

The Knights Templar and The Search for Divine Wisdom

By Stephanie Georgieff

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Greetings and thank you so much for this lovely opportunity to present on The Front Range Anthroposophical Cafe. I first want to thank the hosts of this amazing and so very timely and needed platform. As you heard in the introduction, my name is Stephanie Georgieff and I am what I like to call a card carrying evangelical Anthroposophist. It has been a good long while now, I met Anthroposophy in naturopathic school in Portland, Oregon, ever so long ago, but really took it up in the 1990's and was graced by so many lovely people through the society in Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange County, the Bay Area and Sacramento, as well as The Christian Community in those areas. So I wish to extend a great thank you to all those who give their time, hearts and souls to creating a community around the work of Rudolf Steiner and Spiritual Science.

Throughout my life and formative years, I have been blessed by a family who encouraged me in my interests, as well as positive experiences through the church I grew up in, the United Methodist Church, as well as varied and satisfying educational environments. And while everything was harmonious and nurturing, I never went through an angry period regarding religion or felt left out regarding the Christianity I was exposed to at my home. In spite of this, I always felt on one level that there was simply more to the story. When I attended Missouri Synod Lutheran middle and high schools, where I became exposed to a materialistic and misogynistic approach to institutional religion, it was sort of a shock to me since my home church and family was not that way. I now see that this aspect of my biography was a great training ground for becoming not only a Naturopath and Acupuncturist, but also an Anthroposophist. I simply could not believe what I was being tested on and required to memorize in my religion and catechism classes through this sect, so instead of getting really angry and fighting, I took to the libraries and checked out stacks of books, I interviewed pastors, nuns, artists and elders. What came out of all of this was a deeper appreciation for Christ and Christianity, and then when I encountered Anthroposophy and The Christian Community, I felt like I had literally struck gold. What has also been quite a

boon for me personally, is the never ending, ever deepening of the mysteries that Anthroposophy and Anthroposophical Christology offers. I appreciate the loving dedication of my coworkers, but I also feel so blessed that I have Anthroposophy that helps even out and contextualizes our current complex personal, national and international situations. But through all of my encounters and study of Anthroposophy, what I have also come to appreciate is the approach to the Divine Feminine and the inclusivity of the Spiritual World and rituals this philosophy and life perspective offers. Some may criticize Anthroposophy and The Christian Community as too male oriented, but I would beg to differ, there is much to offer regarding the Divine Feminine, and Divine Wisdom, who is also known as the Divine Sophia.

As some of you may know, I have written several books on the subject, specifically on The Black Madonna as a divine messenger from the spiritual world. Back when I started my journey with The Black Madonna, the internet was a bit new, and there were few resources that were not very “new agey” or slanted towards paganism. Please, I am not criticizing either movement, but I wanted something that delved into grounded spirituality that was Christ Centered, and also towards the Divine Sophia. I was not disappointed in the least. The main thing I discovered at that time, and this is way back in the early 2000’s, was that there were no artists associated with these Madonnas, and that a large number of them had been brought to the European Continent by The Knights Templar when they returned from the Crusades. Now THIS was interesting, and not being covered by any of the scholarship or musings of pagans or feminist guru’s.

So what was it about The Knights Templar that would have them bring Black Madonnas to the European Continent, and why were they placing these images in shrines, cathedrals and churches along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela? What I think, and again, I invite everyone to do their own research and come to their own conclusions, but according to my study, I think the reasons The Templars took Black Madonnas from the Holy Land, and also Northern Africa and Ethiopia to the European Continent, is precisely because they were in search of Divine Wisdom and they wanted to share their search and findings with the broader culture. I am basing this conclusion on many threads, as I am a trained scientist as a Naturopath and Acupuncturist, I tend to look at everything quite broadly and then find what I consider threads and

weave them together. So I have come to this conclusion based on the research of Rudolf Steiner's insights from the Akashic Record, historical research on the Middle Ages, as well as feminist scholars, anthroposophical scholars, Christian Community priests as well as emerging academic studies coming from African Scholars all over the globe.

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One of the statements by Rudolf Steiner that has guided me in my study of The Templars, is that the age of the Crusades was the preparation for the Age of Consciousness Soul. I know we are all exhausted by the last several decades, but one could actually see that Steiner was on to something when he made this statement that the Crusades with all of their complications, violence and clash of civilizations in what we now call The Middle East, that they certainly were a prelude for what has taken up most of our current post Atlantean Epoch. I would argue on every level imagined, exoteric and esoterically.

