

A NEW SPIRITUAL AGE FOR HUMANITY

- **Spiritual “Breakthrough” (Goal of Past Initiation)**
- **Change-of-State Analogy (Individual)**



Self-birthing of adept or master long, slow process. Like water: takes one calorie of heat to raise one gram by one degree centigrade from zero to 99 degrees; however, to achieve change of state from water to gas (steam), or 99 to 100 degrees Celsius, requires hundreds of calories per gram of water. As temperature raises nothing seems to happen (“Watched pot never boils”). When 99 degrees is reached, the next degree cannot be achieved without massive effort and energy. “Takes a community to raise a master.” Even so, the impact on society is localized and small.

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- **Chain-Reaction Analogy: Achieving “Critical Mass” (Humanity)**



Barbara Marx Hubbard: When enough individuals achieve “criticality,” like Uranium atoms in a nuclear reactor, a chain reaction is ignited. Thus society itself can be significantly transformed by many individual spiritual achievements.

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- **Supported for Spiritual Breakthrough by Webs of Initiatic Group Energies, Lineages, Brotherhood-Sisterhoods, Common Striving**



By bringing together valid lineages of many initiatic traditions, Pansophic Freemasonry makes available and focuses powerful forces of spiritual transformation that provide the massive energies needed for individuals to transcend, like the change of phase from 99-degree water to 100-degree steam.

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- **The Grail Paths Taken to Higher Octave**



In addition, in Pansophic Freemasonry all of the initiatic curriculums, or what we call the Grail Paths, have been improved, adapted for modern 21st century women and men, and taken to their higher octaves. We are not merely reverting to antiquated spiritual traditions, but building upon the best and most relevant in proven pathways of spiritual evolution from the Western Initiatic Tradition.

THE INITIATIC TRADITION

- What is Initiation?



Initiation is authorization from the egggore or chain of lineage holders of a given spiritual tradition to receive its esoteric teachings and carry out its spiritual practices.

THE INITIATIC TRADITION

- What is Initiation?
- Eastern and Western Initiatic Tradition



Within the Western Mystery Tradition is contained a deep body of Eastern initiatic tradition as well, beginning with Pythagoras, continued through the Knights Templar, and advanced through later eggregores like the Rosicrucian Asiatic Bretheren and the Inner School of the Theosophical Society.

THE INITIATIC TRADITION

- What is Initiation?
- Eastern and Western Initiatic Tradition
- Spiritual Energies and Powers Initiation
Confers



Valid admission to an initiatic school opens an individual to the invisible help and guidance of all Initiates of that school, in or out of body. It also entrusts an individual with access the specific psychic and spiritual powers to be developed.

THE INITIATIC TRADITION

- **What is Initiation?**
- **Eastern and Western Initiatic Tradition**
- **Spiritual Energies and Powers Initiation Confers**
- **Commitments Required of Initiates**



Initiates make a solemn commitment to keep secret all the practices that are revealed to them, although they may discuss the philosophical and metaphysical teachings of an initiatic school with non-Initiates. They are also expected to make progress through the curriculum and practices within a reasonable period of time defined by each school. If either of these commitments is violated, an Initiate may be demitted from the Order by fiat of the Grand Master.

THE INITIATIC TRADITION

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- **Eastern and Western Initiatic Tradition**
- **Spiritual Energies and Powers Initiation Confers**
- **Commitments Required of Initiates**
- **Lineage and its Importance**



Simply having access to initiatic teachings and practices through books or individuals who have been demitted from an Order does not empower an individual to make spiritual progress by this means. The invisible chain of lineage in any valid esoteric school comprises many advanced souls, in and out of body, whose psychic guidance and spiritual forces are needed to empower their teachings and practices. Authorization to practice comes only through valid Initiation, and that only through authorized, chartered, and warranted lineage holders. The 22 Pansophic Rites of Freemasonry were collected in the late 19th century by Bro. John Yarker of the London Lodge and passed forward through a series of trustees with the title Vicarius Solomonis to Temple of the Holy Grail and Grand Master Bro. Lewis Keizer who, with Count George Boyer, chartered them to the new Pansophic obedience of Freemasonry. To these other valid charters were added by Templar Bishops Keizer, Whitworth, Zohariel, and Keach, each of whom serves as Grand Master of one or more initiatic lineages.

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- **Lineage and its Importance**
- **MYSTERY SCHOOLS: Transformation of Individuals**



In the ancient world, the great mystery schools of Egypt and Greece privately invited outstanding individuals to be initiated for esoteric training. In medieval Europe, outstanding individuals (later only Master Masons) were selected. The goal of this process was to train aspirants who had potential to become adepts and lineage holders—one person, and one soul, at a time.

THE INITIATIC TRADITION

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- Commitments Required of Initiates
- Lineage and its Importance
- MYSTERY SCHOOLS: Transformation of Individuals
- FREEMASONRY: Transformation of Society



In the Speculative or Symbolic Freemasonry of the 17th century and later, the goal was to bring together a dynamic brotherhood of remarkable people (usually men) for moral-spiritual training that could prepare them for significant roles in an increasingly democratic society. It was Freemasonry that provided the infant United States with its political philosophy, electoral practices, and major leadership in the New World.

ROOTS OF THE GRAIL INITIATIONS IN WESTERN MYSTERY TRADITION

- **GRAIL from *Graal* “*The Paths of Progressive Initiation*”**



The *Graal* is a Germanic term for the body of pre-Christian spiritual knowledge and training transmitted through surviving mystery traditions from three cultural roots: 1, the Hermetic, Pythagorean, alchemical, theurgical, magical, gnostical, and other initiatic schools that abandoned Alexandria in third and fourth century persecutions for sanctuary in the Upper Nile cities like Achmim; 2. the shamanic and herbal wisdom that was assimilated from Druidic lineages into in Celtic Christianity after its founding by wandering saints of the “heretical” school of Arius in what is now France, England, and Germany; and 3. the inner schools architecture and the Knighthood of the *Pactio Secreta* transmitted through Roman and Comacine Freemasonry.

ROOTS OF THE GRAIL INITIATIONS IN WESTERN MYSTERY TRADITION

- **GRAIL from *Graal* “*The Paths of Progressive Initiation*”**
- **Shamanic and Priestly origins of building arts and three stage initiation (Dido; Herakles)**



The building arts were highly developed in Egypt, Persia, Greece, and Rome. Egyptian architects and builders, like all other members of the Priesthood, were chosen from the best and brightest young boys of Egypt. They were taken from their homes, extensively trained, and taught from the richness of their own initiatic traditions. Persian builders formed a division of Zoroastrian Priesthood. Greek and Roman architects and builders were trained in their own sacred guilds, with the first-born son having priority for initiation into the training. A three-stage initiation was used. It is of such great antiquity that we read details of its customs in poetic works about the initiation of demigods and goddesses into immortality. Ovid describes Medea as, “...arm, breast, and knee made bare, left foot slipshod,” and Virgil speaks of Dido, “...now resolute on death, having one foot bare...” The same modalities were used in the Lesser Eleusinian Mysteries on the model of the Initiation of Herakles (Hercules). Modern Freemasons will recognize these as the modes of dress used in the Rite of Destitution. These were not self-consciously restored by 17th century English Freemasons—they existed from time immemorial. We find an image of an Apprentice being initiated this way in Operative Masonry on a wall carving at Rosslyn Chapel hundreds of years before Speculative Freemasonry was established in England.

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- **ANCIENT MYSTERIES**
 - Egyptian Osirian, Greek Eleusinian (Christian Gnostic/Esoteric)
 - Pythagorean, Mysteries of Hermes Trismegistus (Medieval Hermetic and Alchemical)



Initiatic tradition was well established in prehistoric shamanism. Its next evolution was in the mystery religions of Egypt and Greece. These were suppressed by Christianity. While the Eleusinian Mysteries came to an end by the fifth century of the Christian era, other forms were preserved, transmitted, and developed in safe cities and secret societies.

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- **Continuity of Ancient and Medieval Operative Building Guilds (*Yeshua* and *Yosef*)**



We know that there was continuity of the building arts and its trade guilds from antiquity, thus perhaps the longest lineage of initiatic tradition known to the West. However it was not documented in writings, but in buildings, chapels, castles, and great cathedrals. *Mar Yeshua*, the Master Jesus, was the first-born son of Joseph, who was not a carpenter, but a stone mason. Trees were few and far between in the Galilee, but stone was plentiful, and it was the main building material. Joseph is called a *tekton*, which means a skilled artisan and builder. His lineage was traced through Zerubbabel, who was the Master in charge of establishing the knowledge of Masonry in Israel after the Babylonian Captivity for the rebuilding of the Second Temple. The first Temple of Solomon was built by foreigners because there was no tradition of Freemasonry in Israel at 1000 B.C.E. It was brought into Israel half a millennium later by Joseph's direct ancestor, Zerubbabel (cf. Matthew. 1.11-15). It would have been carried as an initiatic guild tradition from generation to generation through the first-born sons down to Jesus, who was also a Mason. Their traditions were lost when the Jewish nation was exiled by the Romans in the second century, but it undoubtedly included a secret oral tradition or kabala named in honor of Zerubbabel.

