



# Behind the Baphomet

By Christopher Talmidian

Many lies were levied against the Templars in the hour of their unjust destruction, ghastly blasphemies, and unholy horrors. But none were so nefarious as the charge of what the Brothers, in House, would have called Avoda Zara or Idol Worship. Yet while most of the mendacity manufactured against the Order was entirely invented and purely imaginative, the accusations of idolatry did not get their development out of thin air like the rest. As is so often the case, the devil's best deceptions are derived from contorting truths. And this was no difference.

At the outset of the Order's restoration at long last, I find it important to illustrate our forebears' innocence in this and all matters by explaining where we arrive at the idea that a Templar could take up the heathen way of worship when he alone of old knows the ways of the true and living LORD along with the glories of HIS Awesome NAME. All other charges will be ignored here as obvious obloquies undeserving. But this reviling of righteous men must be answered once and for all by the only ones who can say, for it has roots in reality.

No. There was never any idol. But there was an enigma. The Templars' nemesi claimed the Order worshiped a two headed cat, a crowned skull, a severed head, or a nondescript demon by the name of Baphomet. And while this was all wicked workings of fiction and fables, it all originated from real rumors and fragments of tales told beyond the Brotherhood, but ones which were foolishly allowed to flourish by the Brotherhood.

There was indeed a cat but this cat was a lion and it was white with ram's horns and eagles wings. The creature with multiple heads



was a black wolf with three not two and a snake where should be a tail. The crowned skull was genuine as well and came most often in tandem with the bearded severed head of a king. And yes again there was also a Baphomet (Bafomet) which the Templars were devoted to, but not in the way it was made out to be...neither was it the monster as depicted in popular art nor ever worshiped by the Brotherhood or any member, save one, who turned coat and sent his fellows to their deaths at the hands of Saracens, he whose name we curse to date along side, Philip, Clement, Denogerret, and De Floyran, those of note for Judas'-children, Cazalier.



## *The Two Beasts*

The secretive nature of Templars allowed for rumor to arise that they worshipped a two headed cat, but this was a gross distortion of reality and a quintessential example of the devolution of details when passed by gossip. As they say, "Rumor ruins," and this is never more evident than in the pieces of private Templar life, leaked to the nosy public. It should also serve nicely as a cautionary tale of the dangers of letting reputation be shaped by others.

Templars lived a life immersed in symbol and imagery. And unless one was privy to the full story which founded these fanciful depictions, they could easily be perceived as being idolatrous. One such story, is that of the Two Beasts. Temple doctrine declared that there exist two beasts inside every man, one black and one white, which the Knights refer to as Lupus & Leo, the Wolf & the Lion. These creatures were emblematical of the dual & warring natures of the soul, the Evil Inclination (Yetzer Hara) and the Good Inclination (Yetzer Tov).



Lupus, the Nightwolf, was said to have three hungry heads. The first was called Sarx; the second, Ophthalmos; and the third, Ailazon. And for good measure, this monster was also thought to possess a serpent where ordinarily an animal would have a tale, a snake whose name was Authades. Contrariwise, Leo, the Lion of Light, was purported to be comprised of the hindquarters of a ram and the fore parts of a lion, and this creature was imagined to bear either two ram's horns or two eagle's wings, (sometimes both depending on the version of the lore) whose

names were Zakar and Shamar (Remember & Guard)



“They say the one you feed is the one that grows stronger”, and this is true. But what is also true is that the one you don’t feed stays hungry...and that craving only grows. Temple lore held that when a person is born, the Lupus is fully grown but the Leo is only a cub. In other words, the good nature is diminutive and at a perpetual disadvantage



compared to his rival. As the person grows so too does the beast that he or she feeds. The Wolf does not grow in size because he is as large as he will ever be at the person’s birth, but he grows in hunger. The more he is fed, the more he wants to be fed. And he is never ever satisfied. If the person feeds the Lion, he will grow in strength and size always and may dwarf the Wolf in due time.

Quite often, preachers tell us that “we are to fight sin” as if this were the aim and ambition of the Christian life...but in the Temple they taught differently, for they knew the true nature of the soul. They knew fighting off sinfulness is like fighting off the rising tide. It is a fruitless endeavor but worse it is a deadly disaster. If one is to focus on the negative, he or she will become the negative. Face the evil and fall to it, for we can not fight ourselves. As it is said, “We have met the enemy...and he is us!”

