



## THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OCTOBER 2023 NEWS

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Sir Knights,

The **First Crusade** (1095-1102) was a military campaign by western European forces to recapture the **city** of **Jerusalem** and the Holy Land from Muslim control. Conceived by Pope Urban II following an appeal from the **Byzantine emperor Alexios I Komnenos**, the Crusade was a success with Christian forces taking control of Jerusalem on 15 July 1099. - **worldhistory.org**

Cordoba, Spain in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century was a center of learning wherein Christian, Jewish and Muslim intellectuals shared ideas on religion, philosophy, astronomy, architecture, mathematics and no doubt in hushed tones, politics.

My sense here is that after the first crusade the more liberal Islam of the Moors influenced the thinking of the Sephardic Jewish fathers, the Celtic Christians, (apparently Irish Intellectualism, Druidic Culture, and the Celtic (Arianistic) faith and thought) had many proponents in Spain at that time; and this combined thinking may have also influenced perhaps surreptitiously the designs of the Catholic Church itself. On the other side of the Pyrenees to the North and East lies the South of France...Auvergne, Toulouse, Languedoc - Roussillon and Provence. Islamic and Hebrew and Christian Philosophical thoughts on many subjects mingled in Northern Spain at that time, and the Church wanted at its head a man who would think of the role of the Church in practical terms, Pope Sylvester II - Gerbert De 'Aurillac was a Spanish Jew who studied in Cordoba was Head of the Cathedral School at Rheims before he acceded as pope. One hundred years later the first crusade was over but the increased pilgrimage and conflicts that continuous travel to the Holy Land would engender, were just beginning. **From The Knights Templar of the Middle East by HRH Price Michael of Albany and Walid Salhab**

The New Essenes, The Circle of the Star Families and the search for the Treasure of the Temple begins. "The last thing the Star Families needed was for word to get out amongst the booty-hungry, thieving hordes of soldiers from across Christendom that there was treasure below the Temple Mount in Jerusalem". "The nine knights camped on the part of the ruined Temple known as 'Solomon's Stables', where they remained for nine years thanks to the direct support of Baldwin II. Hugues De Payen and his team quickly began digging massive workings, often tunneling through solid rock."

"The Copper Scroll and it's copy (or copies) were intended to tell the Jewish survivors of the war then raging where this sacred material lay buried, so that if any should be found, it would never be desecrated by profane use. It would also act as a guide to the recovery of the treasure".

Under "The Copper Scroll led Hugues and his party to their treasures. For example, one entry reads: **In the inner chamber of the twin pillars supporting the arch of the double gate facing east, in the entrance, buried at three cubits, hidden there is a pitcher, in it, one scroll, under it forty-two talents.**

**In the cistern, which is nineteen cubits in front of the eastern gateway, in it are vessels, and in the hollow that is in it: ten talents.**

**In the Court of {illegible}, nine cubits under the southern corner: gold and silver vessels for tithe, sprinkling basins, cups, sacrificial bowls. Libation vessels, in all six hundred and nine.**

The nine knights must have found their scrolls, vast amounts of money, cartloads of gold and silver artifacts. Their success was such that in 1125 Hughes, count of Champagne suddenly renounced his titles in Champagne, sailed to Jerusalem and put himself under the guiding hand of Hugues de Payen. The count had formerly been Hugues de Payen's liege lord, and such a total reversal of their roles was an unprecedented action in feudal Europe.

**From the Hiram Key by Christopher Knight and Alan Butler**

St Bernard of Clairvaux had been a neighbor of Hugues de Payen and was the promoter of the fledgling Military Order as the lance and armor of his Cistercian white monks. He had much to do with writing the official Rule of both Orders, although the Templar battle-cry came from the prologue of the Benedictine Rule used by St Bernard in his treatise De Laude: "Not for us, Lord, not for us, but to Your name may glory be given." The most able political priest of his age, St Bernard oversaw Both the saint, and the Templar Grand Master went on recruiting tours to bolster their alliance. **From the Secret Scroll by Andrew Sinclair**

The success of the Hospital inspired the foundation of the Knights Templars. The pilgrims who reached Jerusalem in need were cared for at the Hospital, but no organization existed to serve the Westerners during their long and hazardous journey to the Holy City. Not until after the Third Crusade did it become the practice for pilgrims to travel from Europe to the ports of Palestine by sea; before then, the hosts of travelers came overland by way of Byzantium.

Until 1128, the Temple enrolled knights only. The organization which grew up in later years, however, consisted of three main classes --- Knights, Chaplains, and Sergeants. The regular knights surrendered all their property to the Temple and usually served the Order until the end of their days, but for many years they appear to have been able to leave at will.

**From The Knights Templars Their Rise and Fall by G.A. Campbell**

*Out of an entire royal family numbering into the hundreds, only one young member who had not attended the banquet was able to escape and make it to the safety of Spain.*

*Abd-ar-Rahman 1, the last of the Umayyad princes of Damascus, was proclaimed Emir of Cordoba in 756 and his dynasty would last for another three hundred years. One should say they were three hundred glorious years, not just for Spain but also for the rest of Europe.*

*Spain's new capitol, Cordoba, would be the keystone to importing knowledge from the East into Europe. Cordoba was a bridge between East and West and would shake Europe out of the dark years of Roman Catholic suppression.* **From The Knights Templar of the Middle East by HRH Prince Michael of Albany and Walid Salhab**

From all points it was clear that Jerusalem needed a guardian for its more moderate Muslim, and Jewish and Christian inhabitants, and the pilgrims to the Holy City needed protectors. The Knights Templar were those Guardians and Protectors. SK Carter L Diggs Jr.