MASONIC PRESERVATION OF THE CLANDESTINE *GRAAL* PATHS

- Comacine builders



Legend, most of it documented in Italian, tells us that after the fall of Rome, its builders and architects retreated to a safe stronghold on Lake Como in the Lombard Kingdom of Northern Italy, where there were rock quarries and defensible quarters. According to some sources, the Roman Knights of the *Pactio Secreta*, who opposed the Christian desecration of traditional sacred sites and so-called pagan religion, dwelt also at Lake Como as defenders. Pansophic Freemasons are initiated into the +OMR+, which is the only a legal and valid European chivalric order of the *Pactio Secreta*, which was restored by Emperor Frederick II von Hohenstaufen in his 13th century campaigns to defend ancient Germany from the incursion of Catholic Papal political power and military forces.

MASONIC PRESERVATION OF THE CLANDESTINE *GRAAL* PATHS

- Comacine builders
- Knights Templar and the Companions



The Knights Templar were one of the many Christian and Islamic chivalric orders assembled by von Hohenstaufen at his octagonal *Castella del Monte* in Apuleia, Italy, in his attempt to establish a kind of ecumenical United Nations of Grand Masters (*Pactio Secreta*). The Templars were founded in religious vows of poverty written by St. Bernard. They were so poor that their symbol was two knights mounted on one horse. Their charge was to defend the pilgrimage route to Jerusalem. Over time they were initiated into the Grail traditions of the Middle East, carried a secret Gnostic Episcopal lineage from the suppressed Johannite Church of Asia Minor, and grew very wealthy. They developed close ties with the building guilds of France, known as the Companions, and raised huge forts along the pilgrimage route.

MASONIC PRESERVATION OF THE CLANDESTINE *GRAAL* PATHS

- Comacine builders
- Knights Templar and the Companions
- Great Cathedrals of Europe



Finally they financed and built most of the great cathedrals of Europe such as Notre Dame and Chartres (that is why they were known as Templars or Temple Builders). When Philip the Fair of France conspired with the Pope to destroy the Templar Order with a Nazi-like Friday the 13th midnight raid to capture and torture all Templars, to force them to confess being heretics, then to claim all divide all their wealth, a few Templar ships escaped to England, Scotland, and Portugal.

MASONIC PRESERVATION OF THE CLANDESTINE *GRAAL* PATHS

- Comacine builders
- Knights Templar and the Companions
- Great Cathedrals of Europe
- Initiatic Rites of Companions under Templar Guidance (Rosslyn Chapel)



They were hidden and protected by the Companions and other building guilds. Here the link between Freemasonry, Knights Templar, and secret initiatic schools becomes a strong bond that lasted throughout European history. Speculative Freemasonry is replete with artifacts of this association. We will look at Rosslyn Chapel later in this presentation to examine the confluence of Templar and Masonic initiatic rites.

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- 17th CENTURY MEDIEVAL SYNTHESIS: “Speculative” (as opposed to Operative), Philosophical, or Symbolic Freemasonry



The Court of King James I, whose financial manager Lord Bacon oversaw translation of the King James Bible and was the driving force for English colonization of the New World (Jamestown), was under increasing attack by the Puritan movement. Sir Francis Bacon finally sacrificed himself and “took the rap” for the financial excesses of King James and disappeared in great dishonor. Yet he was a secret Rosicrucian adept, likely author of many of the works attributed the Shakespeare, and probable founder of what would be later known as Speculative Freemasonry. Lord Cromwell and the Puritans beheaded James’ successor, Charles, and the twenty-year reign of Cromwell and the Puritans commended in England. They believed (correctly) that Christmas was a pagan holiday, so forbade its celebration. On Christmas eve government police rode through London crying “No Christmas! No Christmas!” Cromwell’s Puritan regime also suppressed Rosicrucians and other proponents of the Hermetic Sciences (who were already persecuted by the Catholic Inquisition on the Continent). It was illegal for “heretics” to convene in public assembly. In this political climate, the inheritors of the Grail traditions were once again protected by the building trades—but this time in a new way. Freemasons were allowed to convene publicly in local pubs. So the nobles who had been their patrons now became legal initiates of Freemasonry and conducted their secret meetings legally. This was the origin of Speculative, Philosophical, or Symbolic Freemasonry, as opposed to Operative Freemasonry. In this way, the Grail traditions were carried on secretly but legally with doors “tyled” or properly guarded against spies or “cowens” who might be sent by the government. Today Freemasonry is comprised entirely of “philosophers” who have no connection to the building trades other than symbolic. Thus the first philosophical form of Freemasonry assimilated both traditional initiatic rites and knowledge of the builders such as geometry, and Hermetic sciences such as alchemy, kabbala, and astrology. The initiation as a Master Mason preserved the ancient mystery modalities for being raised from darkness into light, and from death into life, along with the builder’s spiritual and moral legends of Hiram Abif and the building of Solomon’s Temple.

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- 18th CENTURY MASONIC ENLIGHTENMENT (St. Germain, Cagliostro, Illuminati)
 - Higher Degrees (Scottish, York Rites) Memorialize European Esoteric Schools



In the next century, Freemasonry developed the egalitarian social political philosophy that would guide the establishment and electoral process for the United States. It also memorialized the great European initiatic schools in its “higher degrees” containing Rosicrucian, Templar, and other schools in abbreviated form. At this time secret Illuminist Masonic orders were created from Pythagorean, Kabbalistic, Rosicrucian, and Templar lineages such as the Fraternité des Élus, the Elus Cohens, and the beginnings of what would later be known as Martinism. One of the great Illuminist reformers was the Comte de St.-Germain, who worked for many years through Marie Antionette to forestall conditions leading to the bloody French Revolution.

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- 19th CENTURY LIBERATION FROM INQUISITION: Ultra-Masonic Orders (“Fringe Masonry”); American Freemasonry



Freemasons guided the principles of the French Revolution which, however, was co-opted by radical chapters like that of Robespierre who beheaded and murdered the more rational Freemasons of the Enlightenment or Illuminist schools who opposed their genocidal civil war. After the liberation of France, the Inquisition came to an end along with all Papal power. This allowed the suppressed European Grail schools, the Hermetic and Gnostic initiatic orders, to come out of hiding. With this, Freemasonry brought forth a panoply of higher-degree orders known today as Ultra-Masonic Orders such as the Egyptian Rites of Memphis and Mizraim.

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- 20th CENTURY THEOSOPHICAL CO-MASONRY



During the nineteenth century women were initiated into a woman's form of Freemasonry by certain French orders, but the English stoutly refused to initiate women. The Americans developed Masonic auxiliaries for their wives, but did not initiate them. Finally an entire lodge of French Masons voted to form a mixed lodge of men and women under the banner of Theosophy, and the “Human Rights” or obedience known as Co-Masonry was created. However, its traditions were based solely in Theosophy and did not transmit true Freemasonry. Later in the century a new obedience known as the *Loge Mixte de France* was formed to transmit true Masonic tradition equally to woman and men. Today it is one of the largest Freemasonic obediences or denominations of the Grand Orient of France, which is the union of all major types of French Freemasonry. It was the Grand Lodge of the Mixed Lodge of France that came to California twice at their own expense—nine men and woman Masters—to establish our Grand Lodge.

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- 20th CENTURY THEOSOPHICAL CO-MASONRY
- 21ST CENTURY PANSOPHIC FREEMASONRY: The Pansophic Builders



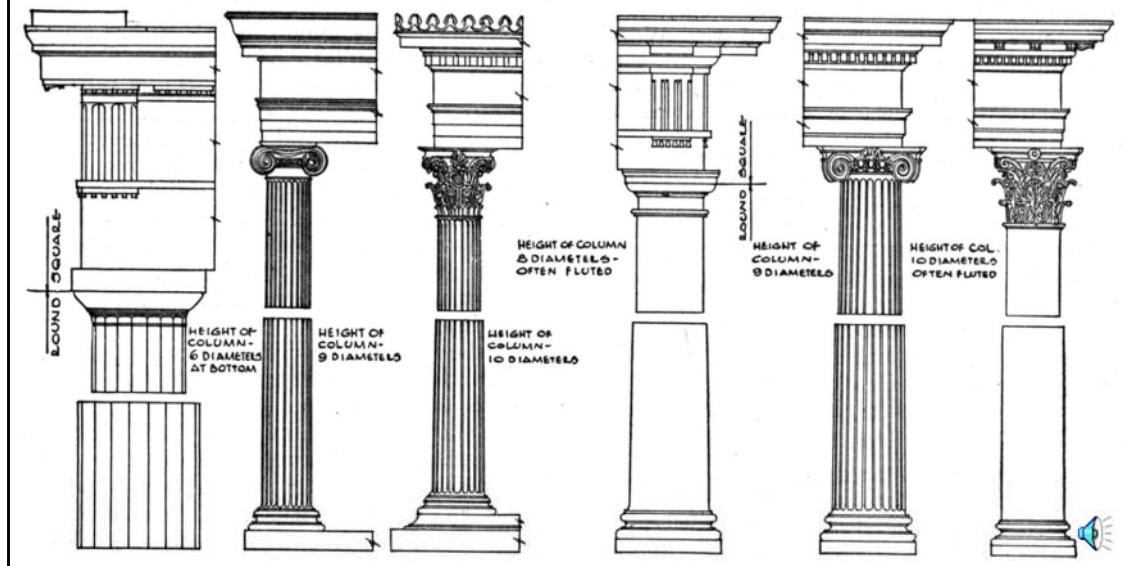
After a year we were forced by circumstances to re-organize as Pansophic Freemasonry, and we brought together the full lineages of the esoteric Grail traditions as Paths of advancement for 21st century initiates.

