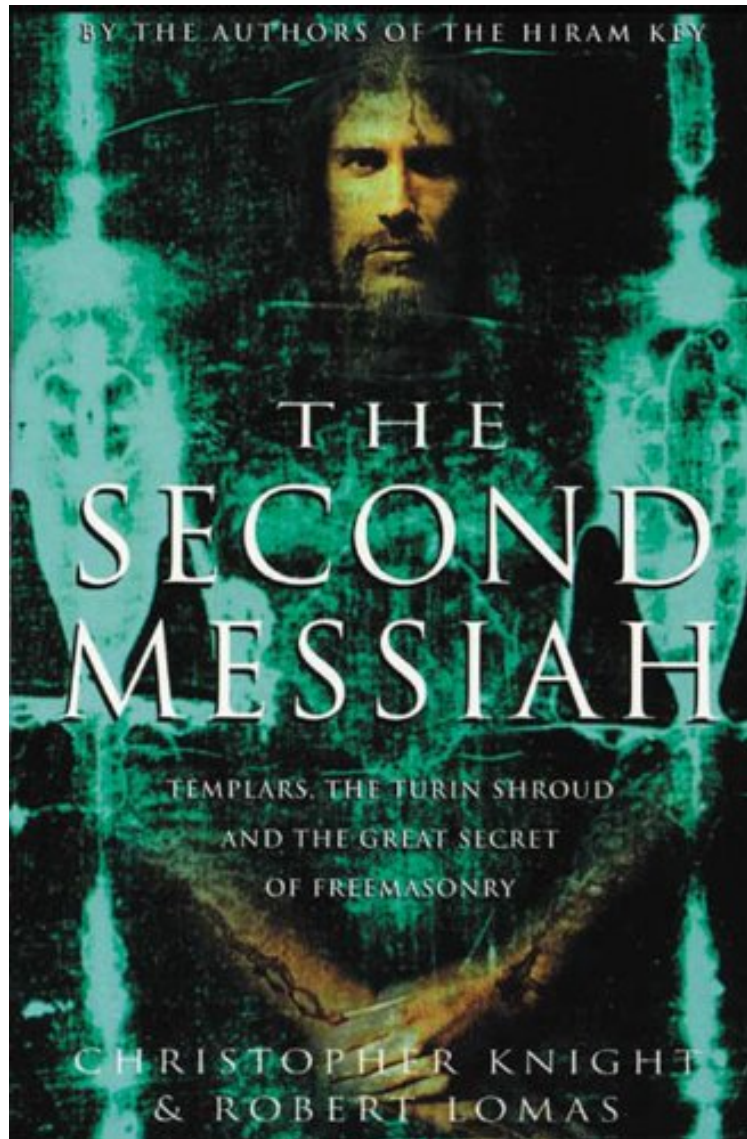


Second Messiah: Templars, the Turin Shroud and the Great Secret of Freemasonry

Christopher Knight, Robert Lomas
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Christopher Knight, Robert Lomas : Second Messiah: Templars, the Turin Shroud and the Great Secret of Freemasonry before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Second Messiah: Templars, the Turin Shroud and the Great Secret of Freemasonry:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ridiculous hypothesis, but ok for history of the TemplarsBy P.

