



Masonry and the Conspiracy Theory¹

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The Masonic rituals have as their core the well-known myth of Hiram. Three companions envied the great master Hiram and wanted to know from him the master's "secret." They hid into the Temple, at three of the cardinal points. Hiram entered the Temple through the western gate; then, he tried to exit through the southern gate, but the worker hiding there attacked him. Hiram ran to the northern gate and again, the second companion confronted him. Eventually, the great master looked for escape at the eastern gate, yet the third worker was waiting and he killed his master. After seven days, King Solomon started an investigation, and Hiram's vanished corpse was found and brought to the Temple.

Through this myth, Free-Masonry established itself as a direct heir of the "Solomonic" tradition.

The waning of operative Masonry and the waxing of the speculative one occurred at the beginning of the 14th century, at the same time as the brutal obliteration of the Templars. Also then, in 1313, a papal bull dismantled, at Lyon, the "pontiff brothers" guild, and in 1326, the Council of Avignon interdicted all confraternities outside the Church. The "one hundred years war" ratified the change of cycles and, after its end, we may say that operative Masonry, even if it maintained a long agonizing survival, especially through the *Compagnonage*, lost its reason to be. The operative secret, though, did not disappear so easily, but was transmitted further and, as surprising as this would seem, some Masonic symbols were saved by the art of typography, which was just instituted as a guild.

It seems that in the 16th century, "amateurs" started to be currently "accepted" into operative Masonic Lodges, yet without doubt, clerics, physicians and knights had been members much earlier. Whatever might have been the cause of the "accepted masons'" admittance, we note that the Masonic craft was "chosen" to support further the initiatory vocation.

We use here the words "initiation" and "initiatory" as representing a spiritual effort to climb from the state of "materialistic" man to that of "spiritual" one, where Knowledge and Love are together in front of the Great Architect of the Universe.

While the initiatory possibilities of the other crafts died, Free-Masonry was reorganized, inheriting the symbols and the spiritual data of operative Masonry, adding to these the

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initiatory vestiges of Chivalry. The Protestants had an important role in the foundation of modern Masonry. This should be related to the Rosicrucian movement, which tried to inspire, without success, a “reformation” of the decaying Christian society. It seems that after the genuine Rose-Cross retreated to Asia (shortly before speculative Masonry was founded), what remained in Europe were some traces of Rosicrucianism that replaced the lost initiatory and spiritual kernel with “morality” and “humanitarian” views.

In the 18th century, both in England and France the Grand Lodges were created and the Scottish Rite was introduced. At the same time, baron Hundt, in Germany, founded the Strict Observance. This Masonic turmoil, started in the 18th century, intermingled with other “esoteric” waves, more or less profound and legitimate; and here we can find the origins of the modern “occultism” (or “new-age”) and pseudo-initiation, since at this time there was a proliferation of various pseudo-traditional and pseudo-spiritual societies, which will play an important role in the development of the Great Disarray in our secular world.

Today, for the modern world, Masonry has nothing to do with operative Masonry and initiation. For the common people, Masonry is a male society, very mysterious, with secret rites, a kind of exclusive club. And for many, whose minds were infected by gossip and superstitions, Masonry is a huge net of conspirators and manipulators, aiming at world domination. Let us specify that the word “conspiracy” means “to breath together” and is related to words like inspiration, respiration, expiration.

In Sci-Fi literature, the aliens have one ambition: to become the masters of the terrestrial world; in the occultist, new-age and pseudo-esoteric texts, all the secret societies have an objective of governing the world. The great secret of the initiatory organizations, past or present, is, in the modern perspective, either a document, or a material treasure, or a proof regarding the right to govern the world.

With respect to the conspiracy theory, we might underline that it is one of the most efficient methods of using and manipulating historicism. It is something often encountered in daily individual life, a notorious tactic. If somebody breaks a china plate, rainy weather is responsible, or the kid who asks too many questions, or the bad score of the favorite team, something external, and never one’s own inability. It becomes serious when such an attitude extends from an individual to an entire nation. If a nation has problems, history and geography are responsible. And, within history it is easy to find scapegoats, true or false. One way is to blame predecessors. Usually a new government will declare from the beginning: “the past government transmitted to us a heavy heritage,” shifting the responsibility to others. A second way is to blame the neighbours (and here geography intervenes): often the neighbouring countries are potential enemies and they could be excellent scapegoats. The third way is the conspiracy theory: very efficient today, since one does not lie more than necessary; it mingles the truth and falsehood. Everything occurring in the world is a result of a fantastic conspiracy. For the weak and sentimental individuals, the conspiracy theory is the key for all the problems and evil things. Unfortunately, this is like saying that the dearest dream of a fish is to swim.