The Antiquity of Masonic Initiation



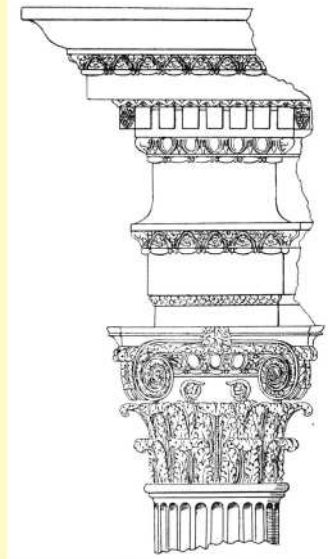
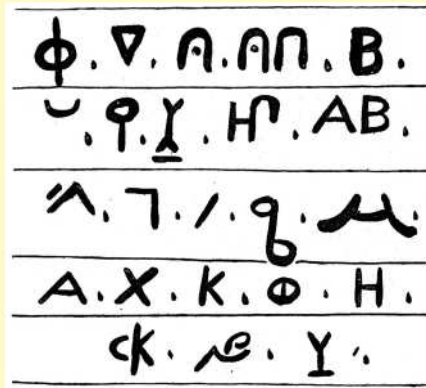
The form of initiation used in modern Freemasonry did not originate with the speculative masonry of seventeenth-century England. It was carried forward from antiquity. The initiatic attire of bare knee, bare breast (shoulder), with one shoe off ("slipshod") are used in Freemasonry to represent spiritual poverty, blindness, and captivity to the illusions of the profane world, from which the candidate seeks liberation and "more Light." But in the practices of the ancient mystery religions, in which candidates died and were raised with their gods, and in the identity of their gods, the modality of "arm, breast, knee made bare and one foot slipshod," this symbolized the passing of a spirit into death for the ultimate purpose of being raised an eternal god. It was the ancient modality of the candidate for initiation in the sacred orgies of certain gods. Medea was an adept who undertook initiation and became a demigoddess. The verses of Ovid that I have quoted earlier preserve for us the unique modality that lives on in Freemasonry.

Egyptian, Greek, and Roman Masonic Craft



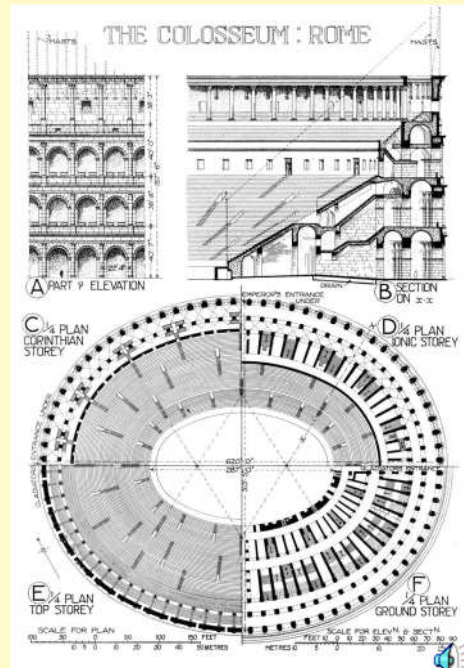
There were many mystery cults—Eleusinian, Samothracian, etc.—and there were many modalities of dress for a candidate. The standard that we know from many of them is the simple white cotton robe. But in the inner circles of ancient guilds (medical, warrior, priestly, builders) there were quite different rites not normally preserved to modern times. In the case of builders, architects, and stone-masons, however, we have a notable exception because they were needed and supported by rulers in every time and place. Thus there has always been continuity down through history in the skills associated with temple, fortress, and other building. These skills and their deposit of spiritual guild knowledge have been transmitted from father to son through initiation.

MEDIEVAL INITIATIC OPERATIVE FREE MASONRY: Comacine Masons



Their rites were secret. The only glimpse we have into their workings is left behind in their special glyphs and marks left on buildings, with some exceptions in legend and inscribed on the walls of Rosslyn Chapel near Edinburgh, Scotland.

ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS FOR EAST AND WEST



Their Masters were called “Free Masons” because, unlike any other class of workmen, they could travel freely from kingdom to kingdom, border to border. In ancient Rome they created all the wonders of architecture—temples, colosseums, palaces. They did the same for all the Roman colonies around the Mediterranean. In a later age they designed and built mosques for the Moslems, Gothic cathedrals for Europeans, palaces, castles, Vatican City. Wealthy rulers and nobility sought their services and provided them with decades of building projects.

CELTIC GRAAL SYMBOLS



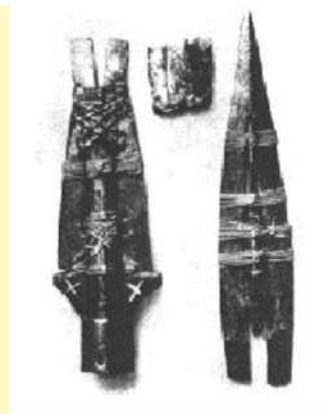
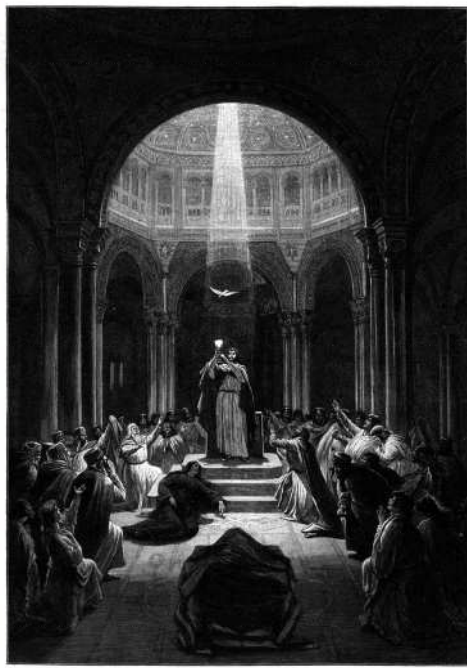
What of the early European and English Grail traditions? Druidic and Pict initiatic schools assimilated with Celtic Christianity in ancient Gaul and England. The shamanic symbols of magical cauldron and sacred well were integrated with native Christian mysticism under Gallican Merovingian and legendary English and Welsh Arthurian dynasties.

ARTHURIAN GRAIL LEGENDS



Many centuries later the legends of Uther, the English hero who drove back the Vikings, would be remembered as the epic tales of King Arthur and integrated into chivalric traditions of knighthood. The Knights of the Round Table would set forth on “quests” that would result in spiritual tests and achievements allegorized by battles, contests, seemingly insoluble problems and games, and the psychological intricacies of courtly love. The Quest of the Holy Grail, which is later symbolized by the cup used by Jesus for the last supper, and into which Joseph of Arimathea is said to have collected the powerful, magical, and healing blood of crucifixion, conflates Celtic legends of the divine cauldron with paths of initiation for each of the questing knights—Lancelot, Percival (Parsifal), Tristan (Tristram), Galahad. The Holy Grail is a quest in which life itself becomes the mystery school. The Arthurian legends include the Quest of the Holy Grail as only one of many literary themes—and a late one. The true *Graal* traditions had little or nothing to do with the Arthurian stories that popularized the phrase “Holy Grail.”

