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GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sir Knights,

As we all seek Light, which is a never-ending journey, and all Eminent Commanders are charged to impart it, I will take the lead and share some excerpts from a book on the original Knights Templar titled “The Templars: The Secret History Revealed” by Barbara Frale.

Bernard of Clairvaux, a renowned abbot and mystic is credited with writing the Templar Rule or Code of Honor (In Praise of the New Knighthood). Many of the following bits and pieces are derived from the Code or other contemporary sources listed in the book.

“God chose these servants, gathering them together from the ends of the earth, from among the strongest of Israel, in order to carefully and loyally protect the bed of the true Solomon, that is, the Sepulchre, all furnished with swords and expert in the art of war.”

“An Arab chronicler of the time, Emir Usama ibn Munqidh, provides this portrait of the nobility of the Holy Land: ‘... there is no human virtue that they appreciate more than valor, and no one has prominence of high rank except the knights, the only persons among them with valor. It is they who give counsel, judge, and command...’”

“Whoever you are, knight of Christ, you who have made such a lofty religious choice, in order to keep faith with your vows you will have to give proof of your great will and firmness. And if you succeed, with purity and perseverance, you will have merited your place among the martyrs who gave their lives in the name of Christ. In this order chivalry is reborn and flourishes...”

“No one must leave his position without the permission of his commander, not even if he is wounded; and if he finds himself unable to request leave, he must send a comrade to do it for him. And if by chance it should happen that the Christians are defeated – God save us! – no brother must leave the field of battle as long as the banner of the Temple is still flying, and anyone in violation will be expelled forever from the order. When a brother sees that the Templar banner has fallen, he must go to the first banner of the Hospitallers or other Christian combatants that he is able to find; and if they too should go down in defeat, then he shall be free to save himself as God may advise him to do.”

This is just a sliver of what our ancient Brethren vowed to uphold. I encourage you to read this book or others to learn more about the Knights that we model ourselves after.

Thank you for your service to Templary.

In the name of our Blessed Emmanuel, may Peace be with You.

Courteously,
SK Kevin McCans, KTCH
Grand Commander