Such is the purpose of the teaching of the Two Beasts... The Nightwolf has three heads because he is the Lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the Eyes, and the Pride of Life. While we are fighting one, we will be devoured by one or both of the others. And should we bear so great a strength as to contend competently with all three snarling sets of jaws, the sneaky snake of Self Confidence (Self-Reliance) will sweep around to bite us while we’re busy in battle.

We can not fight the evil we are inclined to do, because it is a part of our nature and so we are fighting against our own selves. Therefore, it is most important that we feed the Right Beast, so that the Lion of Light can fight for us! With his two great wings he can rise above the temptation and with his two mighty horns he can fend off the monster. This is why they are named for Remembrance and Guardianship, because in remembering the DIVINE commands and guarding them like Gold, we will in time of temptation have ensured the Lion, well fed on righteous practice to perform his protection of us when we forget the Way and walk on in darkness.





*The*



*Head*

Besides the two headed cat, rumor had it also that the Templars worshiped a Head of some sort. Some held that it was the severed head of John the Baptist, others that it was just an ordinary human skull, sometimes depicted crowned, others with a cross or saltire, but very often side by side with a severed bearded head. And still the rumors also persisted that the Brotherhood served a three faced demon or a head with three faces....all of which was wildly fictional, but much like the tale of the Two Beasts, rooted in a version of reality. Just not one to which the public was privy.

As with most of the Templar emblems, the three-faced man was a symbol derived directly from the story of the “Novus Bellum” and rendered as a bearded head with one face looking East, another looking west, and still another looking south...none to the north. In the Trial of the Nine as each Templar began his journey through the Long Dark, he faced three Judges whose task it was to assess the Knight and outfit him with the necessary provisions for his travels...Depending on the version of the tale, these three men were either, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob or otherwise, Enoch, Noah, and Moses. Emblematically, however, these three, who, in the story, function as one Judge, are depicted so as one man with three faces. Historians have assumed much of this emblem, that it embodies the past, present, and future or that it invokes the trinity, in their naive attempted to defend the Templars’ secret activities...but the truth is always more simple than they realize and more meaningful than they understand.



As far as the symbol of the Skull, this could hardly be called a secret object of worship, but rather an open call to worship, and not to worship it but the CREATOR and LORD, WHO gives and governs all life and WHO keeps faith with all the dead. To Templars a simple skull called to mind the phrase, “Memento Mori” or “Remember you will die.” After all, a Templar spent much of his life pondering his death...and preparing for it. They were a morbid sort, but not as one might think. They did not love death but loved life itself and focused upon the harsh reality of of its finity, with death being its finality.

A Crowned Skull was a Templar emblem of equality. It’s placement beside a bearded crowned head was meant to humble the greatest and the ennobled the least. Among the brothers was a saying, “A king today...a corpse tomorrow!” Whosoever we may be in life, we are but bones in the end...Templars had the right of it better than almost any Christians in the last two millennia. They accepted death as a part of life, and the part most certain, the great equalizer. Of all men, they knew, we are not all equal in this world. Some live only a moment and die in infancy. Others live a century. Some are blessed with riches, power,



beauty, strength, wisdom, and luck...others suffer, are ugly, weak, foolish, poor, tragic. Time and chance makes us what we are in life. Time, chance, and the will of the ALMIGHTY. Surely all Men are created equal, but thereafter we cease to be so till death claims us. And so the lesson of this emblem is mortality and self-inspection. In the pure, earth shattering reality that you will die, no matter who you are, how ought you now to live? Rely not on your glory, power, riches, might, and self righteousness...nothing will keep you here when it is time to go. We are all bones in the becoming...

Gloomy? Sure. But that's not the end of the story, is it?! Because Templars didn't just drape all in the shroud of the impending Grave. No. They were looking to the Grave, not as the ultimate ending but as a temporary one. In the skull and sword symbol, they were showing the fight against that ending. Moreover, in the allusion to the Cross of Calvary being the place of a skull, in the sword and skull symbol, the Skull takes the place of the Cross of the Swordbrothers' sigil ( a short lived Chivalric Order who was modeled after the Templars but destroyed soon after their founding.) Much of Templar efforts were spent (spiritually speaking) in trying to forge the Sword of Christ He wields in the Battle of Calvary. The Skull Cross speaks this also.