We need to keep in mind that all great orders are prepared for and accomplished by great initiates.

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In order to understand The Templars, Rudolf Steiner tells us that there are several things to consider. First, what they were doing before they incarnated in the 12th and 13th Centuries, and their actions and ideals during their current era. Steiner tells us that they had incarnated during the Egypt Chaldean epoch and were initiated in the Egyptian and the Isis Star Wisdom tradition. Their next major incarnations, these beings were Pythagoreans, who studied math, geometry and the mysteries of numbers. At the heart of these mysteries was a recognition of a Divine Wisdom, an ordering of the cosmos into what we would call a Divine Originating Mystery. We would also recognize their deeds within the context of the Harmony of the Spheres.

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Steiner also tells us that there were two great events that the individualities who incarnated as Templars witnessed from the Spiritual World: One was when the Queen of Sheba passed on Star Wisdom to the King of Solomon, and this was the Isis Star Wisdom that the beings who later incarnated as Templars were initiated in during one of their major earthly incarnations. The other major event witnessed by these beings is after Golgotha. This was the deeds of the Evangelist Mark who wrote the First Gospel after Golgotha; he is also credited with evangelizing the continent of Africa. His first mission where he formed a community as well as an esoteric mystery school was in Alexandria where the famed library was located. Mark collaborated with Ormuz, a high initiate priest of the Isis Mystery Cult who was converted to Christianity. Alexandria is where Mark wrote his Gospel, which we recognized as a “cosmically” oriented Gospel, showing the cosmic nature of the ministry of Christ Jesus on Earth through three solar cycles of the entire zodiac. These events, the formation of the first Christian Community outside of Palestine after Golgotha, the writing of the Gospel and the conversion of Ormuz and the Isis Cult to a Christian Cult, are deeply significant in the preparation for the individuals who became Templars in the 12th and 13th centuries.

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There were several mysteries of Esoteric Christianity that were the goal of Christian Initiates during the time of The Templars : The Peter, James and John mysteries. The Peter and James initiation and mysteries involved visiting the respective tombs in Rome and Santiago. The Petrine mysteries involved Faith, the James mysteries involved Hope. As an aside, it is quite interesting that The Templars gravitated to Northern Spain on the Way of St James on the path of the stars, more commonly known as The Camino de Santiago de Compostela to create their kingdom, and placed so many Black Madonnas in that region. The John or Johannine Mysteries are the mysteries of the future, which involve love.

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There are many many perceptions as to what inspired the Crusades and the formation of the Knights Templar. They range from getting rid of the out of control knights to creating trade routes for spices. The socio-cultural reasons are multifold, but stem from a basic revulsion of the population over the corruption of the institutionalized church and the monarchy. The emerging merchant economy was in direct opposition to the economics set out by Paul in the New Testament. Christianity was all about universalism and equality, and the concept of Christian Community was in direct opposition to the emergence of classes and the monarchy owning land forcing everyone else into serfdom. A major reason for the monastic movement was a renunciation of Roman Christianity. There were so many orders being formed that Rome actually put a moratorium on new communities, which you can learn more about when Francis and Clare started their respective movements.

As both the monarchies as well as the institutionalized church became more organized, the corruption of both created a longing in the general population for the original apostolic fervor of those heady days of early Christianity. Anti Rome sentiment was rampant at the time, people were searching for a Christianity that was not corrupted by institutions, money and secular power. The spiritual impulse of the Crusades was also the formation of an individual ego and individualistic thinking. It was thought if people could get to where the event of Golgotha occurred, then it would purify both the Monarchs as well as the Papacy. So there was that great proclamation by Urban II in 1095 which mobilized Western Europe to go on the first Crusade. The rest as they say is history, and most of it quite awful as the ideals got quite lost in the process and the Crusades became a money making and property confiscating business for several hundred years afterwards. In fact, one secular historian theorizes the biggest outcome of the Crusades was the entire practice of indulgences, which sparked the Reformation and so on. But then, as Steiner has told us, the Crusades were a preparation for the Age of Consciousness Soul, our epoch, and the buying and selling of grace has been since the Crusades, lucrative to say the least.

