

Order of the Temple

The Third and Final Step in the Chivalric Orders

We congratulate you on your admission into the Order of the Temple and taking the third and final step on your journey of becoming a member of the Order of the Templar.

Your Objectives

Upon completion of the Order of the Temple material, you will be able to:

- Describe the early history of the Order of the Temple, both literally and allegorically.
- Describe the purpose of the Order of the Temple.
- Identify the elected and appointed officers of a Commandery of Knights Templar.
- Identify the symbols and emblems associated with the Order of the Temple.
- Complete the Order of the Temple examination.

Early history of the Order of the Temple

The Order of the Knights Templar also known as the Poor Knights (or Soldiers) of Christ and the Temple of Solomon was created in 1119 by a Champagne Knight named Huges de Paynes. (Eugene, 1984) Following the Benedictine Rule the Knights lived in chastity, obedience, and poverty, with the cause of protecting “the Holy Sepulcher and the pilgrims flocking to the Holy Land after the first crusade, and finally to guard the public roads leading there” (Eugene, p. 178). The Templar Rule was sanctioned by the Council of Troyes in 1128 and approved by Innocent II in 1139, owing its obedience only to its Grand Master and the Pope, being exempt from all other ecclesiastical jurisdiction. (Eugene, 1984) The Knights wore a long white cloak, and later added a red cross at the left shoulder. (Eugene, 1984) “The Order’s seal depicted two Knights riding together on one horse, thus recalling that first Master was so poor that he had to share a horse with another Knight” (Eugene, P. 178). The banner of the order was a red cross striped black and white, called a Baucant. (Eugene, 1984) “The Order was once greatly admired, feared and exploited by the political leaders of the West” (Eugene, p. 179). Due to its immense wealth the Knights began to observe political influence in Europe, they created and established the world’s first banking system, with its most important bank being at the Paris Temple establishing it as the center of the world’s money market. (Eugene, 1984) The Order became so wealthy that it loaned money to Kings to help fund the crusades and other wars, which is precisely what made them the target of the indebted King of France Phillip the Fair. (Eugene, 1984) “King Phillip set about perfidiously to suppress the power and wealth of the Templars, which he succeeded in doing in 1307 by ordering the arrest of all Knights in his realm” (Eugene,

p. 179). Additionally, the King of France demanded that all other princes follow his example, he also put pressure on the French Pope Clement V, causing him to suppress the Order in 1312. To Phillips surprise he was not gifted the Templars possessions as it was ordered by the Pope to be transferred to the Hospitallers. (Eugene, 1984)

According to legend, the Knights Templar discovered the greatest treasure in history buried in the ruins of King Solomon's temple, helping to create many Holy Grail and Ark of the Covenant theories. History tells us that on Friday October the Thirteenth in the year thirteen hundred seven, that when King Phillip moved to have the Templars arrested their entire fleet of eighteen ships had already sailed away. The evidence suggests that the Knights Templar survived in many different forms and many different places, two of which can be proved undeniably. In Portugal King Dinis protected the Order of the Temple by simply changing its name to the Order of Christ. (Eugene, 1984) In Scotland the Knights remained under the same name and banner as the King of Scotland, Robert The Bruce, was excommunicated from the church and did not have to acknowledge the Papal Bull suppressing the order, as in many other countries the Templars had Temples in throughout the non-Christian world.

Purpose of the Order of the Temple

The Masonic Order of the Temple in the United States has existed in one form or another for going on 239 years, since 1769. The original purpose of the Order of the Temple or Knights Templar was to protect the Holy Sepulcher and the pilgrims flocking to the Holy Land after the first crusade, and finally to guard the public roads leading there. The Masonic Order of the Temple or Knights Templar has a similar purpose which is to protect and defend the Christian faith.

Elected and Appointed Officers of a Commandery of

Knights Templar

• Commander	Elected
• Generalissimo	Elected
• Capitan General	Elected
• Senior Warden	Elected
• Junior Warden	Elected
• Prelate	Appointed
• Treasurer	Elected
• Recorder	Elected
• Standard Bearer	Appointed
• Sword Bearer	Appointed
• Warder	Appointed
• Sentinel	Appointed
• Guards (Also Hermits)	Appointed

Additionally outside of the Order of the Temple and moving to the organizational aspect, there are a few more elected and appointed positions depending on the level. In the Grand Encampment Level the elected position is that of Deputy Grand Master, in the Grand Commandery level its the Deputy Commander and both positions the Sir Knight is 2nd in command of the body. In the local level the Appointed position is called the Color Bearer who carries the American Flag.

Symbols and emblems associated with the Order of the Temple.

The Baldric: is the insignia of the Order, it bears a star in the centre of which is a passion cross, as used in Templary today is often referred to informally as a "sash" and is probably thought of by many Sir Knights as having a purpose similar to those worn by members of other Orders of Knighthood or merit, such as the sash at left for the French Legion of Honour. However, the earliest use of the baldric was not for mere decoration, but it served a more practical purpose for carrying a sword, dagger, or even a bugle or drum! A baldric (also spelled baldrick, bawdrick, or bauldrick) dates from ancient times. Known then by the term balteus, it was usually made of leather and was chiefly used to support the sword by both the Greeks and Romans. Since the sword commonly hung beside the left hip, its belt was supported by the right shoulder and passed obliquely across the breast. Although much of the weight of the sword rested on the hip, the shoulder strap provided extra support from the opposite side of the body. This added balance and comfort.

The Sword: is the weapon of the Knights Templar, containing three great qualities that should be remembered by every Sir Knight wielding it, Its hilt with Justice impartial, its blade with Fortitude undaunted, and its point with Mercy unrestrained. (Grand Encampment KT Ritual Book)

The Spur: is a white shield with a blood red Passion Cross covering most of the center of the shield. It is supposed to ever remind the Sir Knight wielding it of the zeal and activities of his duties and to ever remain faithful to the Order. (Grand Encampment KT Ritual Book)

Banners: The Knights Templar have two banners, the Grand Standard, and the Beauceant.

- **The Grand Standard:** is a white flag, in its centre of the field is a blood-red Passion Cross, over which is the motto of the Order. In Hoc Signo Vincas, under it is Non Nobis, Domine, Non Nobis: Sed Nomini Tuo Da Gloriam. "In this sign thou shalt conquer", "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory". (Grand Encampment KT Ritual Book).
- **The Beauceant:** was the battle flag of the Ancient Templars, consisting of half white and half black; signifying that they were fair and favorable to friends of Christ while terrible to all his potential enemies. The Sir Knight is told that it is to remind to ever emulate the self-sacrifice and devotion of his ancient Companions.
- **The Flag:** is the Flag of our Country or the Country of said Commandery. The Sir Knight is reminded that in every Templar Asylum it is placed in the East where it can be accorded the highest position of honor.

- **The Symbol:** of the Knights Templar is a cross and crown laid upon a cross pattee inscribed with “In Hoc Signo Vinces” resting upon downward pointing swords in saltire.

Quiz 4

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSlkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAA>

<AAAAAAAAAAcAAIDZk65UQTc5M1hKTEkxQU42ME82MllwWjBSNzlxQS4u>

Further Light

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSlkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAA>

<AAAAAAAAAAcAAIDZk65UN0JORKpFRFNUNUU5SIJQN0FaOThKNTZISi4u>