In other words, of course important individuals and organizations plan and create various scenarios years in advance. Even something trivial, like a trip, has to be planned in some

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way, if you want it to succeed. In the profane world, it would be surprising if it was different. Yet, this becomes very distressing when the conspiracy theory confuses the profane domain with the sacred one, the temporal world with the spiritual one; to accuse, for example, Jesus of conspiracy, suggesting that He tried to take the worldly throne of Israel goes beyond any admissible limits.

Today, there are innumerable conspiracy theories based not on traditional data or on the doctrine of the cosmic cycles found in all the dead or still alive traditional civilizations. We define as traditional the sacred data transmitted over centuries, not the modern and profane so called traditions (which change with fashion).

These theories take advantage mainly of the people's appetite for gossip and coffee shop secrets, and that is how the Maya doctrine of the cosmic cycles became a very lucrative swindle (the end of times in 2012!). As various individuals, when they meet, lack essential subjects to discuss and share all sorts of worldly "secrets," connected usually to the words and deeds of some specific characters ("celebrities" if possible), so the conspiracy theories deal with "secrets" on a historicist level, unveiling to the public all kind of historicist gossip and fabricated stories. And Free-Masonry, due to its nature, was used as a favourite element by the authors of these theories.

As an example, we mention two well-known theories: the first one pretends the existence of the so-called *Illuminati*, who were at the same time Masons, having as their objective the domination of the world; the second one refers to the *Protocols of the Elders of Sion*, related to the *Illuminati*. We have to strongly stress that both were despicable frauds!

The name *Illuminati* derives from the Bavarian "illuminati" of Weishaupt, an antitraditional ("devilish" in common language) sect that has nothing to do with genuine Masonry. Regarding the *Protocols of the Elders of Sion*, this is an old story, which has been revived again and again in the hope that maybe somebody would believe it. The "sources" plagiarized by these fake *Protocols* are: a pamphlet by Maurice Joly against Napoleon the third, published at Brussels in 1865; the novel **Biarritz** by Hermann Goedsche and the novel **Le Baron Jéhova** by Sidney Vigneaux, published at Paris, in 1886; the *Protocols* "borrowed" almost verbatim from these documents. The *Protocols* are a fake, but it does not mean that there was not a "plan" designed by the antitraditional, anti-spiritual and counter-initiatory [satanic] forces, which are linked with the Great Disarray of our materialistic world. The influence of "literature" in spreading this sort of antitraditional theories is remarkable, an influence that continues to act today.

For the common people, the existence of a secret organization always produced distrust and animosity, since, by definition, the public is based on all that is public and everything that is hidden and unknown irritates. The pleasure a tourist experiences in a castle or house when stepping inside the bedroom of a "celebrity" is also due to the opportunity to penetrate a "secret" and "intimate" place. Today, when nothing is considered "intimate" anymore, an organization like Masonry is difficult to accept. The mass-media's slogan, "the public has the right to know," is very well known. It is abused and used to hunt all sorts of gossip and intimacies and so-called "secrets," while, in fact, the information people need and have a right to know should be of a totally different nature. At the same time, the public is always focused on "uncommon" individuals (called today "celebrities"), exactly because they look different from the common people (who

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constitute the “public”). Therefore, a conspiracy theory, which implicates a secret famous organization, will have, obviously, much more success than an unknown one. Free-Masonry, with its links to Rosicrucians and Templars, represented an ideal target for the exponents of the conspiracy theory.

The obliteration of the Order of the Temple is a good example of the profane mentality’s reaction with regard to a secret organization. Generally speaking, in a society that has lost its traditional characteristic the idea of a “state inside the state,” that is, the existence of an autonomous group, having its own rules different from the official ones (yet not against the official laws governing that country), is inconceivable. Like Free-Masonry later, the Order of the Temple became unbearable and was destroyed. If Masonry survived (even if there were epochs when it was totally prohibited), that was due to the passage from “operative” to “speculative” and, especially in modern times, due to its opening to the world, where in its ranks were accepted many individuals who, in normal times, would not have a chance of becoming Masons without possessing the necessary qualifications. As speculative Masonry, the organization comprised among its members preeminent characters belonging to the government, either princes and kings or presidents, who assured its survival. Yet, it did not mean, as the Templars were accused of all types of absurd crimes, that Masonry did not suffer the same accusations (the “Morgan case” is well-known in North America). Correspondingly, the Templars’ rites and emblems were interpreted in a maleficent sense (or they were simply invented). And likewise, the Masonic pentagram was confused (maliciously or not) with a satanic insignia; yet the five-point star is a symbol of the Microcosms and only by degeneration did it begin to be used in some satanic ceremonies. And ironically, but also diabolically, during the last centuries, Masonry was accused of conspiracy!