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Both Steiner and materialistic historians say that there were anywhere from five to nine original knights that spent nine years in Jerusalem before returning to Europe to begin an official order along with recruitment for the community. Steiner gives some indication as to what they were doing in their lodgings under the Temple Mount. The Horse stables of the structure to be exact.

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What I have found to be quite fascinating is that the area where the Temple Mount stands, was the site of a very ancient spring, which was associated with the ancient Semitic Goddess Asherah. We read about Asherah in the Old Testament, and interestingly enough, in the Book of Mormon she is also mentioned in a vision as a precursor to the Virgin Mary and infant Jesus. It was a big shock to me, and has been hotly debated in religious as well as academic circles the fact that there was a Hebrew, or Semetic Goddess, a consort to Yaweh, but recent excavations in Israel have shown ancient temples with pillars, one taller than the other, where images of Yaweh on the taller and Asherah on the shorter one, stood.

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Steiner tells us that the Templars conducted many rituals and initiations surrounding the Grail, the Divine Sophia and Esoteric Christianity during their original tenure at the Temple Mount. Steiner goes on to say that the original envoy of the Holy Grail was The Templars. They established their initial activities and lodgings on the Temple devoted to Wisdom. Their main task was to create a Christian Culture for the Future, our current and future epochs to be specific. The great question was and is, How is Christianity to be taken up in modern times?

Steiner tells us what inspired The Templars:

“We understand what The Templars professed, what their secret cult meant. They recognized the Christ as the Church of Rome represents him has no meaning for them. They however, proclaim the Christ who went around in Jerusalem and who received his initiation from John the Baptist”

The initiation of The Templars consisted of two components:

1) A teaching from the direct source of Esoteric Christianity separate from all traditions of the institutionalized church.

2) A teaching that was related to the Old Mystery Knowledge regarding Star and Nature Wisdom

Their initiation required a total surrender to Christ, to fill their hearts and souls with the Mystery of Golgotha, and to bring the holy places where Christ Dwelt on Earth into the European Christian World.

Some may argue that occupying the Holy Land so Pilgrims could visit the sites may not have been the best way to do this, but The Templars were highly successful in taking such consciousness and practices into Europe through Templar Mystery Schools (such as at Chartres) Cathedrals and their economic practices.

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The Templars gave Mary the Mother of Jesus a central place of their devotion. This may have been encouraged by the author of their order, Bernard of Clairvaux. Half of the prayers The Templars recited every day were to the Virgin Mary. The Templars considered Mary as the beginning of their order. As envoys of the Grail, the cup that contained the blood of Christ, and Mary as the being who birthed the Christ Child, we can see the connection there. Steiner goes on to say that

“When one follows the teachings of The Templars, one finds at the center of the worship a female being, this feminine being was called the Divine Sophia or Divine Wisdom.”

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Near the end of the European dominion over the Crusader States, Jerusalem in particular, an interesting event occurred. King Lalibela of Ethiopia was exiled to Jerusalem while a dynastic civil war raged in his homeland. I invite everyone to read the exhaustive overview of this history in *The Sign and the Seal* by Graham Hancock. The Reader's Digest Version is that the history of Ethiopia is tied up with the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon of Israel. The Ethiopian version of this legend is found in the *Kebra Nagast*, a holy book of Ethiopia considered a national epic of the nation, and documents how the Queen of Sheba who they call Makeda, and the land of Sheba which is now called Ethiopia, traveled to Jerusalem to seek council with King Solomon.

In the *Kebra Nagast*, the story goes that the two fell in love, got married and conceived a son named Menilek who was born in Sheba/Ethiopia when his mother returned to her nation. At age 18, Menilek went to visit his father who welcomed him with open arms and showered him with gifts. Menilek decided to return to Sheba and Solomon showered him with gifts and also gifted him the sons of all of the ministers of his court. These sons were none too happy, and decided to steal the Ark of the Covenant and take it with them on the journey to Sheba. Halfway to his homeland, Menilek discovered the theft and insisted the group of advisors return the Ark to Jerusalem. They refused on the count that they would be executed as soon as they entered Jerusalem, so it was decided to take the Ark to Sheba where it has been guarded by special priests ever since. I know my fellow Anthroposophists may find this tale a bit difficult to take considering Rudolf Steiner's series on The Temple Legend, and for me personally, I remember reading in the Bible that anyone who touched the Ark would be struck dead, as well as don't you think the priests in Solomon's Temple might have noticed it was missing, but this is the story for all to read. The Ark of the Covenant is still considered a national treasure in Ethiopia with yearly festivals and many rituals enacted in Coptic churches throughout the nation.