Lastly, the most famous - Skull&Crossbones. The emblem adorning the Jolly Roger in after years. What developed into the sign of piracy, began as the symbol of resurrection. Yes, resurrection. As with most Templar symbols, this one was a depiction of a Scripture verse, specifically, Ezekiel 37: 3-7, the Valley of Dry Bones. The CREATOR spoke to Ezekiel in a vision and ordered him to address the dead. A vast valley piled with scattered fleshless drying bones and the MOST HIGH asked the Prophet if these bones could live again. To which Ezekiel, replied to the LORD that only HE could know. The Almighty promised these Bones would live again. And put HIS NAME on the vow! To Wit, Templars designed the Skull and Crossbones, not only to remind us witless wanton wretches that we will surely die one day, but more importantly that death is not the end. The Almighty remembers the bones and who they belong to. If they are lost to the tides or pulverized, it matters not to the Mind of the MAJESTY! HE remembers us and will restore those old bones as lively as before. As it is written, "YAHWEH is not the Elohim of the Dead but of the living."

And how can one live again, though he first must die? By taking up his Cross now, daily denying himself, and following by faith the One Who took the Cross for us. Christ promised He Himself is the Resurrection and the Life! And He does not change with the tides of time. He was, is, and ever shall be our hope of rising again.



# *The Last Riddle*



Yes, it is safe to say the Templars were a little obsessed with death, but as mentioned, it was not an unhealthy obsession. Rather, the Brotherhood's preoccupation with mortality and the hereafter served as a preparation for the inevitable fate all men must face, yet, which most men seem to pretend they never will. In aid of this inevitable end, Templars were taught the Tale of the Novus Bellum (The Trial of the Nine), which relayed the proverbial tale of the origins of the Order and the principle Knights' journeys through the afterlife in order for each to learn a moral lesson, find a holy relic, and to discover a DIVINE Secret, Nine in all. Each man faced unimaginable horror and hardship as he passed through the Underworld, but none so powerful and pugnacious as the Grand Master, himself, Hugh De Paynes. After fighting monsters for what could have been days, decades, or centuries untold, Hugh faced down the Sphinx in the heart of Tartarus, and was forced to answer its riddles before passing on, at the risk of being devoured for failure. While the first eight questions have been long since forgotten, the 8 answers remain to this day. They are —

love, loss, faith, time, hope, promise, glory, and war. —

But the one Hugh could not answer, the last riddle, the ninth, that alone is remembered and it's answer aswell. The Monster said to the Grand Master,

"I be no Bird, but my Black Wings,

Hover over all Living Things,

All Time is Mine, Today We Dine,

King of Terrors and Terror of a Kings."

And the answer to this riddle is Death. Whatever it is in life, be it, love, loss, faith, time, hope, promise, glory, or war, death is the end of all things, the last unanswered question of life, and the one unknowable experience till encountered firsthand.

Death ends all surprises. And it is inevitable. It takes aged monsters and men of mercy in their prime. Whether we live to a hundred years or a hundred days in the cradle, the grave will claim us all in the end...and there is no telling when. That is the message the Templars committed daily to memory and to which they dedicated all their time and energy. All their faith and practice was rapped up in readiness for the inevitable. And so it was that every Templar woke in the morning with a cry to Heaven of HalleluYAH! Followed immediately by the ancient exclamatory of gratitude, "Mode Ani!" I am



GRATEFUL! Again at midday he repeated the call on High. And before laying down at night. A praise to the FATHER Above for allowing them to live to see a sunrise, to live to see the height and the depth of the day. Anything could have taken the Templar in the night hours or the morning or evening. We are mortal every moment and yet we remain thus far. HalleluYAH! A Templar faced all this with the earnest expectation that he was in the moment of his immediate end. A falling tree, a kick from a horse, a stray arrow, a battlefield blow, or a failure of the heart. The means did not matter but only the mandate to face it. And to embrace it in faith in the NAME of the MOST HIGH and the Grace of HIS Messiah.