CAROLINGIAN GRAIL OBJECTS



In the 9th century Charlemagne led his knights in battles against the incursion of Moslem warriors into Spain and France. He needed some form of “Holy Blood” to counter the Merovingian claim that the blood of Jesus flowed to them through ancestors begotten by the son of Jesus and Mary Magdalene. This was not true—the claim is not made until fourth or fifth centuries, but it was a superstition that made the Merovingians seemingly invincible in the eyes of the people. Charlemagne’s solutions included several relics—the True Cross with the blood of Christ, the foreskin of Christ from his circumcision, kept in a golden reliquary, and the Spear of Longinus which pierced the heart of Christ. But his ultimate solution was the transubstantiated blood of Christ in the Eucharistic cup of Roman Papal Christianity, to which he made obeisance and allowed himself to be crowned Holy Roman Emperor by the Pope on Christmas day of the year A.D. 800. Charlemagne’s Bishop Alcuin then went on a campaign to destroy the native Celtic Christianity.

CHARLEMAGNE AND ALCUIN Destroy Non-Catholic Religion



- Cutting Down the Great Oak of the Christian Druids



This was done in vicious attacks on Celtic sacred sites. The Priests of Celtic Christianity were then forced to learn Latin and Catholic theology in the Canons of the Cathedrals, which would eventually develop into the great universities of Europe. Little did Alcuin realize that educating the clergy (originally meant to propagandize them) would one day produce an heretical movement known as the Renaissance, which in turn would give rise to Protestantism!

Pre-Renaissance “Heresy”

- Concepts that anticipated the Renaissance, Scientific Exploration of Nature, and Protestantism



In 11th and 12th centuries, many courts supported alchemists, sorcerers, specialists in herbs and potions. They transmitted the old knowledge and arts. Alchemical research was a major precursor of the scientific study of nature.

Pre-Renaissance “Heresy”

- Concepts that anticipated the Renaissance, Scientific Exploration of Nature, and Protestantism
- Gnostic and Manichaeian (Albigensians, Cathars, Bogomils, Troubadors)
 - “Gypsy” migrations to Roumania and Europe from India



Many made contact with the migrants from India who began to appear in Roumania by the 9th century—the so-called Gypsies. They brought with them their Eastern philosophy, religion, and psychic arts. In the villages and areas outside of major cities, the common people retained their ancient practices of the Old Religion that pre-dated Catholic Christianity. Communities of “heretical” Christians occupied large areas of Southern France, Bulgaria, Roumania. These were the Gnostic Albigensians or Cathars.

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- **Mysticism of Divine Union (Germanic Protestantism)**



Local villages produced their own prophets, many of them women who spoke in trance through the Holy Spirit, or who transmitted a more ancient form of Christianity based on teachings of earlier wise men and women saints. The roots of Germanic Protestant mysticism that would later inform Boehme and other mystics were growing.

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 - “Gypsy” migrations to Roumania and Europe from India
- Mysticism of Divine Union (Germanic Protestantism)
- Germanic Resistance to Pope (Emperor Frederick II Von Hohenstaufen, *Pactio Secreta*, +OMR+)



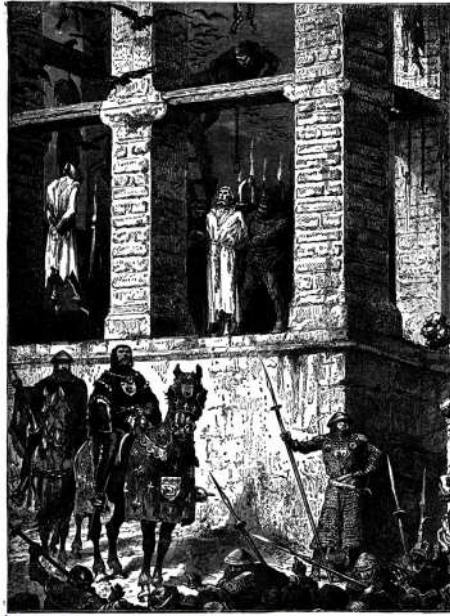
The brilliant Emperor Frederick II von Hohenstaufen surrounded himself with seers, necromancers, alchemists, astrologers, and Kabbalists who taught and initiated him in the Grail traditions. He steeped himself in the legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, studied the Golden Number with Leonardo Fibonacci, the Pisan mathematician, corresponded with Juda Cohen, the Jewish scholar of Toledo, and consulted the most famous occultists of his time: Ezzelino da Romano, Guido Bonatti, Riprandino of Verona. He sent to Bagdahl for the Saracen magician Paul, and to England for Michael Scot, an illusionist and a master of ‘diabolical knowledge.’ His personal advisor was Theodore, a Greek scholar and expert in all the arts, who concocted strange drinks, love potions, magic sweets, and a ‘violet sugar’ whose wondrous powers equaled that of the elixir of youth. He revived and convened the *Pactio Secreta*, and he spent his career defending Germanic territory from Papal incursion.

CONVERTING THE HERETICS FROM ANCIENT NATIVE SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS



But the Papal forces were determined to eradicate these many weeds that threatened to undermine Catholic teaching. First they tried persuasion, sending trained and eloquent scholars out to the villages to convert the people from their heresies. But these peaceful emissaries were not well received, and the campaign was a failure.

PRELUDE TO THE INQUISITION



Next the police forces of the Inquisition were sent into towns and hamlets to seek out, try, and publicly execute leaders of the various heresies. They were hanged and burned before whole villages as terrifying examples of spiritual disobedience.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR



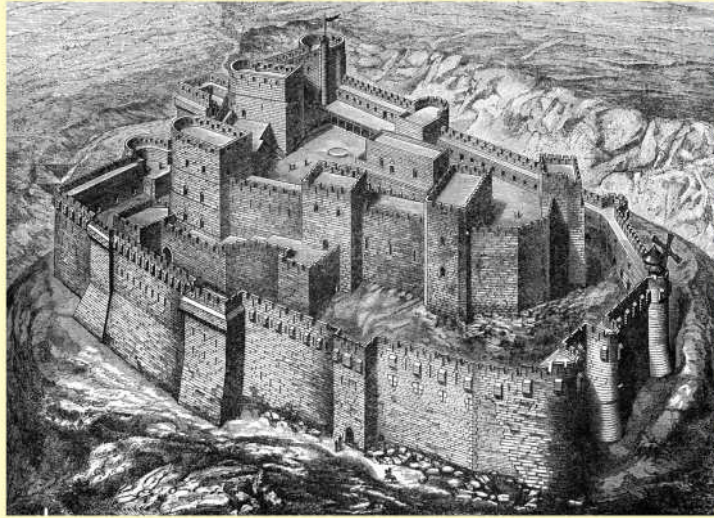
It was in this climate that the Order of the Knights Templar was established. Here we see their symbol of poverty—two knights seated upon one horse. Also we see the Templar Cross. They were a new form of chivalry—both military and monastic.

Supported by St. Bernard of Clairveaux



The Rules for their Order were written by the politically powerful St. Bernard of Clairveaux, who remained a champion of the Order to the Pope until his death.

PROTECTORS OF PILGRIMS



The Knights Templar, or Poor Knights of Christ, were fierce warriors dedicated to protecting pilgrims traveling between Europe and Jerusalem. Their great fortresses were built by the French Companions or Masons.

Initiated into Middle Eastern Mysteries and Esoteric Christianity



But in their far journeys into Greece, Asia Minor, and the Middle East, they were exposed to, and initiated into, many of the ancient Grail traditions. Above we see a version of Baphomet, drawn by the French occultist Eliphas Levi from a gargoye on a Templar building. It seems to represent the androgynous Horned God of the Old Religion elaborated with alchemical symbolism. To Catholics it was a representation of the devil, much as Indian and Tibetan deities might seem today. To the Templars it was a highly symbolic and esoteric representation of the powers of Nature. Using a common Kabbalistic anagrammatic code of the time, the word Baphomet may represent the Hebrew word Hockmah, Wisdom, or (in Greek) Sophia. Next to that image above is a representation of the Mandylation with the Face of Christ. It was kept for many centuries in Constantinople—a mysterious cloth folded into eights that came from the first Christian Kingdom of Abgar in Edessa and was supposed to contain a miraculous image of Jesus' face. The Knights Templar were sent to fight the Battle of Constantinople against Moslem forces, but many of the Knights sacked the city when it was clear the Moslems would overrun it. After this battle the Mandylation disappeared. Many generations later, when the Templars were accused of heresy by the Inquisition, some confessed that they worshipped a head of some sort. After the downfall of the Templars and the death of the second in command of the Order, his destitute wife sold a relic to the House of Turin in order to have income to survive. Today it is known as the Shroud of Turin. It shows marks of having been folded into eights so that just the face would show. However, the face is an indistinct smudge.

THE SHROUD OF TURIN



When photography was invented many centuries later, it was discovered that the photographic negative of the Shroud yielded a very clear and faithful image. It is the face of a crucified Jewish man. Shroud studies today are extensive and all evidence points to its being the authentic burial shroud of Jesus, and the image being that of the actual face of Jesus. It was the divine man behind this image that the Templars worshipped in their mystic initiations.

