

THE KNIGHTS
TEMPLAR AND
THE
JOHANNITES

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KGCTPL



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GLOBAL GREY

NOTHING BUT E-BOOKS

Soon after the Knights Templar were founded in 1118 AD Hughes de Payen became Grand Master of both the Templars as well as the Johannite Church, and some claim that he was even Grand Master of the Priory of Sion. The head of the Johannite Church at the time of the First Crusade was the Patriarch Theoclete. He was the 67 th Grand Master of a lineage of gnostic adepts that had begun with John the Apostle, all of whom acquired the titular name of "John" at their installation. Hugh de Payens was thus initiated into the lineage as John number 68. From that point onwards all the Templar Grand Masters technically assumed the titular name of John. But then the Knights' mass arrest in 1307 seemingly put an end to this lineage, or did it?

In 1804 the world received an "update" regarding the Knights Templar and their Johannite Lineage via a doctor in France named Bernard Fabre-Palaprat. Fabre-Palaprat claimed that the neither the Knights nor their gnostic lineage ever ceased to exist, but simply became more clandestine and obscure after 1307. Once he had proclaimed himself the current Grand Master of the Johannite Lineage, Fabre-Palaprat was able to give credence to his claim by producing a list of all the Grand Masters of the line that had culminated with him. He also produced some Johannite documents that revealed that John the Apostle was the successor of a powerful gnostic lineage that Jesus had been initiated into. One such document was the *Levitikon*, which was the introduction to an ancient version of the Gospel of John called the *Evangelikon*. This document claimed that Jesus, after being initiated into the priesthood of Osiris in Egypt in the Great Pyramid and receiving prodigious power and gnostic wisdom from the Egyptian priesthood, passed on what all that he had received to John the Apostle.

In order to give additional authority to his "new" Templar order, which he called the Johannite Church of Primitive Christians, Bernard Fabre-Palaprat was also able to produce the Larmenius Charter, which was a document that had been passed down the lineage of Johannite masters since the time of John Mark Larmenius, the successor of Jacques de Molay, and gave authority to its owners to found Templar preceptories in the tradition of the early Templars. But even before 1804 the Larmenius Charter had surfaced, when during a Templar Convention in Versailles in 1705 Philippe, the Duke of Orleans, was appointed as Grand-Master of the "Ordre du Temple" and became the head of a Templar preceptory in Orleans. Thus, Fabre-Palaprat's announcement that he was in the possession of the Larmenius Charter and planned to continue the Templar tradition did not come as any great surprise to other informed French Templars.

When Bernard Fabre-Palaprat founded the Johannite Church of Primitive Christians he claimed that some of the original Johannite-gnostic rites of the Templars had been lost and submitted that his intention was to reinfuse them into the Templar tradition. But ultimately Palaprat's infusion led to a schism within the Templar organization. This occurred following Palaprat's death in the mid 1800s, when the gnostic rites of the French Templars split off and merged with the Universal Gnostic Church (which eventually became known as the Johannite Church), while the military elements of Templarism evolved into the SMOTJ, The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, which today is principally a charitable organization comprised of military and ex-military members.

Following Palaprat's announcement regarding the Gnostic- Johannite history of the Templars, many esotericists of the period, including Madam Blavastky and Eliphas Levi, stepped forward to corroborate his story. Each confirmed that the Templars had indeed

been Johannites and that Hughes de Payens had been initiated into the Johannite lineage by the Grand Master Theoclete. Blavatsky and Levi even claimed that the Templars were never truly Knights of the Pope but from their beginning they had been the Knights of St. John, with "St. John" referring to both John the Baptist and John the Apostle. Today, in order to conclusively prove the truth of these 19th century esoteric historians, members of the contemporary Apostolic Johannite Church can produce a detailed lineage of Johannite Grand Masters that begins with John the Apostle, passes down a long lineage of Templar Grand Masters to Fabre- Palaprat, and ends with the present Primates of their Church.

Within the last one-hundred years it has, however, become clear that the Johannite Lineage the Templars inherited is much more ancient than even John the Apostle and Jesus Christ. This wisdom began to circulate with the work of a woman named Lady Drower of England, who spent many years living in southern Iraq among the Mandeans, the only surviving Gnostic sect of antiquity who are known by many as the "People of John the Baptist." According to the Mandeans, John the Baptist was born a Mandaean and both raised and trained by the Nasurai, the spiritual adepts of their gnostic sect. The Mandeans refer to John as their last great prophet and maintain that he was a fully enlightened and empowered Nasurai priest. John passed the wisdom and power he had received from the Nasurai to Jesus, who in turn transmitted it to John the Apostle. Thus, according to Mandaean history, the Johannite Lineage existed long before the time of either John the Apostle or John the Baptist and had passed down an ancient lineage of Nasurai adepts.