And for us today it is the same. Death is certain. Life is not. And neither is the condition our souls will be in when we meet our end. There is no telling when or how or why we will die...only that we will. Therefore it is best to embrace death daily, waking in hope of living the morning, praising the MAKER when we see the height of the day, and resting in the evening in peace in the knowledge that if we do not live to

see the light of dawn once more, we were ready to face the darkness and await the glorious Resurrection on the Last Great Day. To ensure we are prepared to die well in our time, it is imperative we act like each day is the last, every hour and minute of it. And only by accepting the worst possible outcome can we walk through life without fear. It is on us not to imagine the restful death of the aged all people pray for but instead the worst imaginable horror, the most extreme torcher, and the most gruesome terror to tear us from this life. If we do this, in resolute purpose at all moments, we will not be morbid but mentally trained to face whatever evil, ugly exit is inevitably ours to endure. And we will do so in full faith and fear, not of our demise but of the ONE WHO Authored life and can restore it to us at HIS pleasure. Death may be the last riddle but how to best answer it is to live ever ready.





# *The Master's Staff & The Bone Chair*



Perhaps the best example of this fascination with death is found in the behavior pattern set by the Grand Master. According to Lore, the Grand Master of the Poor FellowSoldiers of Christ sat upon a chair carved entirely out of smooth grey stone except for the arms. The left arm was made of black stone and the right of white stone. Engraved upon the back of the chair was a cross made out of bones with a skull in the center. And the left arm was black to represent the three

headed wolf while the right was white to represent a ram horned lion. This was called the Stone Chair, the Bone Chair, the Stone Throne, or the Bone Throne. Most important of all was the Scripture reference embossed upon the bones, Ezekiel 37:3-7 — the Prophecy about the Valley of Dry Bones. By siting this Scripture, the Bone Chair was to call to mind not merely the power of death but the promise from of old, of resurrection. The authority of the Grand Master upon which he sat and from which he governed the Order was this very prophecy. The supreme servant set as his foundation, the reality of his Imminent demise that he could keep a healthy fear perpetually before his eyes as a check against issuing evil orders, such as would reflect his left. And simultaneously holding the resurrection always before him to remind him to be ever righteous in his decisions, reflecting the right.



In tandem with this seat came the staff he held in hand when in ceremony, an iron shaft about





4- feet long with a square of pomegranate wood atop. Five symbols adorned the top of the staff. One in each face and one on the top. A Torn Heart, a Broken Crown, a Burning Sword, and a Red Cross. And over it all a Crowned Skull.

The Grand Master's authority was on full display in these two symbols of power - a throne of self-denial and a scepter of subservience. The chair being a remembrance of resurrection, the staff served as a memorial of that assurance. The Broken Crown is a symbol of humility, without which, none will pursue righteousness. And humility leads us to repentance emblematical of the Torn Heart. The way of repentance is the way to life which is guarded by the Burning Sword. And as Christ has taught us, "whoever wishes to save his life will lose it but whoever loses his life for Christ's sake will find it." Hence the Red Cross, denoting the Cross of Christ and our our Cross aswell, the way the martyr meets his death. And thus the Crowned Skull atop all. The way of life is death and the way of death is life.

# *The Baphomet*

Finally, we arrive at the most infamous of accusations against the Templars - The Baphomet.

To this very day, Templar Knights can not be researched without finding mention of the accusation that they worshiped an idol called Baphomet. Many historians guess and conjecture what exactly the Baphomet was but none as yet have the full right of it. If one was to investigate Baphomet, the image itself, he or she would assume the Templars to be demoniacs, especially considering historians' lack of denunciation of the myth that the Order worshipped Baphomet. They did no such

thing, and the image commonly called by the Baphomet name was only created as a hit piece about 200 years ago by a spiteful propagandist known as Elias Levi.

In truth the Baphomet was a paradoxical conception the Knights developed in Outremer, not an idol and not an object of worship. And the Baphomet was not entirely one thing either, which is why it is paradoxical. It was two opposite concepts, one evil, one good...but neither a god.