Architects and Builders of Churches and Cathedrals: The "Companions"



The partnership of Stone Masons and Knights Templar enriched not only the sacred architecture of Europe, but also revived the secret legacy of ancient Grail traditions. A century after the attempt to crush Templar heresy, the Grail traditions had grown stronger than ever. In 1498 a group of Florentine noblemen and women organized a secret society to purchase the rumored Corpus Hermeticum from Islamic scholars and translate it from the Greek. Their society was called the Fratres Lucis, "Brothers (meaning also Sisters) of Light." The manuscripts were purchased and translated by the Italian scholar Ficino. They were quickly distributed widely and initiated what is now known as the Hermetic Renaissance in Europe and England. Several centuries later the Fratres Lucis, which survives even to this century, would be memorialized in the Masonic Order of Fraters Lucis, which consolidated much of the democratic political philosophy was to guide the framers of the United States Constitution. In America the Fratrisc Lucis established the first American academic honor society, which survives today as Phi Beta Kappa.

Friday the 13th: INQUISITION



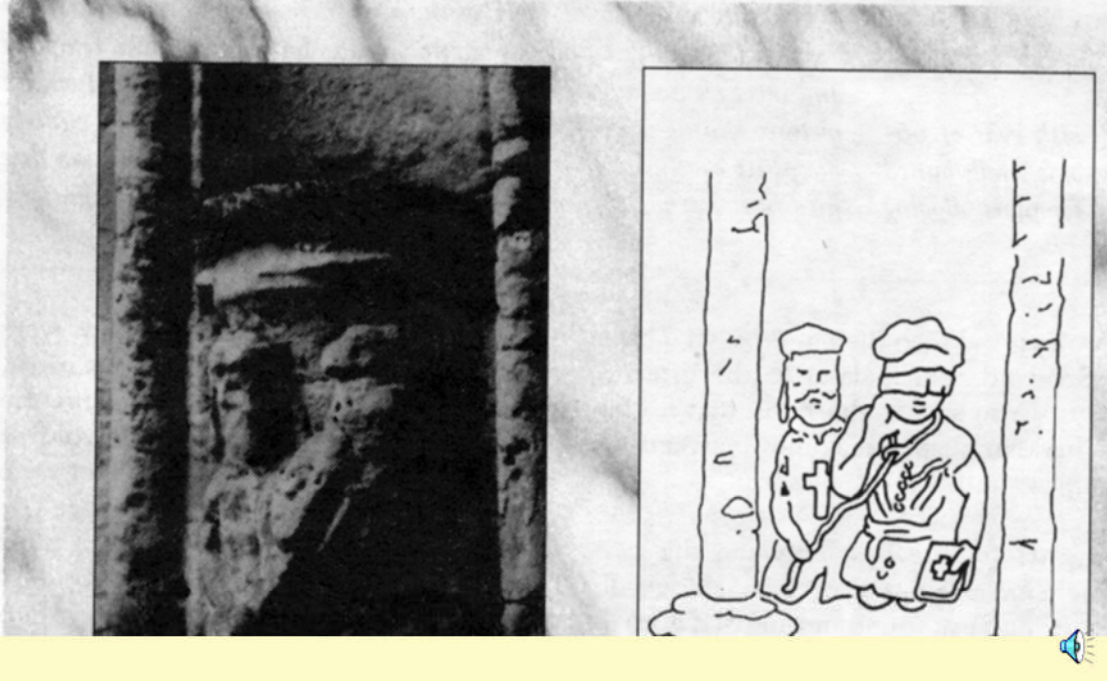
In the midnight raids of Friday the 13th, most members of the Order were imprisoned and accused of heresy. These knights were tortured for weeks, months, and even years to extract confessions from their broken minds and hearts—confessions that were publicized widely to justify destruction of the Templars as devil worshippers. But Grand Master Jacques DeMolay, who had confessed to many things under torture, regained his lucidity when dragged out to be publically burned, and he loudly proclaimed that the Templars were guilty of only one sin—that of confessing to false accusations under torture.

Templar Building in England and Scotland After the Inquisition

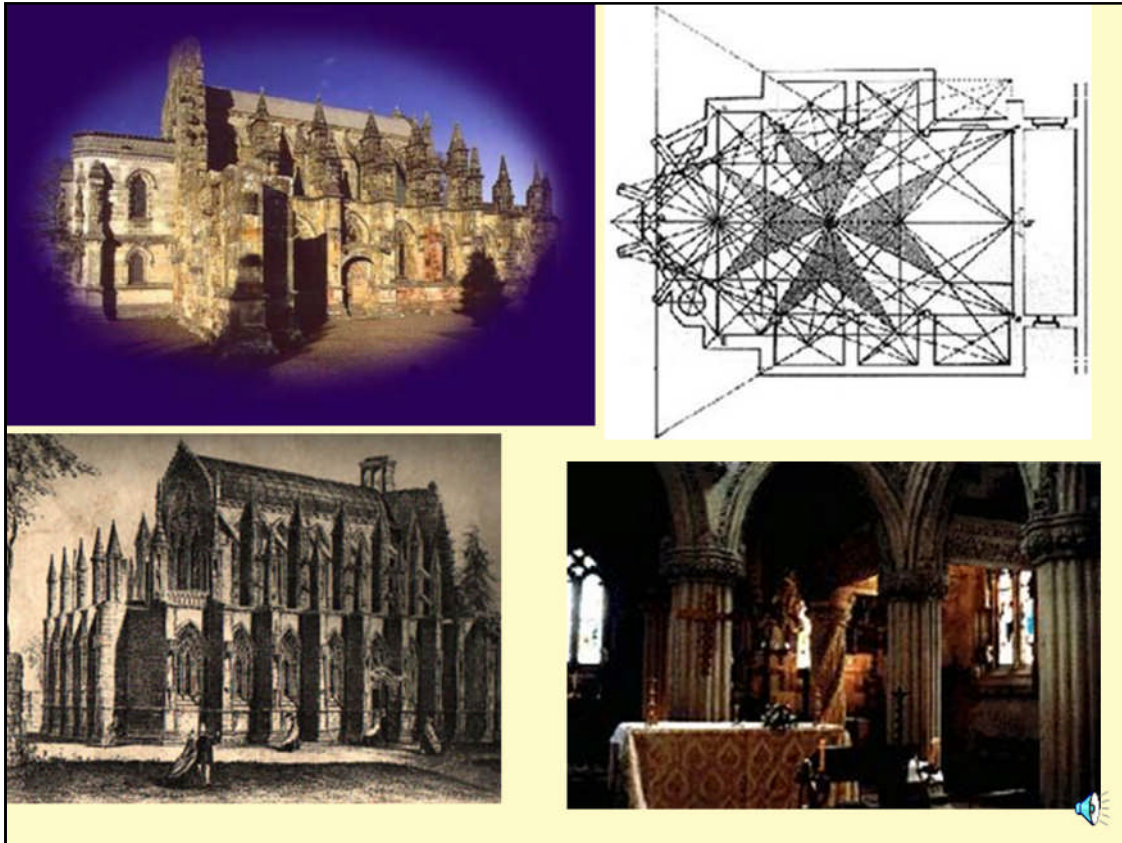


Many Templars escaped in ships to Portugal and the British Isles, where today can be seen Templar cemeteries, buildings, chapels, and other artifacts. The Order survived with the help of the building guilds and continued in clandestine modalities.

ROSSLYN CHAPEL: 15th Century Templar or Operative Masonic Initiation?



Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland was built by the Sinclair family of Templars in the fourteenth century. They were protectors of Gypsies and honorary Grand Masters of the local Masonic guild. Here on the walls of this Templar chapel is a stone carving of an initiation ceremony. Note the bare chest, hoodwink, kneeling position, cable-tow held by guide, and left hand on sacred book. It is the Masonic Initiation, whose roots are in antiquity. But is it a Mason who is being initiated, or is it a Templar? Or Both? Note the cross worn on the guide's vestment. There is no Masonic apron. In any case, it is clear that Templar and Masonic initiatic ritual was somehow combined—perhaps the guide is a Templar. Today the Sinclair family maintains a Templar Order.