So we go forth to Jerusalem in about 1150 or thereabouts, keep in mind that Jerusalem fell to Saladin in 1187. In 1150'ish Lalibela exiled to Jerusalem while a dynastic civil war was raging in his homeland. This had to do with who was next in line of succession and if that person could trace their lineage to Menilek. The Kings at the time were Baldwin III, Almaric and Baldwin IV. Since Lalibela was a monarch, he was a guest of the Kings of Jerusalem. While there is no specific proof of iterations or correspondence between The Templars and Lalibela, it is assumed that paths must have crossed at some point in Lalibela's 20 year exile in Israel. Lalibela returned to Ethiopia some time before his coronation in 1181. Legend states that he had a dream at some point, where he witnessed the fall of Jerusalem, and had another experience where he lost consciousness for three days. Some legends state he died, but in both accounts during his three days, he encountered Angels who told him to build a New Jerusalem near the capital of Aksum. Lalibela awoke from his three day experience, and followed the instructions of the Angels. The rock hewn churches which are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and destination for Coptic Christians in the region is the result.

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Graham Hancock examined the history and actual site and structures of Lalibela in his book *The Sign and The Seal*. I am quoting his research, not verbatim but summarizing it. Hancock has pictures in his book of Templar Crosses carved into some of the Rock Hewn Churches. He also has a picture of a SATOR square of the Pater Noster, or the Lord's Prayer in Latin. When Hancock asked locals how the churches were built, the stock answer was "the Angels built them." Historically, this had also been the answer, that pale faced, red haired angels built the churches, which were very different architecturally, more gothic in style, than the Ethiopian architecture of the 13th century.

Now here comes the "Stephanie Part." I feel based on the legends and timing of Lalibela's return to Ethiopia, along with the Templar Crosses carved into some of the Churches, that a group of Templars accompanied Lalibela on his return to Ethiopia. I believe that due to all of these phenomena, that the Templars were involved in the building, or carving of the Rock Hewn Churches and went with Lalibela because of the tradition surrounding the Ark of the

Covenant, and the ties of the royal dynasty to King Solomon and Queen of Sheba. As we know from many sources, The Templars were very curious and adept at studying many different scientific orientations. Their curiosity may also be a reflection of their prior lifetimes as well as what they were observing across the threshold before their Medieval incarnation. In fact, this curiosity and application of what they learned from many non Christian traditions caused great suspicion because of their collaboration with Islamic scholars of the day who were living in the Crusader States as well as Jerusalem. We see the sacred geometry of Islam throughout gothic architecture, specifically in cathedrals, and in cathedrals where Templars were the patrons. The strength of The Templars is that they were aware of what they did not know and wanted to learn from the best of the best in terms of things like medicine, architecture, science and mathematics. After a series of losses in the Crusader States following Jerusalem, this collaboration with Islamic scholars was used to spread distrust for The Templars before their ultimate collapse in 1307.

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Many of you are familiar with Chartres Cathedral near Paris. This was a Templar Mystery School, and full of very interesting as well as beautiful art, sculpture and stained glass windows. It is also the home to a couple of Black Madonnas, one who has been painted over as an act of enlightened artistic expression, much to the chagrin of pilgrims the world over. In any case, what is interesting in our discussion is the presence and prominence of The Queen of Sheba at the cathedral . She is represented in several Jamb statues at different portals. We also see a carving on the ark of the covenant being carried on a wagon.

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What I find most intriguing is the reliquary of the relic of Chartres, the birth shawl of the Virgin, looks quite a bit like the Ark of the Covenant.

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Now we will go to an interesting map of the world, where we can see direct lines connecting Chartres, Jerusalem and Aksum/Lalibela in Ethiopia. But before we do this, we need to examine what is in the center of the plaza at St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. What is most interesting is the connector for all of what we will see is the Wind Rose Compass at the Vatican, that is a compass connecting all sacred sites of Christendom throughout the world. At the center is an obelisk which the Romans stole from Heliopolis, which is a city dedicated to the God Apollo.

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The interesting thing is that a lovely triangle is created when each of these sites are connected. You can see that Chartres, Jerusalem and Lalibela/Aksum when connected form a triangle. Aksum is the legendary home of the Ark of the Covenant, and Lalibela, the New Jerusalem is very near there.

