

## ***The Camino as a Path of Modern Initiation*** presented by Stephanie Georgieff

Those in ancient times and up to the Renaissance saw the earth and the human each to be a miniature of the cosmos. The earth was seen to have been “imprinted” on various levels by the fixed stars, the planets and the galaxy in general. In the course of evolution, we understand that from the sacred unity there was a great cosmic bursting forth as well as a series of separations which have created the universe as we know it. There was, as a result of the Fall of Man, a divine plan set in motion for the education and maturation of Humanity. This resulted in a gradual separation and dimming of the consciousness of the natural and spiritual world from Humanity. As the separation widened and humans became more independent, the need for religion arose, as well as the points where the Spiritual World could communicate more directly, often with only a select group of “elite” representatives of a community, with the general population.

The communications from the Spiritual World were called “Mysteries” and the points or locations of communication were called “Mystery Centers.” At these locations, specific era appropriate messages and lessons would be revealed to the group of elites in a form of ordeals which we call initiation. The best examples of these centers and their activity are from the Hibernian Mysteries, the Eleusinian Mysteries and The Oracle of Delphi. These centers and mysteries were the nature of the human divine relationship in the Semi Old and Semi New Mysteries as outlined by Steiner. We are entering a new phase of the Mysteries, specifically as a result of the Christ Event on Golgotha.

The rending of the veil in the Temple of Jerusalem at the time of the crucifixion is symbolic of the change in the relationship between Humanity and Divinity as a result of Golgotha. Before Golgotha, only a select few initiates who had gone through specific ordeals could receive messages from Divinity. After Golgotha, in fact immediately upon Christ giving up his earthly body, the relationship between Humanity and Divinity changed. Since that moment, all of Humanity has had a direct relationship with Divinity once again, there is no select group of initiates. Life itself became the path of initiation. The Christian Initiation would be our new path towards awareness and openness with Divinity. The difference in the nature of initiation from the old mysteries, is in this new direct relationship that develops out of our own initiatives, our will to be specific. Now, we must out of our own efforts (our wills) and our own capacity to think freely and independently allow our experience in our lives to bring awareness of the mysteries of the universe. We now must reach out and connect with the Spiritual World. Christ’s deed has allowed for our intellect, our thinking to be individualized as well as internalized from within and we are to reconnect through this manner, so we can be open to life as a path of initiation.

The Camino as a path of initiation is an ancient remnant and recognition of the relationship between the earth and the stars. Heinz Kaminski outlines this relationship in his book *Sternenstrasse der Vorzeit Von Stonehenge nach Atlantis (Star Routes of Antiquity from Stonehenge to Atlantis)* He reports through his research that at least 4000 years before Christ, all regional cultic (mystery) centers on earth were joined through a network of paths or roads, which was a reflection of the star network of the heavens. It is also important to recognize that the Camino is actually quite a vast network of star paths, which blankets most of Europe. The prominent paths are in Spain and France, but there are also paths through Portugal, Switzerland, Poland, Germany, Ireland and England.

He relates three great star routes on Europe

- 1) The network of Northern Spain from Cape Finisterre through Compostela
- 2) Through Brittany
- 3) The South of England

Kaminski reports that the spiritual leaders in Megalithic eras traveled to the most important sites along these routes. At this time, the most sought after path was the NorthWest Iberian Peninsula, which is known today as The Santiago de Compostela. Vezelay is an important point on the network, interestingly this is the spot where Bernard of Clairveaux preached the need for the Second Crusade. Chartres, Troyes, Glastonbury and other shrines of note are positioned on the star routes. For me personally, the fact that there are so many Christian shrines and cathedrals along these routes shows the evolution of the mysteries, from ancient to modern and the Christianization of the mysteries.

Steiner tells us that the Templars were adept students of the correlation between the heavens and the earth, the earth star connection. It is of great note the pattern of grand Templar cathedrals in France which follow the correspondence between the earth and the pattern of the Virgo Constellation. Of great note is the correspondence between Chartres and the star in the Belt of the Virgin called Porrima. Porrima is the goddess of head first birth. Chartres is the home to a Templar Mystery School which studied the Natura Mysteries and also is a celebration of birth and human thinking and vocation.

For our consideration, the location of the Northern Route of the Camino which is on the Iberian Peninsula is of particular symbolism. During the Arab incursions of Iberia which occurred starting in the early 8th century, the one location that was not taken over was Northern Spain. This region remained Christian throughout the Arab domination of the southern three quarters of the

peninsula. The Templars were key strategic allies of the reconquest of the Peninsula. So important was their participation that King Alphonso of Aragon (1073 - 1134) left his entire kingdom to the Knights Templar and Hospitallers after his death. There were challenges to his will, but in the end, the Templars were able to secure large swaths of land and castles throughout the Iberian Peninsula, specifically in the region of the Northern Camino.