According to Lady Drower, the origin of this lineage of Mandaean Nasurai was the island paradise of Sri Lanka. In the Mandeans' records she discovered that the entire sect had originally emerged out of Sri Lanka and then migrated west, eventually to Palestine. Today, Sri Lanka is to much of the world - not just the Mandeans- the original Garden of Eden and even contains Adam's Peak, the mountain that God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden. Therefore, the Mandaean records trace the sect all the way back to Eden. But this is not unusual for a gnostic sect to do, since through the ages the gnostic orders have tended to trace their Gnostic lineages back to the first gnostic teacher, the Serpent on the Tree, who was sent down by the gnostic Goddess Sophia to enlighten Adam and Eve. But the Serpent on the Tree is not just a fantasy or metaphor; in fact it is still worshipped in the Eden of Sri Lanka by priests and pilgrims in a temple town known as Kataragama. Here the infamous serpent is venerated in the form of both a snake and forever-young boy. The Hindus, Sri Lankans, Buddhists and Moslems who worship the Kataragama deity refer to this gnostic teacher as Murrugan, Sanat Kumara, Karttikeya, Subramaniya, Skanda and Jnana Pandita, meaning the "Teacher" and "Lord of Gnostic Wisdom." The Sufis also know him as Al-Khadir, the "Initiator," and the Hindus recognize him as the first Kundalini master on Earth, an Avatar, and the founder of the Siddha Marga, the Path to Perfection. Kundalini is the serpent power at the base of the spine that once awakened culminates in gnostic consciousness. Sanat Kumara, who was merged with or consumed by the Kundalini, initially existed on Earth in an etheric form or in a body of pure serpentine energy, which is why he is often depicted as a serpent on a tree. But according to many yogis of India, the tree in the Garden of Eden is both literal as well as symbolic, it is an actual tree but also symbolic of the human spine, which the yogis know as the Tree of Life. Similarly, the Serpent on the Tree in the Garden of Eden should thus be perceived as both an actual teacher of Gnosticism as well

as a metaphor for the Kundalini serpent in your body that climbs the Tree of Life, your spine, in order to open your chakra centers and teach you gnostic wisdom.

The Theosophists, whose center in Adyar, India, is right next to Mylapur, the place of Murrugan, received transmissions from members of the Great White Brotherhood instructing them that Sanat Kumara came from Venus with the Sons of God and was the original founder of their Brotherhood. The Sons of God landed on Lemuria, the larger, original size of the Garden of Eden, which was a continent that encompassed Sri Lanka and stretched across what is now the Pacific Ocean. The Sons of God mated with the Daughters of Men and then taught them divination, healing, astrology, and alchemy, the elements of modern day Goddess worship or what has become known as Wicca. The Sons of God came from the planet of the Goddess, Venus, with the Goddess' wisdom of how to awaken and move energy, which is the first and purest form of the Goddess. The Sons of God had become Kundalini masters on their native planet and came to Earth to both establish schools for teaching the awakening of the power, as well as to transmit it directly into the Daughters of Men, thereby eventually passing it into the genetic gene pool of all humanity. Their schools eventually dispersed around the globe and became diverse branches of the Great White Brotherhood.

Sri Lanka was still part of Lemuria as late as 30,000 years ago. At that time it was also connected to south India, so that spiritual teachers could travel overland between India and what is today Sri Lanka. One of Sanat Kumara's disciples who completed this overland trek was Agastyar, a miniscule yogi who took the power of Sanat's Gnostic lineage into India and through his students established many of the principal schools and lineages of yoga which still survive today. Another lineage of Kundalini masters founded by Sanat Kumara went westward. These were the Mandeans Nasurai, a name which comes from Nass, meaning serpent, thus aligning them with the first teacher of Gnosticism and the serpentine Kundalini.

In the records of the Mandeans studied by Lady Drower, it is said that after leaving Sri Lanka and migrating west the Mandeans became assimilated into a series of civilizations. They successively became part of the Sumerian, Egyptian, Persian and finally the Jewish culture. As part of the Jewish culture they were a sect of Essenes known as the Nasurai, Nasarene, or Nazarenes, i.e., the serpent sect. Two famous Mandeans Nasurai, John the Baptist and Jesus, were born into the Nasarene sect of the Essenes. John the became the Grand Master of the Nasurai lineage in the west, before eventually passing the lineage to Jesus. Jesus in turn passed the lineage to his two beloved disciples. John the Apostle and Mary Magdalene. The contemporary Johannites believe that at least part of the transmission of Gnostic power and wisdom to these two disciples occurred during the Crucifixion, when Christ took his last breathe on the Cross. After this time we find John and Mary becoming patron and patroness of many Gnostic sects. John's symbol, a chalice from which emerges a snake, symbolizes himself as the chalice or vessel full of the Kundalini serpent power.

Following John and Mary the power of the Johannite lineage passed down a series of Grand Masters named John. It seems that the name John was never meant to be a name, but a title, meaning "He of Gnostic Power and Wisdom," which is why the angel Gabriel insisted that the Baptist, who was full of the Holy Spirit or Kundalini power from his birth, be named John. The English John is apparently derived from the Sanscrit Jnana, the name of the "Serpent on the Tree" and first Grand Master of the Johannite

lineage, Sanat Kumara. It appears that when the Mandeans took it west Jnana evolved into the Aramaic Yahya, the Hebrew Johanna, and then the English John.

