

## **Important Moment**

When I was about 5-6 years old I had quite the embarrassing endeavor. I fell into the fountain at Temple square. It was late into the fall season dipping heavily into a colder climate. Around this time nearly every year my family made the long trip downtown to visit the lights and see the town. I never truly understood the importance of the event because I was a pretty “head in the clouds” kind of kid. Although I was often reluctantly forced to go to the event regardless. Many of these trips shared some uniqueness to them. One year we would go see the lights and watch a famous film at the time. Another we would watch religious programs and cap it off with a stroll down town. However, this time was particularly different. This year we went to temple square.

Around this time year it is always crowded downtown. Its largely this fact that we don't visit anymore. However, in spite of this the family was interested in going down to see Temple square. Like many other trips we showed up and began seeing the sites and the various landscapes that make the location worth visiting. Among that we also visited the many buildings in the surrounding area. For me the subtle stench of car exhaust and walking around wasn't all that appealing to me. I began to get bored seeing the sites and walking had started to become a chore. In that moment we came upon a very modest albeit large circular fountain. Its color along with the break in sound and smell made me very curious about the fountain. I remember being bent over the side glaring into the pool at all the pennies, dimes, nickels people threw into the fountain for good luck. Seeing them all glitter and shine was by far one of the better experiences for me of the day thus far. On top of that the fountain also provided a place of rest from the constant walking and noise of the city. So I sat on the fountain for some time and took in the fresh smelling air the coins and the alluring glowing water. In fact, it was at this time that I noticed my brother peering into the fountain to get a better look and play with the water. I thought this was an interesting premise, so I followed suit. First it was just my hands resting on the rotund base of the fountain. Then slowly but surely, I began to lean in to get a better look and feel of the water with my knees now propped up on top of the large cement base of the structure. A large flash sounded and a subtle shift of momentum and BOOM I was upside-down in the chilling biting fall water. I felt a hand grasp my waist and hoist me out of the water promptly. It was my dad yanking me out of the water. There was some commotion by this point in the small veranda like area that everyone began to stare and ask questions. From there all I recall is the security talking to my mother as she held my hand and asked me gingerly why I felt compelled to enter the water. I told the truth. To this day I don't know what happened completely. One moment I was admiring the water and the next I was completely submerged in the water. I have asked my parents multiple times and they don't recall anything about the event other than the painstaking after math of the situation. Because I got wet we couldn't go to dinner as planned. Instead we had to rush over to the mall which housed a child's clothing store. From there we painstakingly mulled over all the clothes that clearly didn't fit and begged the employees to let me use the closet to change into warm dry clothes. After nearly two hours I finally was able to

get into some warm clothes. From there we made our way back home after one small visit with family and called it a night very soon after.

Like I said this story isn't particularly embarrassing. At the time it was a big family talking point which made me feel a little sheepish about the subject. But, I never really took the experience much to heart. The ever-present mystery of how I fell into the fountain has been the driving force of why I even remember this story to begin with. Did someone push me? Did I truly slip? Or did I simply want to get in the water? Truthfully, I'll never know.