “yes” and white indicating “no” — but Santiago never uses the stones, having promised himself to “make his own decisions.”

This brief early ritual takes three iconic “linestones” from the **High Acres Farm** beach, and uses them as a localized *Urim and Thummim* — placed above the eyes and taken in the mouth to receive a spontaneous vision of the unknown journey that is to come.

As the film concludes, the image withdraws into a void.

*Performed in 2015 — Duration 2:00*