BustionI read this book first when I was 16 years old. That was 9 years ago. The hypothesis the authors present that the image on the Shroud of Turin is Jacques de Molay seems ridiculous, and they do not give a very good argument for it. I do not believe it is either him or Jesus. The authors themselves say there's no evidence for it existing prior to 1357 when the Savoy family released it to the public, which works against their theory since Jacques de Molay's crucifixion took place in 1314. However, though I disagree with the main hypothesis of the book, they raised some interesting points. They view the tarot cards as having been symbols of secret knowledge that the Knights Templar possessed. As an example they use card II the High Priestess card which has a High Priestess sitting in between two pillars labelled "B" and "J". Their hypothesis is that this card represents St. Mary Magdalene, who they claim was the first pope of the Catholic Church, contrary to the Vatican's claim that St. Peter was such. They state that the Knights Templar held this secret because they subscribed to St. Mary Magdalene's line of apostolic succession instead of St. Peter's, and they also believe that the "B" and "J" pillars next to her are the same pillars, Boaz and Jachin, that are in Masonic Temples and were in King Solomon's Temple as mentioned in the Second Book of Parlipomenon Chapter 3 Verse 17. I disagree with their theory that St. Mary Magdelene was the first pope or that the Templars even believed that, but I think they are correct that the B and J pillars are the same Boaz and Jachin mentioned in the Second Book of Parlipomenon as being pillars of Solomon's Temple and contained in Masonic Temples, so I think the tarot may have a Masonic, Judaic or Biblical connection, but I view the woman as being more likely a Jewish High Priestess than a Christian, so not St. Mary Magdalene. Knight's and Lomas's account of King Phillip IV of France's intrigues against the Knights Templar and the Roman Catholic was also interesting and mainly accurate. It was also better than Dan Brown's account in The Da Vinci Code because it accurately showed that the papacy had nothing to do with the destruction of the Knights Templar and was just as much a victim of King Phillip's machinations as the Templars were unlike Brown's which inaccurately portrayed it as a papal persecution of heretics.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Truth behind the Turin ShroudBy Henry J. ElliotAs a Templar follower, I found this book quite a revalation as to how the Shroud of Turin may have originated. It shows the weakness of the Church of the times and the greed of the French king. It gives good evidence as to how the shroud may have become what it is seen today and gives a very plausible insight as to the last days of the Templar Grandmaster. A very readable and possible part of history as to how the shroud originated which stems from that Black Friday 13th all those centuries ago.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Jim SommervilleI loved it

For almost seven and a half centuries, a piece of cloth was venerated because it bore the image of the crucified Christ. However, but results of carbon dating have shown that the fabric could not have predated 1260. Now new evidence conclusively proves that it is not a face...yet neither is it the image of Jesus Christ.In the follow-up to their groundbreaking first book, The Hiram Key, Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas continue their research into the mysteries of Freemasonry and the true historical Jesus, and uncover the precise time and place of the shrouds creation.The answer to the great mystery of the Shroud of Turin will surprise and astonish as the authors unlock the secrets of abandoned Freemason rituals and the man who would be called the Second Messiah.

One hundred years ago, an amateur was allowed to photograph the Shroud of Turin. The negatives he produced of that famous image captivated the Christian world and strengthened their belief that it carried the imprint of Christ's face and body. In The Second Messiah, authors Knight and Lomas, who are Freemasons, build a meticulous case against this theory. Although they use recent scientific data that proves the linen shroud could not have predated medieval times, they go well beyond proving it is not the burial shroud of Jesus. The Second Messiah not only pinpoints the exact moment in history during which the Shroud of Turin took the imprint, it actually names the man whose image the Shroud holds.Like any good mystery story, this one begins in medias res. The opening chapters recount centuries of suppression of certain "truths" of Freemasonry by the English Grand Lodge, which led the authors to believe that secrets were being kept from other Freemasons in the service of a Christian agenda. To the uninitiated, this might seem like petty in-fighting within the membership of a clandestine club. Read on. The authors soon paint a larger history of the Knights Templar, the Crusaders who were the originators of modern Freemasonry, and their oppression and eventual eradication by the Roman Catholic Church. The torture and martyrdom of Jacques de Molay, the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar, are at the center of this remarkable book's search for historical authenticity.In their introduction, the authors propose that "History seems not so much a record of past events, more a catalogue of preferred beliefs expounded by people who have a vested interest." One of their purposes in writing this book is to show how Freemasonry's rituals and secrets were twisted and used by the Catholic Church to persecute the Knights Templar and their followers. The chapter entitled "The Tarot and the Templars" fascinates with its explanation of how the allegorical cards were used by the Knights to instruct members in the secrets of Freemasonry, and how the Church misinterpreted the meanings of the Tarot and outlawed it.At the conclusion of their well-documented search for the origins of the Shroud of Turin and the Great Secret of Freemasonry, Knight and Lomas say they reached a "new vantage point," from which they see "people huddled together with their eyes squeezed shut _ all facing inwards and repeating the same words, "This is the only highground, there can be no other."" After publication of this painstakingly

researched and utterly convincing book, it will be hard for readers, Freemasons or otherwise, to keep their eyes and their minds closed. -- From Independent Publisher About the Author Christopher Knight has a degree in advertising and graphic design and is the managing director of a marketing and advertising agency. In 1976 he became a Freemason. Robert Lomas is the co-author of *The Hiram Key*, *The Second Messiah*, and *Uriel's Machine*. A Freemason, he lectures at Bradford University in England. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

