



Figure 25. The Barachias Nephi obelisk, engraved on a golden-brass plate. Despite the fact that the original was a hoax, Kircher provided the following “translation” in both Arabic and Latin: *Here the sun, the moderator of all things, the fertile divinity of the Nile, on account of the benefits conferred on mortals, is to be celebrated with divine service. Here the inventor of agriculture, planting, seeding, the preserver of Egypt, the Genius of the universe, the repeller of evils, the fertile divinity of the Nile, the vigilant guardian of things, on account of the benefits conferred on mortals, is to be celebrated with divine honors and service.*