

Originally the cross was a symbol of death and one of the worst possible forms of death imaginable, yet over the centuries, it has evolved into a symbol of mercy and a sign of grace and love. Yet oddly the Skull symbol has not been so reimagined in the mainstream, though it was so envisioned by the Templars.

The most obvious implications of this emblem are its invocations of death...but not intended by Templars to suggest such in a sinister sense. Rather that of a reminder. Memento Mori. Remember You Will Die. In general the Skull was a recollection of our mortality, but also like the cross itself, a call to remember our redemption at Calvary (Calvaria), the Place of a Skull. Wherever the Skull is placed should to call our minds to ponder the place of the skull. And as an emblem of all the calvarian Way, the skull not only denotes that holy Hill on which our Saviour was sacrificed for our sins and father Isaac long before Him, but when accompanied by crossed bones, it further alludes to the future resurrection foretold of in the prophet Ezekiel, in his vision of a valley of dry bones. But a crowned skull is illustrative of this and much more. The skull symbolizing the place of the crucifixion and the crown the king who was was crucified there. Yet more that this, the crowned skull calls to mind also the morality tale of life and death and the crown we forge. There is a midrash that says we are all forging crowns by our actions in this life. And the type of deeds we do determines the type of crown and who wears it and when. When we die we either do so wearing a crown we are forced to remove and relinquish to death, or otherwise we die wearing no crown and death itself removes his crown and bequeaths it to us...which we then thereafter cast before the Majesty on High.



Additionally, the crowned skull is often accompanied by the head of a bearded man also wearing a crown. And this is illustrative of the phrase "A King Today. A Corpse Tomorrow." Meaning that no matter who we are in life, pauper or prince, commoner or king, we all go to the grave in the end. So glory not in the riches of this life. Pride not in power position and prestige, for all are but bones in the end.