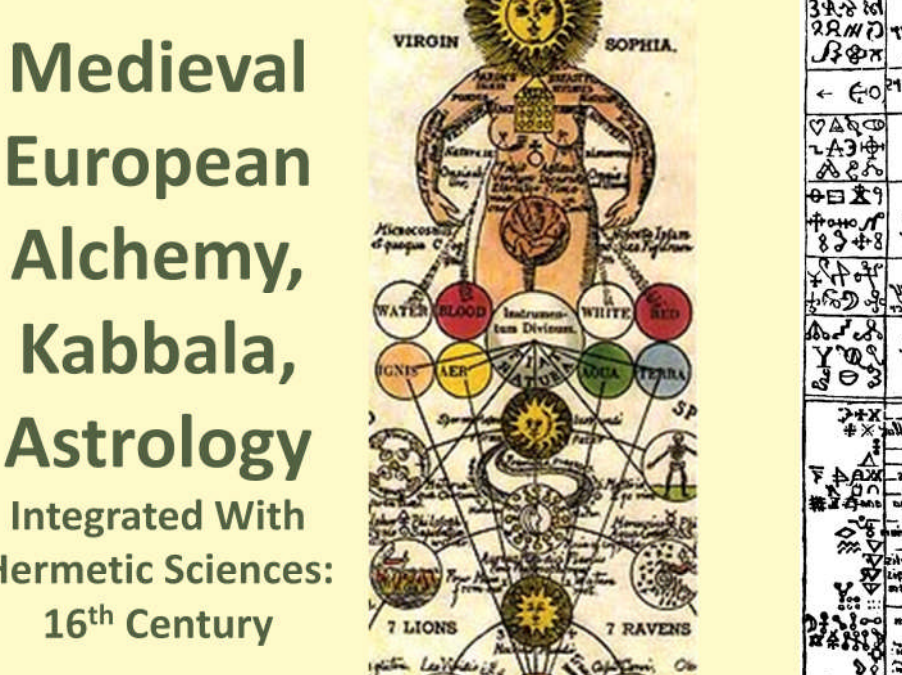
Note that the Templar Cross is embedded into the architectural design of Rosslyn Chapel, which is constructed of rude flying buttresses.



The story of the Apprentice's Pillar seems to be a precursor to the legend of Hiram Abiff that appears later in Masonry. Here, the Master is called away on a mission and the Apprentice is asked to do specific work on the pillar but not to finish it. When their Master returns, the pillar is done beautifully—far beyond the skill of the Master. Out of rage and jealousy he bludgeons the Apprentice to death with a tool (a Hiram Abiff motif?). Note also the interweaving of Old Religion *Graal* themes like the Green Man (face above). The Green Man was probably a counterpart to Baphomet in Scottish Templar symbolism.

Medieval European Alchemy, Kabbala, Astrology

Integrated With Hermetic Sciences:
16th Century



64

THE ROSICRUCIANS: 17th Century



After the reign of King James and before the rise of Cromwell's England, Rosicrucian tracts circulated widely on the Continent and in England. Here we see the *Fama Fraternitatis* first public announcement of the secret society's founding and existence. Also tracts of Robert Fludd on Hermetic and Kabbalistic philosophy.

**“SPECULATIVE” OR PHILOSOPHICAL FREEMASONRY: 17TH Century
England**

- **Puritan Protestant Persecution (England)**
 - **LORD CROMWELL forbids meetings**



Now that the Grail traditions were considered to be evil, of the devil, and heretical by both the Catholic Inquisition (held sway over Continental Europe) and Cromwellian English Puritanism, and public meetings of heretics were outlawed, nobility who wanted to learn and work in alchemy and the Hermetic sciences did so in the privacy of their estates and met publicly under the umbrella of Operative Masonry, into which they were now “symbolically” initiated. The earliest lodges of so-called Speculative Masons met in London, where they were free to discuss and investigate the unholy sciences.

**"SPECULATIVE" OR PHILOSOPHICAL FREEMASONRY: 17TH Century
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- **Catholic Inquisition (European)**



Many continental nobles traveled to London for initiation and fraternal interaction. The political ideals of Rosicrucianism had been crushed in recent European wars, and even the most diligent seekers were unable to locate true Rosicrucian lodges. In fact, they were probably literary fictions, although by the 18th century such lodges did develop.

**"SPECULATIVE" OR PHILOSOPHICAL FREEMASONRY: 17TH Century
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- **Catholic Inquisition (European)**
- ***Graal* or Grail Traditions: Templar, Hermetic, Kabbalistic, Rosicrucian**



It was through public meetings, networking of Hermetic enthusiasts, and sharing of books and information facilitated by Speculative Freemasonry that the Grail traditions developed both in England and on the Continent.

**“SPECULATIVE” OR PHILOSOPHICAL FREEMASONRY: 17TH Century
England**

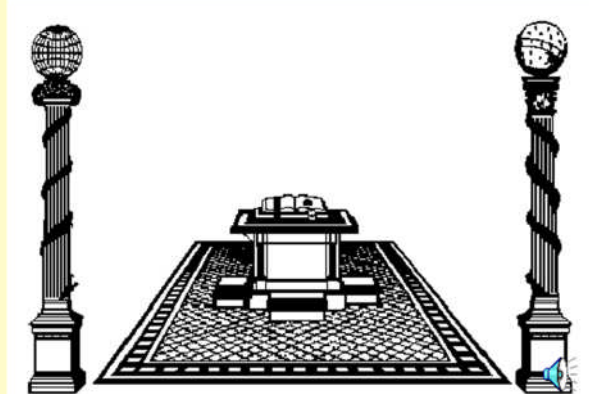
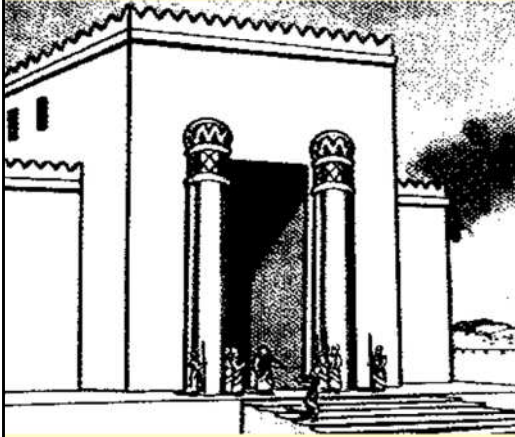
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- ***Graal* or Grail Traditions: Templar, Hermetic, Kabbalistic, Rosicrucian**
- **Use of legal Masonic craft meetings for private gatherings to explore “forbidden” sciences**
 - Establishment of Scientific Research



After the downfall of Cromwell and the restoration of the monarchy, Speculative Freemasonry expanded widely on the British Isles, in Continental Europe, Russia, and the Mediterranean. One of the most significant Masonic developments in England was the establishment of the first British scientific societies.

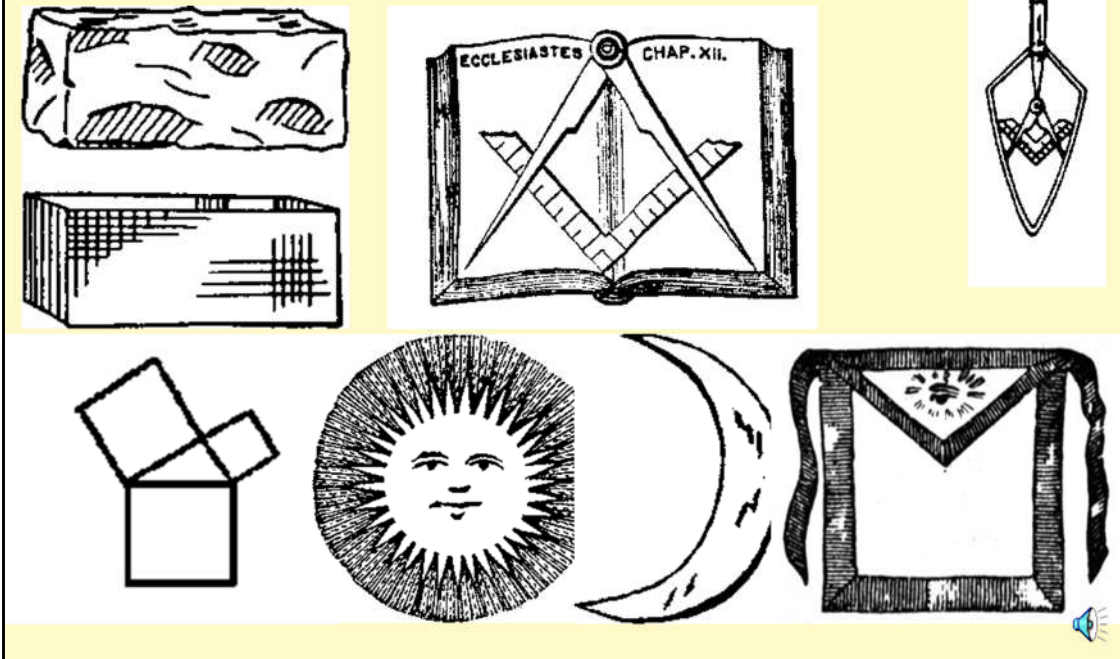
THE TEMPLE OF GOD

Each person is building his/her soul as an unfinished Temple of God—
Ancient Operative Craft Moral and Spiritual Allegories