Many historians have surmised that Baphomet was a reverse spelling of Wisdom... Which leads them to suggest the Templars Worshiped the pagan goddess Sophia. Still others Pose the theory that Baphomet is a Frankish term for Mahamet (Mohammed) and that Templars were secretly Muslim. But both unfounded theories are built on the assumption that the Baphomet was an object of worship, which is as utterly abhorrent as it is errant. To the Templars, both of these rumors were true. The Baphomet was both a reverse spelling of Wisdom as well as a Frankish term for Mohamed. However, neither imply worship and each meaning is to be taken separately and serves as the opposite of the other. As holy men devoted to Christ, Who said, "Wisdom is proven right by her actions", the Templars were dedicated to all that He was dedicated to, principally, the Torah which the sages and Scriptures refer to euphemistically as Wisdom. Therefore in honor of the Hebrew conception of Wisdom as the Torah and the fact Hebrew is written and read in reverse of western tongues, they used the term Baphomet to imply wisdom in reverse, yet never speaking directly of Torah but rather of Mohammed as the inverse of Divine Wisdom. As the Wisdom from Above runs contrary to that of this world, this was the form of Baphomet which the Order addressed the lying prophet as their opposit...and contrary-wise, there was Islam, the wisdom of this world, and its prophet whom Templars utterly reviled to the point of even becoming borderline blasphemous in their hate. This also, they called Baphomet. As mentioned, the term was a variant of Mahomet...but this also served as a Latin acronym for Mohammed and for Islam as a whole:



B.A.F.O.M.E.T.

Bestia (Beast)

Acerbus (Grievous)

Falsus (False)

Odium (Hateful)

Malum (Ruinous)

Exitim (Injurious)

Tristis (Joyless)

So it was that every positive Templar reference to Baphomet was speaking of the Law of the LORD, and every negative comment, a reference to the loathsome Islam. Though, contrary to popular belief, Templars held no animosity toward Muslims in general, so long as they were of a kind which were willing to live in peace with them and all others, and Templars were even known to protect Muslims in the Holy Land along with their properties and interests. Yet, whatever respect Templars held for Muslims as they did for persons of all faiths, they eternally reviled their prophet, Mohammed. Their utter hatred for this admittedly vile man, though warranted, no doubt helped feed the rumors that the Templars worshiped a demon, because the Order developed a particularly crude tradition connecting Mohammed with their bowel movements.

In their most private moments Templars performed a pantomime in mockery of false gods and all their lying prophets by engaging in a perverse form of “worship”. A mockery at most but no true devotion to any deity. This strange tradition was said to be “piss for the sun and sh\*t for the moon.” The reader must pardon the expression, as it was their way of expressing their disgust with the solar and lunar divinities of the heathen. Upon urination a Templar Knight would recite “Sol Invicto Committi” basically translated as “Dedicated to the Invincible Sun”. And when defecating the Templar would recite the Shahada, declaring in Arabic that there is no god but allah and Mohammed is his prophet. In this way, the Knights insulted the sun god and the moon god daily...however unnecessarily. Though publicly respecting peaceful Muslims, they called

Mohammedans, Templars always considered Islam the religion of death and Mohamed as the one they called the Great Horned Demon. As the head of the monster cult, Mohammed was also called the Head, and when the Knights went to “do their business” they had a tendency to refer to it sarcastically as “worship”. This was a grievous error on their part and utterly unnecessary as it was insulting. And more so, morosely, it no doubt helped feed the general belief that the brotherhood worshiped a demon or a head or some sort of evil idol.

By no means were the Templars perfect, but they were the best of their day and in no manner idolatrous at all. They were also, over all, less heretical than the entire Church at that time. In truth the Templars were ahead of their time. Flouting the authority of Rome under the very



nose of the Pope and in his face. And ironically, even though they were destroyed as an institution and an aspect of the Roman Catholic Church, because their true religion wasn't exposed even under excruciating torture, their private purpose was a success.

And finally to the Baphomet idol as is commonly seen these days associated with Templars, and found every time one researches anything connected with them... This is 100% the fabrication of the 1800s by the man known as Elias Levi. He drew the picture. He designed it. He named it... And ever since then the term Baphomet has been inseparable from this image. And ever since then, the newly formed idol has been retroactively superimposed upon a Templar as if it were not anachronistic. Baphomet in the Templars' day had no image but only in Understanding, a positive understanding and a negative understanding, in typical Hebrew fashion. The positive was Torah and the negative was Islam. And all of that ties in with death. And their affinity with it. Torah gives life. And Islam brings death. Such was the Templar way.