Before the reign of Alphonso I, some of the first agents of the Reconquest realized the spiritual and religious significance of the Camino. Charlemagne declared that a pilgrimage along the Camino should be undertaken as part of the spiritual deeds needed to reclaim Europe from the Muslim Arab incursions. Alphonso X of Castile (1221 - 1284) was a particular fan of the Camino, also commanding that the pilgrimage be undertaken for the sake of Christian Europe. He was so devout, he actually created an entire book of poems about the Virgin Mary and the Camino called *The Canticle of Maria*.

The Knights Templar were born of the Crusades. Their entire tenure (1118 - 1307) was during the main era of the Crusades (1098 - 1291). Steiner tells us that the era of the Crusades was the preparation for the Age of Consciousness Soul. We know through both Steiner as well as the chroniclers of the Middle Ages that there were nine original Knights that founded the Templars. Modern scholars debate this number, mainly because much of the history of the Templars written in the Middle Ages was done years after the actual events. The significance of the number Nine is that in Medieval numerical symbolism, Nine was considered an incorruptible number, because no matter how many times it is multiplied, it continues to reproduce itself in the sum of its digits (eg.  $2 \times 9 = 18$  and  $1 + 8 = 9$  and so on....) Nine represents the idealistic nature of the Templars.

Steiner tells us that the ancient mystery traditions in the North and East of Spain are from the Jupiter and Venus mystery traditions respectively. He paints a very interesting picture of these traditions in a lecture cycle called *Initiation Science*.

Jupiter is the tradition which inhabited the land encompassing the traditional Camino route in Northern Spain. Steiner tells us that in relation to the other planets, Jupiter is the cosmic thinker. The spirits that inhabit Jupiter receive the creative thoughts of the Universe, and reflects these thoughts in thought forms. Jupiter concerns itself with the present but in a living way. Jupiter reveals its mystery to those who think for themselves and in the proper way, but the revelation or mysteries of Jupiter are only open to those who have clear, active and light-filled thinking. Steiner says that if someone is trying to solve a problem, when they get stuck and can not find a resolution, if they "sleep on it," and somehow come up with a solution, it was the spirits of Jupiter that came

to them in their sleep providing insights and thoughts for the answers. The cycle of Jupiter is 12 years, which is a perfect rhythm for aiding in human wisdom. Saturn takes 28 - 30 years, which is a long time, but a 12 year cycle which allows for the timely development of wisdom for most people, and allows for the accumulation of wisdom in the present. These mysteries are what I would call quite useful for those going on a Pilgrimage along the Northern Camino.

Student of Rudolf Steiner, Edouard Schure in his landmark book *Great Initiates* gives some insights on the Jupiter Mysteries through his research on the Temple of Jupiter on Mount Kaoukaion. He relates the importance of the Orpheus saga, but also that the Jupiter Mysteries focus on the necessity of recognizing both the Mother and Father gods as needed for creation. The mysteries of heaven and earth, the divine husband and wife, masculine and feminine are reflected and needed for creation. Most interesting is the statement “Look at the firmament, see the shining circle of constellations over which the filmy veil of the Milky Way is thrown, this is the body of the divine wife who is revolving in celestial harmony to the songs of the husband.” For me personally, I find this aspect of the Jupiter Mysteries an interesting reference to the dual vows of the Templars, that of monastic (feminine) and knightly (masculine) vows.

The Venus Mysteries are of great significance when considering the path along the East of Spain, where Montserrat is located. Steiner tells us that Venus is withdrawn from the universe. Venus actually rejects information and relations with the other planets as she feels it will sully her “virginity” as he calls it. Venus is completely interested and focused on Earth, and considers Earth as her lover. Venus carries all of the secrets of Earth’s soul, and every human heart and soul is reflected in Venus. Venus mirrors and transforms through dreams, and brings light into everything that comes to her. Venus is recognized to be the great inspiration of poets, and her orbit sphere is the dream state.

For me it is very significant that the Black Madonnas were placed all along the Camino by the Templars. As an image of the Human Soul, for me the Black Madonnas show how the Spiritual World views Humanity. The fact that they were placed along the Camino during the era of the Crusades is also significant. We understand that the Crusades were the age for the preparation of the Age of Consciousness Soul, a time where we need to develop that aspect of ourselves individually and collectively to be awake, to think and discern independently and reach out in full freedom to the Spiritual World to co-create a new Cosmos of Love.

Life now is the initiation, we are all “elites” and chosen to receive the mysteries of the universe, of the Spiritual World. The veil has been torn in two, the relationship is open, but only to those who seek. Our era has a great mystery of evil, which is to be understood and transformed. We can not have true freedom without evil, because we must be presented with choices in order to exercise our

freedom. Our era is difficult and painful. We are encountering a level of evil unleashed upon the planet as never before, and while some instances such as the Holocaust are glaringly evident, evil is also subtle in many instances, and requires great vigilance, courage and endurance to face in full consciousness.