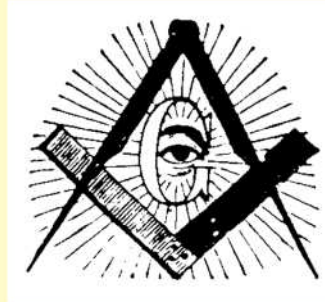
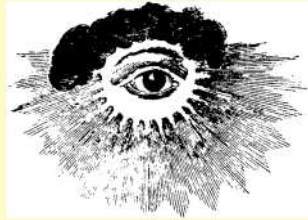
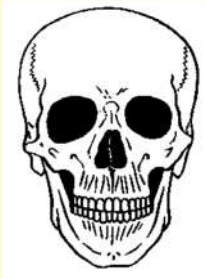
Speculative Freemasonry retained the craft symbols of Operative Masonry, which already had symbolic interpretation, but further assimilated them into the spiritual sciences to create the spiritual allegories of “symbolic” Masonry, first and foremost being the Temple of Solomon, which was the legendary birthplace of Operative Masonry according to English craftsmen whose only knowledge of history was through the King James Bible. The two great Pillars or Columns that the Bible describes on either side of the entrance were known as Boaz and Jachin. Speculative Masons invested them with the meanings of Christian Cabala, relating them to Hesed and Geburah—Mercy and Judgment. The great spiritual allegory was that each person is building the divine temple of his own soul. Within each soul there is a Boaz and Jachin, as well as an entrance, an altar, sacred lights, and a sacred book of law inscribed upon the heart. The basic moral teachings of brotherhood, fidelity, loyalty to brother Masons that already existed in Operative Masonry and were related to the “tools” of the Apprentice, the Fellowcraft, and the Master, were now further elaborated.

Moral and Spiritual Craft Symbols



The rough, unshaped granite rock was known as an ashlar. The duty of the Apprentice was to carve it into a smooth ashlar suitable for fitting and joining into the walls of the Temple. The stone mason's lambskin apron was decorated with symbols representing stages of initiation and spiritual illumination. The "lights" of Masonry, represented by Sun, Moon, and Lodge Master, were arranged to the East (towards Jerusalem). The Book of the Law (usually a Bible, but later on might be the Masonic Rule Book) was set upon an altar where the Masonic Oaths of Initiation and Advancement were taken in symbolic postures "on the square." The trowel symbolized the brotherly love and loyalty expected of all (mortar that binds the stones), and Geometry—the science of the architect, who designed *ad quadratus* (following principles of Sacred Geometry) using the Pythagorean Theorem and others to create structure growing mathematically and organically from a basic square.

Philosophical and Political Symbols



Brotherhood of the guild was expanded into political concepts of the Brotherhood of Mankind. The top hat worn by the middle class bourgeoisie, so symbolic in the American and French revolution, was the proud vestment of the Lodge Master. Deist concepts of God that would come to full flower in the scientific revolution of the 18th century were symbolized by the All-Seeing Eye that still peers from the Masonic pyramid on U.S. \$1 bills. Symbols reminding that one must not waste the little time he has in life to accomplish good (hourglass, father time and his harvesting scythe), the inevitability of death (skull, weeping widow at the broken pillar), the hope for life after death (the sprig of acacia), the square and compass with neither, one, or both points revealed depending upon stage of initiation—all these and many more became part of the teaching of the philosophical Freemasons.

RECEPTION OF FRENCH MASTER MASON



Freemasonry developed in France through charters by nobility. While the English lodge masters were elected, the French lodges were often more occult and under the direction of a Grand Master appointed for life. Originally this was on the basis that he was an adept of the occult and Hermetic sciences, but later such royal appointments were abused and the French Masons began to demand elections. French custom allied Freemasonry more closely to chivalry, and their rites involved the use of swords. Above we see a French rite of Raising a Master Mason, who lies symbolically dead in the tomb of Hiram Abiff. French Masons also made far more use of candle light than the English. In Pansophic Masonry we have inherited the customs of French Masonry for Initiation of an Entered Apprentice from our founding body, the Grand Mixed Lodge of France.

TRESTLE BOARD



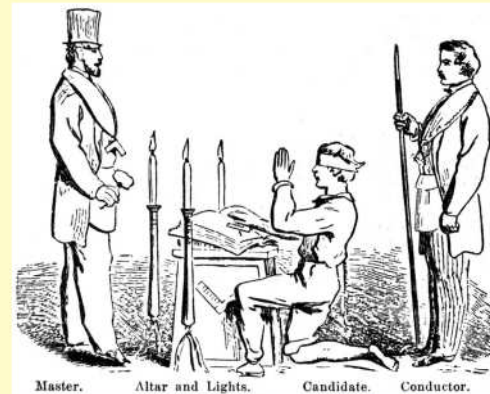
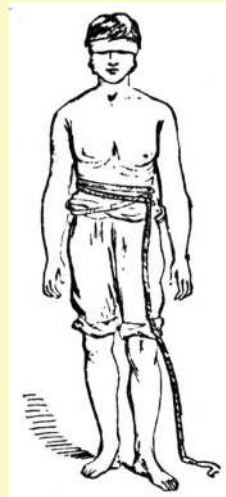
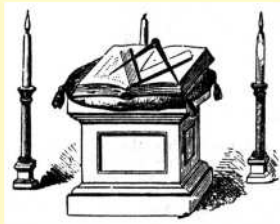
The Trestle or Tracing Board is a pattern of symbols used for advancement into second and third degrees by means of certain steps and postures. It is an ancient institution in Operative Masonry, and it represents the architect's designing board—in this case, for the Grand Architect of the Universe, or God.

SYMBOLIC MASONRY



Thus modern Freemasonry derives its teachings and symbols from both the building arts and the Grail traditions. Understanding Masonic symbolism is a grand study.

MASONIC MALE MYSTERIES EXCLUDE WOMEN IN ENGLAND



While women were excluded from Freemasonry in England, institutions were developed for women in France. It was also in France that the first male-female Masonic obediences were founded, and among French Freemasons that religious exclusion was ended. In the later 19th century the Grand Orient of France agreed to accept Buddhist, Hindu, and other religious adherents, dropping the specifically Judeo-Christian terminology and allowing sacred bibles of other religions to be used on the altar for the Oaths. Above you see representations of certain initiatic rites, postures, and altar configurations.

AMERICAN FREEMASONRY: 18th Century U.S. as *Novus Ordo Seclorum*



The leaders of the American Revolution were mostly Freemasons. Ben Franklin was Lodge Master both in the U.S. and in France. George Washington was a Lodge Master and active Mason. Masonic ideals of government, election, equality, separation of church and state, etc. are written into the U.S. Constitution because most of the founders were Freemasons (exception of Jefferson). While in Europe, Masonic halls were unmarked for fear of the Inquisition, American lodges proudly displayed the symbol "G" (God or Geometry) with Compass and Square. What was risky in Europe became open and free in the U.S. Even today European lodges do not display any special markings. The "tyling" or guarding of the door and Masonic secrecy were extremely important in Cromwell's England and in Europe under the Inquisition, but they continued to be maintained in the U.S. But the United States was understood to be Lord Bacon's *New Atlantis*, the New World for a New Humanity. On U.S. dollar bills we still display the Masonic motto, *Novus Ordo Seclorum*, "A New Order of the Ages." Freemasonry was the New Age movement of its time.

19TH – 20TH CENTURY: PROLIFERATION OF MASONIC “OBEDIENCES”

- **French and Americans in Amity Since Revolutionary War**



Because the French Masons helped the American Masons win an almost hopeless revolutionary war against the mighty British (all the leaders on all side were Masons: Washington, Cornwallis, etc.), American and French Masons remained in amity, i.e., mutual recognition and visitation rights.

19TH – 20TH CENTURY: PROLIFERATION OF MASONIC “OBEDIENCES”

- French and Americans in Harmonic Since Revolutionary War
- Issue: Judaeo-Christian God? French admit Buddhists, British Separate from Grand Orient of France



But the British did not recognize French Masonry for political reasons even before the American Revolution, and when later in the nineteenth century the French allowed non-Christians to be initiated, the British withdrew any recognition of French Masonry.

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- **Americans Remain in Amity with Both French and British**



But the Americans remain in amity with both French and British even to the 21st century. Thus my first lodge in Bellingham, WA (Fairview), always welcomed a lodge master from France with grand honors when he visited—although they probably didn’t realize that he was a Master of the Mixed Lodge, which makes women Masons! Since the Mixed Lodge is part of the Grand Orient or union of all major and recognized Masonic obediences in France, would they have accorded Grand Honors to one of the female Masters?

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- **New “Obediences” or Denominations of Freemasons Develop in U.S., Canada, and Other Nations**



Freemasonry developed all over the world in 19th and 20th centuries. Each of these was a separate denomination or “obedience.” The convention that developed was this: When visiting a lodge of another obedience, you must obey the rules of that obedience. If one transfers from one obedience into another, one is bound by the Oath of that new obedience while operating within its lodges.

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Thus the possibility opens for regular Masons of traditional American or English obediences to join Pansophic without breaking the Oaths they have sworn to their original obediences.