Speculative Masonry, by its opening to the many, weakened, and allowed, because of this very weakness, a lot of so-called Masonic organizations, in fact counterfeit groups based on individual initiatives, to be born. We must say that the infiltration of the modern ideas, to the initiatory mentality’s detriment, made Masonry not one of the agents of the ‘conspiracy,’ but one of its first victims. If true Masonry is based on a regular and uninterrupted transmission (this is the true definition of “tradition”!), all the pseudo-Masonic societies and associations have a fantasist origin. Therefore, when some amateurish authors write that Masonry was an important factor in starting the French Revolution, for example, and they introduce the conspiracy theory, it is willingly forgotten that, in those times, in Germany, France, Russia, and Scandinavia, kings and princes were members of Free-Masonry, which made Queen Marie Antoinette exclaim: “Everybody is a Mason! So, where is the danger?” Yet the danger was not Masonry itself, but exactly the fact that “everybody is a Mason”; since, this “dilution” of Masonry was a true misfortune, which permitted the manifestation of deviated individuals (among whom, of course, were Masons belonging to the regular lodges) and of dubious and profane societies dressed in Masonic clothes. The Masonic terms “assembly” and “convention,” gestures and rituals, mode of organizing, were adopted by revolutionaries and are used today by political parties.

Also, a lot of amateurish “literature” focused upon the Masonic secret, inventing something sensational and corporeal, which could represent the “secret.” Yet,

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unfortunately for historicism, as much as we boast about the human imagination, its possibilities are limited to few scenarios.

Let us try to trace logically these scenarios. An option would be to consider Jesus an alien, and that the Templars and the Masons knew this secret. Yet there is nothing new here, since some decades ago a campaign was launched to convince the public that all the gods are aliens coming from other planets. Another option would be to consider the “secret” a precious document; yet in this case the “secret” is still unveiled. We can imagine that the document hides an even bigger secret: that, for example, the true God is the one worshiped by the Templars and not by the Catholic Church; this idea is a very old one, and the Gnostics used it. We might suppose that the Templars and the Masons were some sort of satanists, but we cannot see how this “secret” is a secret, when such accusations accompanied Christianity all along, and Jeanne d’Arc and the Templars were publicly punished for this very reason.

As we may note, there are not too many scenarios. Various authors have tried all these options and all their works, at the end, deflated since they could not unveil a secret sufficiently sensational to stand for a real “secret.” Not to say that we could ask the legitimate question: how, if it is a secret, the author could obtain it? But here intervenes our modern mentality since today nothing is secret; the news channels, the magazines unveil all kind of stupid so-called secrets; like somebody cares if, for example, the pope is in fact a woman or if the Russian president has three wives.

Coming back to literature, all the works had one element in common: they referred to Jesus and, more or less subtly, were against the Catholic Church. In fact, to write a best-seller regarding this subject it is enough to have at hand a list of keywords, such as: Gnosticism, Masonry, Templars, Grail, Knights of the Round Table, Rosicrucianism, Jesus, Jerusalem Church, Essenes, *Protocols of the Elders of Sion*, conspiracy theory, etc., and to connect them as cleverly as possible. Of course, it does not mean that the best-seller also has to tell the truth.

We witness today an explosion of this kind of literature.

A famous author, Nikos Kazantzakis, increased his fame by issuing a book called *The Last Temptation of Christ*. Of course, Jesus is presented as a “holy man,” yet as the Church insisted on his human nature, so others started to depict him not as a “holy man,” but as a simple and common human being; and the easiest way to erase the adjective “holy” was to describe him as an individual implicated in sexual and sentimental activities, since, it is well known that the visceral area, that of the desires, are the devil’s domain, and we can see today how there is no movie without sex or, if not, at least somebody is busy in the washroom (the director thinks that the public does not know what to do in a washroom, a secret that has to be told!).

The second subject is the Grail. We must stress from the beginning that, despite the historicist fantasies, the Holy Grail is not a corporeal vessel, hiding somewhere and covering some tenebrous secret. The Grail is a symbol; its sacred meaning alludes to the primordial Tradition, to the Lost Word, and to the divine Knowledge. Finding the Holy Grail crowns an initiatory quest, that is, a spiritual realization that occurs within the being. In the Christian tradition, “the quest of the Holy Grail,” like in Islam, has two components: an external one, regarding the heroic deeds of the knights, and an inner one,

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when the quest aims at the Heavenly Kingdom within us, that is, the divine presence in the Heart (*Emmanuel*), *Pax Profunda* in the center of the being.

The legend said that, after Adam fell from Paradise and lost the Grail, Seth was able to come back in the center, finding the holy vessel and restoring somehow the primordial order; from Seth to Christ it is not known by whom and how the Grail was transmitted further, the Celtic influence suggesting that maybe the Druids should be considered among the keepers of the Grail and of primordial Tradition. Today, there is a concerted attempt in the modern world to replace the true symbol of the Grail with a pure materialistic perspective, considering this vessel a very profane and corporeal “secret.” In fact, what the Grail is considered to be by modern mentality is purely and simply the Anti-Grail.