Introduction In our previous book, *The Hiram Key*, we uncovered the early origins of Freemasonry, which showed how modern Masonic rituals have developed from those once used by the Jerusalem Church and later adopted by the famous crusader order of the Knights Templar. These warrior monks had a very strange history that started with a nine-year-long excavation of the ruins of Herod's Temple following the First Crusade and ended, nearly two hundred years later, with them being arrested as heretics. Our findings were controversial, but they were warmly received by many biblical, Templar and Masonic scholars, as well as several Catholic priests. Over the months following publication we met hundreds of Freemasons of every rank, all over England, Scotland and Wales, and we received nothing but support and congratulations from them. The notable exception to this reception was that of the United Grand Lodge of England, which did not even acknowledge the pre-publication copy of the book we sent. It appeared to consider that, as Freemasons, we had committed the sin of conducting independent research past the golden year of 1717. We had not contravened any rule of the Order, but we soon became aware of a letter sent out from Grand Lodge to the provincial grand lodges of England and Wales, giving a short and extremely disingenuous account of our findings. Shortly afterwards the worshipful master of a famous Masonic lodge attended one of our bookshop talks with the intention of gathering evidence against us, but at the end he congratulated us, bought a copy of our book and asked us to sign it for him. A constant stream of letters continued to arrive from people all over the world, many providing us with yet more supportive evidence. Some very senior Freemasons were extremely complimentary: for instance, David Sinclair Bouschor, Past Grand Master of Minnesota, was kind enough to say: *The Hiram Key* could spark the beginning of a reformation in Christian thinking and a reconsideration of the facts, which we have so blindly accepted and perpetuated for generations. This book is a must for freethinkers. Another American, a Doctor of Divinity, who we perhaps should not name, wrote to us saying: I am a 32 degree Scottish Rite Mason, Master of my lodge 3 times, Past Wise Master of Rose Croix, a member of The Order of Amaranth and a Shiner, in addition I am an ordained minister in the Reformed Baptist Church. All this experience and education did not prepare me for the material contained in your book. If I had not been searching for our ancient origins and had the courage to look outside the dogmas of the establishments, perhaps I would not have finished reading *The Hiram Key*, however, I was, I did and I too find your data totally acceptable to what I have found. This has led me to believe that perhaps there is some truth to the accusations leveled against Masonry that only the top (HIGH) degrees know the truth. This last comment was particularly fascinating because, as far as we know, there is only one degree higher than the 32 degree to which this gentleman belongs. Could there be a secret so great that only a handful of Freemasons know it? Perhaps, we thought, this great secret has been lost and now needs to be rediscovered. The situation was far too intriguing to ignore. We knew for certain that Freemasonry had developed the rituals used by the Jerusalem Church and the Knights Templar and it seemed likely that the United Grand Lodge of England had either lost contact with its own origins or it was deliberately concealing something very big indeed even from its own officers. Its determination to prevent discussion about anything outside of its official doctrine was very different from every other grand lodge that we know of, and we decided that our researches must continue. When we set out on our quest, six key questions lay before us: 1. Have some Masonic rituals been deliberately changed or suppressed? 2. Is there a great secret of Freemasonry that has become lost, or has been deliberately hidden? 3. Who was behind the formation of the Knights Templar? 4. Why did the Templars decide to excavate beneath the ruins of Herod's Temple? 5. What were the beliefs which led to the destruction of the Templars as heretics? 6. Can the deeper rituals of Freemasonry shed further new light on the origins of Christianity? We knew that the answers would not be easy to find, but as our researches progressed we found the answer to one very important question that we had not posed ourselves: what is the definitive origin of the Shroud of Turin? We had previously speculated that there could have been a Templar connection with this unique relic, but we were not prepared for the magnitude of its role in history and the importance of the man whose image it bears.