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- 20th Century Implications: *Loge Mixte de France* Male and Female Master Masons, vs. American A&FM Anti-Co-Masonic Vow



The informal arrangement we made with the Grand Lodge of F&AM in California is this: Don't ask, don't tell. In other words, the issue of female Masons is a sore point since every F&AM Master takes the Anti-Co-Masonic Vow not to make a woman a Mason. This chauvinist vow is not ancient with Masonry, but a recent development in English and American Masonry. Also, American Masonic obediences may lose their non-profit statuses eventually because women sue them for discrimination. It has happened to the Elks Club and many other Masonic spin-offs, who have been forced to recognize women equally by federal courts. It will eventually happen to American Freemasonry, which currently has only womens' auxiliaries. What is more, how will American Masons handle visits by French women Masons when that finally arises? We believe that male-female Freemasonry is one major reform that can help revive this failing institution, and that a return to the study of spiritual sciences is the other. That is why we have established Pansophic Freemasonry.

PANSOPHIC FREE MASONRY

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- **FROM THG:** First Order THG Empowerments, +OMR+, Martinist, Elus Cohen, *Fratres Lucis (Illuminati)*



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FROM GWB: Great Western Brotherhood Initiatic Core Program.

FROM HOOM: Initiatic Core Program.

PANSOPHIC FREEMASONRY:

INITIATIC PATHS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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- **Unites medieval men's and women's mysteries in new presentation and format**
- **Synthesizes, reworks, edits, transforms Grail Paths for spiritual needs of 21st century women and men**
- **Transmits true initiatic impulses that support "spiritual breakthrough" for individuals**



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PANSOPHIC FREEMASONRY:

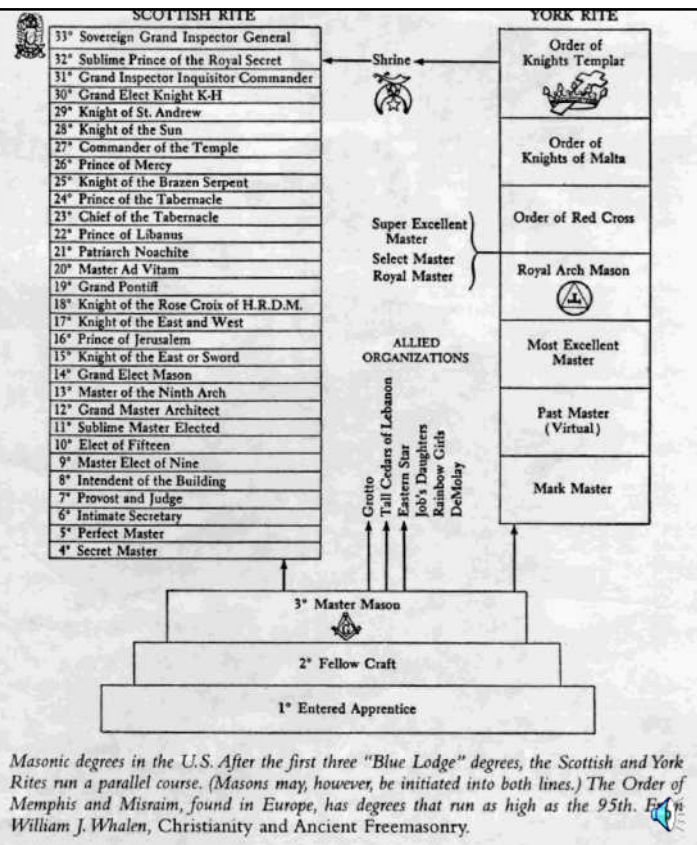
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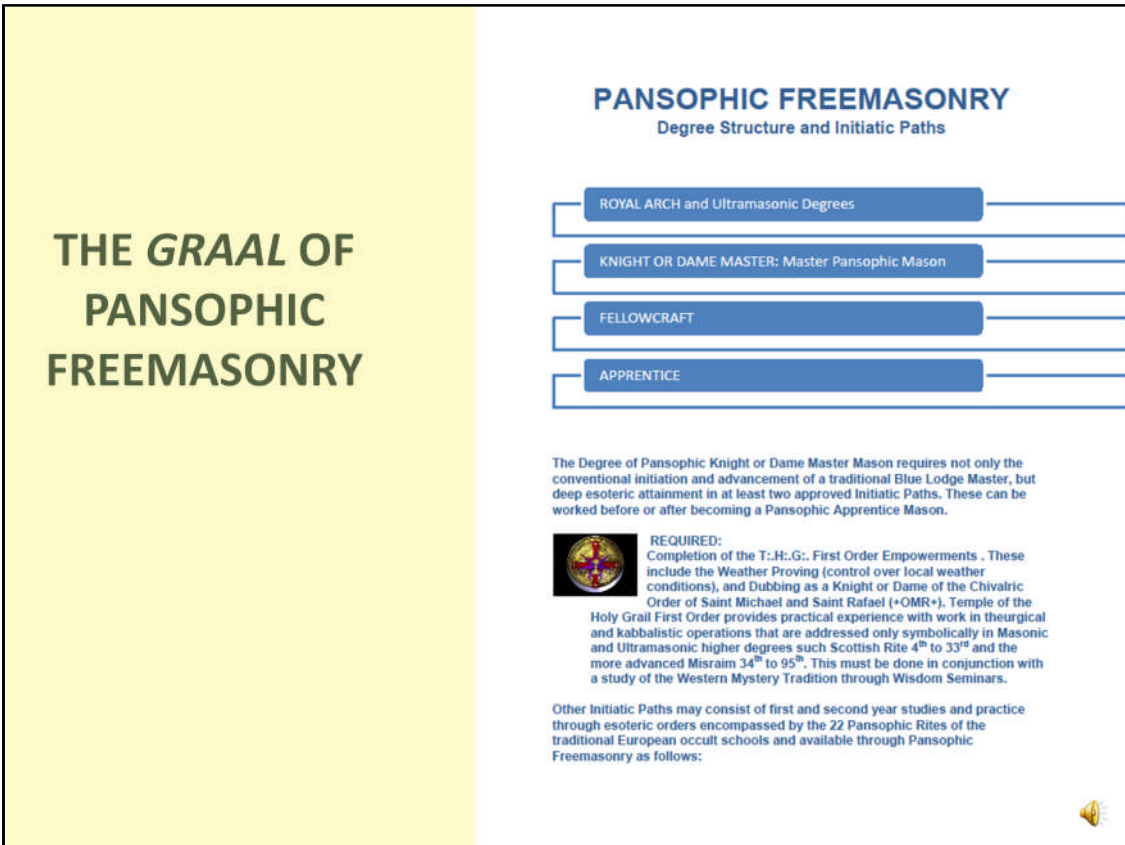


Empowers initiates for service and social-political transformation

The Traditional Higher Degrees



The higher initiations beyond Master are transmitted through a hodge-podge of degrees that have accumulated to memorialize living or once-living European initiatic or chivalric orders. One does not study the curriculums of these orders, but merely watches symbolic dramas representing honorary initiation into them. Most of the higher degrees in Scottish Rite, for example, are transmitted in one marathon weekend. Master Masons sit through each dramatic allegory, are given the symbols of the degree, and now have the right to be high degree Masons! In half an hour they are "initiated" into, for example, the Rosicrucian mysteries—a curriculum that would have required a lifetime of study and training in a living order! Most Scottish Rite Masons have very little clue about the many mysteries to which they have been introduced, and certainly no way of doing any serious study in them.



Here is a chart that gives an overview of what we call the Grail of Pansophic Freemasonry. Each Master has achieved valid and true status as Dame or Knight, and is thus known as a Knight or Dame Master. In addition to the chivalric Grail Path, they have mastered a minimum of two other Grail Paths, three of which may be continued beyond the Knight-Master Degree in separate schools or orders. The Royal Arch Degree is merely an administrative designation for Grand and Past Masters.

THE *GRAAL* OF PANSOPHIC FREEMASONRY (Continued)



Martínist (+MOT+ or +OMCC+) Third Degree or S::I::III



Memphis-Misraim studies through Memphis 33 = Misraim 95



Rosicrucian-Kabbalistic studies through F.R.A. year one, year two and related materials



First two years of Rosecrucian-Illuminist study through our chartered affiliate in Brazil (*Ordo Fratres Lucis*)

OR:

- Completion of Vedic (Sidereal) Astrology or DVH curriculums offered through the Wisdom Seminars site
- Two years of spiritual study and practice in Tibetan Buddhism under a recognized Lama
- Two years of Sufi initiations and studies
- Completion of the Golden Dawn First Order or O.T.O. Third Triad
- Two years of demonstrated expertise in such fields as Western (Tropical) Astrology, Alchemy, Tarot or other forms of divination, NLP, or other esoteric disciplines
- Advancement through Scottish Rite, York Rite, or Ultramasonic higher degrees.



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