The Gnostic rites the Templars subsequently inherited from their Johannite Gnostic predecessors and then practiced in their preceptories Europe were eventually witnessed by the 12 spies of Philip the Fair of France who were sent into the Order to find heretical evidence against it. Once he felt he had ample evidence against the Knights King Philip had them arrested and tortured as heretics. The Templar rites that were spied upon and then became public knowledge included sacred kisses during initiations on the mouth and on those places upon the physical body associated in the East with Kundalini awakening. These practices could have been passed down directly to the Templars from the Johannite gnostic lineage, or they could have been learned from the Templars' Sufi teachers who even today observe such practices. The Templars also practiced the gnostic rite of desecrating the cross by urinating and/or spitting upon it. This practice had already been observed by other Gnostic sects, such as the Cathars, and represented the gnostics' hate of those patriarchal forces who had crucified the Christ on the cross. It had nothing to do with a dislike of Jesus, because, as mentioned, Jesus was a Grand Master of their Johannite lineage and therefore highly venerated by the Templars. He was, however, one rung below John the Baptist, the founder of the Johannite gnostic lineage in the west. This is why the Templars are also said to have "renounced" Christ and referred to John as their Savior. The Templars love of John included the veneration of a mummified head known as Baphomet. Most Templars and Templar related orders today agree that Baphomet not only represented John but was, in fact, the Baptist's head, which had been discovered and captured during the 4th Crusade when the Templars stormed and looted one of the palaces of Constantinople. The Templars are said to have entered a side chapel of the Burkoloin Palace which held incredible holy artifacts, including the cross, the shroud and the Head of John the Baptist. Apparently the head of John was still full of the Baptist's Kundalini power even at that time because it is said that it helped to cure a Roman emperor of disease, and later during their depositions in front of the Inquisition the Templars claimed that is power could turn winter into spring and make flowers blossom. It appears that John's head was eventually transported between the various preceptories by one of the high chiefs of the order, Hughes Piraud, and that it was only present during the highest initiations. This seems to be the only possible conclusion since only the high chiefs and initiates of the Order knew anything about it.

The Templars' gnostic rites may have also included sexual liaisons between the Knights. Homosexual sex had been a part of Gnostics sects almost since the time of their origination in the Middle East. The Bogomils, for example, were notorious for such acts. But it appears that the Knights were not just interested in the physical delight of such rites, because later in the 19th century we find Aliester Crowley using these same practices to induce spiritual ecstasy and claiming they were descended from the Templars.

But there is apparently definitive evidence that the Templars were involved with these practices. In 1780, a Danish Bishop found a document in the Vatican archives called *Baptism of Fire of the Brothers-Consolate* which was apparently the Secret Rule of the Templars. Supposedly written in the 13th century, this document gave permission to the Templars to indulge in all manner of sexual rites, and it even allowed them to initiate new members from the gnostic Cathars, Bogomils and even the Assassins.

Following their arrest and exile from France the Templars seem to have refrained from their hard core Gnostic and Tantric rites so as not to draw undue attention to themselves. However, they appear to have found ways to symbolically observe them within the new orders they became assimilated into. For example, it is known that some of the escaped Templars wandered into England and helped formulate the 13 degrees of the York Rite of Freemasonry, the last of which is known as the degree of Knight Templar. Although today they apparently use a sea shell when observing the rite of this degree, originally the candidate would drink out of a human skull while dedicating a toast to John the Baptist, whose head the skull represented. The Templars may have drunken out of the skull of John the Baptist or any number of human skulls they are ascribed of using in their gnostic rites. Even today such rites are common among the Tantric sects of India and Tibet. The Templars also incorporated their gnostic rites into the 33 degrees of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. There is, for example, an abundance of gnostic symbolism within the 17th and 18th degrees, the degrees of the Knight of East and West, and the Knight of the Rose Croix, and the Warden who initiates a new member into the gnostic 17 th degree is actually said to be playing the role of John the Baptist!

When Fabre-Palaprat revived Johannite Templarism in the 19 th century he may have known of many of the knights' Gnostic and sexual rites and made them part of what he called the High Initiation. Later, when Fabre-Palaprat's order fell apart in the mid 1800s these gnostic rites were assimilated into the Universal Gnostic Church, which had been formed by Jules Dionel and his successor Jean Bricaud. This church was a synthesis of a number of Gnostic sects, including Fabre-Palaprat's Johannites, as well as sects that had been founded by men calling themselves incarnations of Elijah or John the Baptist who stated that they had come to revive Gnosticism and herald the Age of the Paraclete, the Age of the Holy Spirit. In the late 1800s there was a sort of cross pollination between the Universal Gnostic Church and the OTO, the Oriental Templar Order. At that time the OTO acquired some of its sexual rites for the Gnostic Church, and it was these rites that it eventually became renown for. When Aliester Crowley became head of the OTO and began to experiment with the ancient Templar sexual rites, many of which were homosexual, he offered his gratitude to his Templar forebears. Crowley became so enamored over these Templar-gnostic rites that he eventually adopted the nickname of Baphomet.

