

GENERAL SUPPLEMENT

The space on these two pages is provided by the *Knight Templar* magazine to be used by the Grand Commanderies to communicate with the individual Sir Knights in their jurisdiction on a monthly basis. From time to time and for various reasons, we fail to receive any material from the editor of the state supplement for a given month. When this happens, we take the opportunity to offer you this information provided by the Public Relations Committee of the Grand Encampment. – The Ed.



A Brief Resume on the History of the Knights Templar Part III

by

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With the exception of a few nations in Europe, the Templars were forced to flee or perish. They found refuge in Spain and in England, and there warned of Philip's plans, they were able to flee into Scotland where the order went underground. DeMolay, the last Grand Master of the Templars, had obeyed the orders of his superior the Pope hoping for the final crusade to free the Holy Lands. He was unaware of the political tides that flowed across Europe as each nation strove for dominance over the other.

It was decided that the Grand Master should be brought before public view to admit his guilt and that of his Templars. The nobility, the prelates of the church, and influential commoners were invited to witness the historic event. On March 14, 1314, a high platform had been erected before Notre Dame from which DeMolay would make his confession. The Grand Master was escorted to the platform with Geoffroi de Charney and two other officers of the order.

With the eyes of the world upon him and the blood of his beloved Templars on the hands of his accusers, DeMolay condemned himself to martyrdom. "I think it only right that at so solemn a moment when my life has so little time to run, I should reveal the deception which has been practiced and speak for the truth. Before heaven and earth and all of you here as my witnesses, I admit that I am guilty of the grossest iniquity. But the iniquity is that I have lied in admitting the disgusting charges laid against the order. I declare, and I must declare, that the order is innocent. Its purity and saintliness are beyond question. I have indeed confessed that the order is guilty, but I have done so only to save myself from terrible tortures by saying what my enemies wished

me to say. Other knights who have retracted their confessions have been led to the stake, yet the thought of dying is not so awful that I shall confess to foul crimes which have never been committed. Life is offered to me but at the price of infamy. At such price, life is not worth having. I do not grieve that I must die if life can be bought only by piling one lie upon another."

The others with DeMolay quickly joined him in proclaiming the innocence of the order. By their own words, they had brought monumental embarrassment to both king and church to which the only answer was the stake. The verdict was announced for that same evening.

The executions were held on a small island in the River Seine, but a crowd still managed to gather by boat to witness the end of the last Templar Grand Master. Legend says that as Jacques DeMolay's flesh was being burned away he called down a curse upon Philip of France and all of his family, and he called upon both king and pope to meet him within the year for judgment at the throne of God. Clement V died the following month of April, followed by Philip's unexplained death in November of the same year. As the two nemeses of the Templars faded into history so did the remaining Templars fade into the shrouds of time; perhaps an invisible force protecting the destiny of man.



knight templar