Literature promoted the Anti-Grail with strange stubbornness. Recent works with great public success, best-sellers, have usually combined the two subjects, Christ and Grail, on the one hand, because in the traditional texts the Grail is the Heart of Christ, and on the other hand, because it is more efficient, more devastating, and more shocking to desecrate not only Tradition but also the Lord of the World.

A book which produced a lot of sensation in the last two decades will help us to understand how this Anti-Grail campaign operates (Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, Henry Lincoln, *The Holy Blood and The Holy Grail*). We are not interested in the authors and the book as such, but only in the “mechanism” regarding the tradition’s desecration. We must observe from the beginning that the book is neither original, nor too well built, and it betrays the authors’ arrogance and ignorance. The work is based, of course, as in the case of Kazantzakis, on the Gnostic couple Jesus – Mary Magdalene, a couple which becomes purely human and profane, lacking any symbolism. The author implies in his hypothesis, in order to create perfect disarray, but also for the sake of an apparent mystery and profoundness, all the usual elements employed in such cases: the Gnostics and the Nag Hammadi manuscripts, Jesus’ kiss given to Mary Magdalene, the Cathars, Rosicrucians, Templars, the *Protocols of the Elders of Sion*, the Merovingians, and the Holy Grail. Each element is associated with a “secret.”

The serious reader is stunned at the unembarrassed manner in which the author passes from one “secret” to another, like in a television show; and the question emerges by itself: how it is possible that so many “secrets” (not just one!) were carefully kept across the centuries and then suddenly a modern author is able to find and decipher them. As we said, a secret organization, but really secret, does not leave traces, and for example, if a secret Order existed behind the Templars, nobody would have known about it, much less a common author. Obviously, at the end of the book the “secrets” proved to be nothing new. Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene (the wedding at Cana being their wedding!) and they had children. The Holy Grail is in fact “the royal blood” and represents the physical children of Jesus, who were saved by Mary Magdalene and taken to Provence, in the south of France. We observe here how the legend of the Saints Marys was plagiarized.

The legend tells that, after Christ’s crucifixion, some of his disciples, who were direct witnesses of His glory and power, were forced to leave the Holy Land. They were embarked, against their will, on a boat (without paddles or sails) and abandoned to the

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sea; the abandoned ones were: Mary Jacobé, Mary Salomé, Mary Magdalene, Lazarus and Martha, Maximinus and Sidonius (the blind from Jericho). The boat floated with them, reaching the shore at the mouth of the Rhône River, to a place which today is called Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer (Provence, France). From there, Mary Magdalene and the others spread the Word of the Lord in France, leaving behind only the two Marys, Salomé and Jacobé. Yet the story of the two Marys has an additional important episode. The legend says that, when they were forced to embark, a black maiden, Sarah, begged to be taken in the boat and, using Salomé's cloak as a boardwalk, she stepped, like Christ, on the waters, reaching the boat.

Very recently, the same phantasmagorias and absurdities were again considered in a work of fiction that quickly became a best-seller (Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code*). As other books, this one is obsessed with codes and ciphers, and the "initiatory secret" (of a pure spiritual nature), being something very materialistic, was hidden by anagrams and ciphers with an occult tint. Now, the Catholic Church is attacked directly. The Templars were considered the keepers of a "secret" used to blackmail the Vatican; of course, the name of the "secret" is *Sangreal*, the Holy Grail, representing a pile of compromising documents proving the humanity of Jesus and his lack of divinity. Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, *The Last Supper*, proves that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, because there the "beloved" disciple of Jesus looks like a woman, which is really stupid. Mary Magdalene is the real Grail; She is the vessel containing the "royal blood," that is, Jesus' children. And, sure, again the Gnostic text regarding Jesus' kiss is quoted. Then the legend of the Saints Marys and Sarah is introduced. Mary Magdalene, the book says, took shelter in the south of France where she gave birth to a daughter, Sarah (the gypsies would be amazed by this invention). It is somehow amusing to follow the author's effort to be credible and the manner in which he is betrayed by his own mentality, his ignorance and stupidity. He tells how in Jerusalem the Templars found four chests full of ancient documents describing Mary Magdalene's social status exactly (we are surprised that these documents were not written on a laptop).

We do not think we have to continue. The examples we have given are enough to illustrate the Great Disarray of our modern world: it is the time of the Anti-Grail, when individuals think to be gods, and the gods are brought down and changed into humans; in these times, the Masonic Lodge is a sacred place that should provide salvation, like Noah's Ark.