



**CENTER FOR
SCIENTIFIC CREATION**

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Dear Steve,

For three years I have become increasingly puzzled and disturbed by calls from many people who allege that you claim I have plagiarized your work. Is this true? According to them, you are saying that I "stole" your idea that Grand and Hopi Lakes overflowed and carved the Grand Canyon. I hope these individuals misunderstood your comments.

In the fifth edition of *In the Beginning . . .* (copyright, August 1989), I devoted a section to a brief overview of the Hydroplate Theory. It contained specific information about Grand Lake, its boundaries, point of overflow, and a few of the evidences showing that it dumped—quickly forming the Grand Canyon. During the year before the book's publication, I presented this in lectures. People who attended, as well as audio tapes of those talks, will attest to that fact. All of this followed a year of intense study of the Grand Canyon and the regions of Grand and Hopi Lakes. The details of this work would fill a small book. Most of the discoveries I made that year have yet to be published, although two world-class geologists will attest to my explanation before 1989. I even took an experienced professor and field geologist through this lake region, including a flight over it. His concluding remark was that any geologist who had seen what I showed him would agree with my explanation for the Grand Canyon.

Of course, it has been known for decades that canyons, such as the Channeled Scablands of eastern Washington, can quickly form by breaching a large lake's natural dam. Before August of 1989, I never heard or read anything by you concerning Grand and Hopi Lakes, their location, point of overflow, or supporting evidences for their catastrophic dumping. If I had known you had published those ideas, I would have cited them. I hope you would do the same for me. Correct academic procedures, and honesty, demand no less. During the summer of 1990, a person who took ICR's Grand Canyon rafting trip came to my office and showed me your guidebook (copyright, 1990). It contained the Grand Lake explanation **without any citation**. You even used the name "Grand Lake." If you published this explanation for how the Grand Canyon formed before August 1989, I would appreciate a copy of it.

As you know, sometimes people arrive at a similar conclusion almost independently. This may have happened to us. Maybe you were considering "The Grand Lake Explanation" when I published mine in August 1989. Then you gained confidence that your ideas were correct and decided to publish your very similar conclusion. Perhaps as these last four years have passed, that "explanation" seems even more obvious and "a part of you," and now you feel a proprietary interest.

When someone publishes a major conclusion similar to an unpublished conclusion of mine, I always try to contact the author, acknowledge their work and publication, and explain where our views coincide and diverge. This opens a communication channel, they can see exactly where I am, and they can request that I acknowledge their prior publication or discovery. No such request has ever been made of me.

For example in 1978, Russ Humphreys published his Biblical basis for the existence of water in the earth's core. I phoned him and said that I had reached similar conclusions about subterranean water, although not in the core. When Michael Oard first published his ideas on the ice age in 1979, I phoned him and told him that in 1970, as the seeds of the Hydroplate Theory began falling into place, I reached a similar conclusion. Mike and I have since had several fruitful exchanges of ideas. However, Mike is not aware of the major phenomenon that would have cooled the continents and warmed the oceans—causing and ending the ice age. That phenomenon is only understood in light of the Hydroplate Theory and will be explained in some detail in the next edition of my book. In January 1976, I read an excellent *Impact* article you wrote (No. 32). I traveled that summer to ICR in part to meet you and discuss some similar ideas I had. I asked Henry Morris at lunch if Stuart E. Nevins (the fictitious name you were writing under) was available to talk. Morris only told me that you were away for the summer—not that you were writing under that name. I also discussed with Morris, Gish, and Slusher some of my conclusions about the ice age, rapid continental movement, and mountain building during the Flood. Morris suggested that I publish it as an ICR technical monograph.

You and I may have had a convergence of ideas concerning Grand Lake. I certainly did not plagiarize your work or anyone else's. If you think I have, **why did you not contact me first (Mt 18:15-17)?** Have you made such accusations to others?

I have never gotten upset when someone fails to reference my work—or even when they claim it as their own. This happens frequently, and I consider it a compliment. However, if someone does this, then tells others that I stole it from him, I must act. Reputations and a person's effectiveness are easily damaged by such loose talk, especially when the allegations are made behind your back. Twice, in the last three weeks, friends have said that you are making such accusations. It is very easy to convince them that such alleged charges are groundless, and a careful researcher can easily establish true authorship. (See for example: Emmett L. Williams, et al., "Erosion of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River: Part III," *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Vol. 29, June 1992, pp. 19-21.) I trust that in the future you will always reference any major ideas and obtain permission to use figures you draw from others, including explanations whose publication preceded yours.

Last night, for the first time, I read the section of your 1990 *Grand Canyon Guidebook* where you laid out the "Grand Lake Explanation." I can see that your explanation differs slightly from mine, because you do not understand the extremely high Kaibab Upwarp and a few other matters. Basic mechanics and the Hydroplate Theory eliminate these problems. A phone call a few minutes ago, via a friend of yours, confirmed that you still have and are puzzled by these problems. So please don't say that you are proposing a different explanation, because that difference is minor and wrong.

Quickly acknowledging mistakes usually avoids a lot of trauma, especially in a research organization or an organization whose ethical reputation is important. If your explanation for the Grand Canyon was published independent of and before mine, I will quickly apologize to you, ask for your forgiveness, and correct the matter. Otherwise, "the ball is in your court." With a quick and sincere apology, you and ICR will find me easy to work with, and ICR can avoid much trauma. We should not work at cross purposes. Notice, Steve, I am first coming directly to you and Henry Morris with this, a courtesy you did not offer me. Isn't this the straight-forward way to resolve matters that you were taught in the military? I hope to hear from you by July 19th, so we can resolve this difficulty.

Sincerely,



Walt Brown

cc: Henry M. Morris