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The question of why humanity was created, and the great question that all of us contemplate in many ways is why we are here. This question has occupied humanity as long as we have been present on this planet. The question really is the crux of our relationship with the Spiritual World to be honest. All spiritual traditions have creation stories which show the promise, the purpose and the falling away from that purpose. In our case of the Christ Mysteries, we know that the entire mystery involves the reestablishment of the original purpose of Humanity within the Cosmos. Rudolf Steiner outlines this beautifully in Occult Science, stating that humans were created to be the 10th hierarchy, and we are the catalyst through our freedom to help transform the Cosmos of Wisdom into the Cosmos of Love.

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I feel The Templars understood this deep Christ mystery, and they also knew Humanity was nowhere near ready. The Templars understood that it takes wisdom to birth love. If you look at many of the Black Madonna Statues brought by The Templars, they show the Virgin as Wisdom upon her throne with the divine Child, Love Incarnate on her lap. The Templars were emissaries and envoys of the Grail, the chalice that held the healing substance that renewed the entire planet, planet Earth. I would agree that the following statement will be a bit difficult to see at present, but Earth is the Planet of Love, it is here that love is cultivated. In order to love, there must be freedom, and to have freedom, evil fosters that. Obviously , many choose evil, but many many many more choose love, the universal Agape that is our collective future.

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The Templars were placing the seeds for the future. The third Initiation I mentioned in the beginning of our talk was the St John initiation. This is the Sophianic initiation of Love, Wisdom transformed into Love. Walter Johannes Stein states that this initiation has to do with the World Economy, an economy governed by Christian Love as a preparation for the Age of Philadelphia.

I find it absolutely fascinating that all of the threads between Chartres, Jerusalem and Lalibela were connected by The Templars, who in ages past and across the threshold witnessed the passing of Star Wisdom of Sheba to Solomon, the collaboration of the Evangelist Mark and Ormuz to create a transformed Isis Cult into a Christian Mystery Cult, where the Gospel of Mark is the Cosmic Gospel, I feel The Templars were in search of Divine Wisdom when they inhabited the Temple Mount, when they heard of the Ark of the Covenant Legend of Lalibela and helped to construct the “New Jerusalem” in Ethiopia. It is of note that the coming age of Aquarius is that of The Waterman, and that age is the age of Philadelphia, the 6th post Atlantean Epoch where we will fine tune our ability to love one another.

When we look at population demographics and sociological transformation of Global trends, Christianity is flourishing in the Global South, particularly in Africa.

I leave you with this quote from Rudolf Steiner, which is I feel on par with this Season of St John's leading up to Christmas and the Holy Nights:

The Coming of a John/Aquarius who would first confirm the Old John and announce a Christ who would renew the Temple once the great point of time, should have arrived when Christ will again speak to humanity- This was taught in the depths of the Temple Mysteries so the event could be understood. Moreover The Templars said: Today we live at a point of time when humanity is not yet ripe for understanding the great teachings, we still have to prepare them for the Baptist John."

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How do we prepare a way for the Lord? That is the question I leave you

Resources

The Sign and the Seal by Graham Hancock

Paths of the Christian Mysteries, *The New Mysteries*, *The Wisdom of Christ*, and *Thinkers Saints, Heretics Spiritual Paths of the Middle Ages* all by Virginia Sease and Manfred Schmidt Brabant

The Temple and the Grail by W. F Veltman

Mary and Sophia by Michael Debus

The Templars and the Assassins: The Militia of Heaven by James Wasserman

The Templars: The History and the Myth and *The Tragedy of The Templars: The Rise and Fall of the Crusader States* both by Michael Haag.

The Sacred Towers of the Axis Mundi: True History Revealed by Bradbury Cort Lindahl

Did God Have a Wife? Archeology and Folk Religion in Ancient Israel by William G. Dever

Various Steiner Lectures all on The Templars.

The Templars GA 171, Dornach 17 October 1916

Inner Impulses of Evolution: The Mexican Mysteries and the Knight Templar GA 171 Several Lectures from September 16 - October 1, 1916

The Knights Templar, The Mystery of the Warrior Monks by Rudolf Steiner compiled by Margaret Johnas Rudolf Steiner Press 2007

Isis Mary Sophia Her Mission and Ours by Rudolf Steiner, Introduction by Christopher Bamford Steiner Books 2009