I feel this current difficult task is recognized through the Black Madonna and her somber face, her narrative of woundedness, of endurance under seemingly insurmountable odds, through fires, floods, revolutions, violence, she endures, she heals. For me this is a recognition from the Spiritual World that we humans, in spite of our many failures and shortcomings, the Spiritual World believes in us and was (and is) sending messages to Humanity that they believe in us and our capabilities. When one looks at all the efforts and events that have been set into place throughout the ages, creation, evolution, the cycles of revelation, the Christ Event, all of that, would the Spiritual World have gone to all that trouble if they did not think we Humans were worth it? Would they have gone to all that trouble if they did not think we were up to the challenge?

When we look at the location of the placement of the Black Madonnas along the path of initiation, the ancient traditions of the land, and the message and timing they bring through the Templars (whom I consider the emissaries of the Age of Consciousness Soul) I feel the Gods are speaking volumes through these works of art. The path of modern initiation, in our daily lives as well as along the star paths connecting the transformed mystery centers of old, I hear messages of hope, of companionship and encouragement for our times. I believe the Templars knew what was coming, and were trying to create a civilization that could contain the Christ but also to perceive Christ in the Etheric through the purposeful placement of the Black Madonna along the Camino. This realization on my part answers the original question as to why the Black Madonnas were carried from the Holy Land and Africa to be placed along the Camino by the Templars.

Some notable Black Madonnas on the Camino throughout Europe

Einsiedeln, Częstochowa, Chartres, Montserrat, Our Lady of the Pillar in Zaragoza

The message from the Gods is that we are not alone, and we are worthy and much treasured members of the Cosmic community, our task in our modern era is to believe in ourselves, to forge moral imaginations, to do the work of goodness and pick up our pallet and go forward in love and moral action to meet the tasks ahead.

*The Black Madonna Mysterious Soul Companion* available on Audible, Kindle, Amazon, Barnes and Noble

*The Virgin of Guadalupe, Mysterious Messenger of Destiny* available Audible, Kindle, and Amazon

Stephanie is releasing chapters from her book on *Byzantium and The Black Madonna* through Patreon on a weekly basis, after this she will release chapters weekly on forthcoming books *Wisdom from the South, Sacred Origins of Africa and the Black Madonna*, and *As Above, So Below The Black Madonna as Transformation of the Cosmos* . Chapters are benefits for all levels of Patreon Membership.

Become a Patron for the channel at <https://www.patreon.com/TheBlackMadonnaSpeaks>

To purchase Black Madonna Speaks extra content, please visit

<https://www.patreon.com/theblackmadonnaspeaks/shop>

Itinerary for The Black Madonna Tour of Northern Spain, October 3 - 17 2025

<https://blackmadonnaheart.blogspot.com/2024/07/transformative-darkness-recovering.html>

To receive updates on The Transformative Darkness with the Black Madonna 2025 Tour

<https://forms.gle/DpmFsv28SxyraM7k7>

To make a one time donation of any amount to support the podcast, please donate to

<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/BlackMadonnaHeart>

## Resources

*Earth Grids: The Secret Patterns of Gaia's Sacred Sites* by Hugh Newman

*A Guide to Leylines, Earth Energy lines, Nodes & Large Vortexes* by Rory Duff

*Mystery Knowledge and Mystery Centers* (CW 232) by Rudolf Steiner. This is available online through the Rudolf Steiner Archive, on Rudolf Steiner Audio, on Kindle as well as paperback through various book sellers.

*Paths of the Christian Mysteries from Compostela to the New World.* By Virginia Sease and Manfred Schmidt Brabant

*The New Mysteries and The Wisdom of Christ* by Virginia Sease and Manfred Schmidt-Braban

*Star Routes of Antiquity from Stonehenge to Atlantis* by Heinz Kaminsky. (German only, out of print)

World Pilgrimage Guide <https://sacredsites.com/>

*The Great Initiates A Study of The Secret History of Religions* by Édouard Schuré

*Old and New Mysteries From Trials to Initiation* by Bastian Baan

*Karmic Lectures Volume III* by Rudolf Steiner

*From Jesus to Christ* by Rudolf Steiner

*Christianity as Mystical Fact* by Rudolf Steiner

*The Ten Commandments* GA 108 by Rudolf Steiner

*Alfonso X, the Learned, 'Cantigas de Santa Maria': An Anthology* edited by Stephen Parkinson

*The Knights Templar : Mystery of the Warrior Knights* GA 171 by Rudolf Steiner (collection of various lecture cycles from different dates) compiled by Margaret Jones

*Initiation Science: And the Development of the Human Mind* (CW 228) by Rudolf Steiner Translated by Anna e. Muess