



## **Rising Above Fear and Divisiveness to Defend Human Rights**

*Essential Templar Principles of Sacred Activism*

*From the desk of Viscount Michael Henry Dunn, Grand Commander, KTS*

### **Updates of Templar Missions of Human Rights and Outreach to the Refugees**

In the midst of this deeply troubling time, the Order is glad to be able to share with you encouraging news of progress on two of our core missions: the [World Coalition of Refugee Rights](#) (WCRR), and the [Sovereign Court of International Justice](#) (SCIJ). Our revered Grand Master, Prince Matthew of Thebes, recently visited a refugee camp near the Syrian border in Lebanon, where an alliance was forged between the WCRR, and a union of more than 100 NGOs which has been providing life-saving help to refugees since the beginning of the Syrian Civil War seven years ago. Offices have now been provided to the WCRR in Beirut, and a relationship established with our offices in Cairo, Egypt. At the same time, the Sovereign Court of International Justice is in place within this alliance to uphold the rights of refugees under international law. The SCIJ has recently begun processing a human rights case to protect [foreign workers in Kuwait](#).



*Prince Matthew of Thebes befriends a young girl in the refugee camp near the Syrian Border. At right, a clinic at the same camp.*

## Rising Above Hatred and Fear While Vigorously Opposing Evil

The recent tragic events in Charlottesville, Virginia, create a poignant moment in which to remind ourselves of our primary duty as Templars – to defend the oppressed against tyranny, anchored in divine communion and sacred knowledge. While remaining above political parties and sectarian divides, we must be unequivocal in our condemnation of manifest evil, and robust in defending the oppressed. There is no place in the Templar Order for racial or religious bigotry, and the Order emphatically rejects violence as a means of achieving political ends. (Important Note: Legitimate use of lethal force by authorized military or police, employed to defend others or one's country, is sanctioned by all religious traditions). In this message to our Brothers and Sisters in the Templar Pories, the Grand Mastery encourages us all to stand steadfast in the essence of Chivalry, so that our lives as Templars may quietly shine as candles of inspiration in a darkening world.

In the heightened emotions of this turbulent period through which we are passing, it can be easy to lose sight of the sacred duty to vigorously oppose clear manifestations of evil, and to unabashedly condemn violence and bigotry, while at the same time encouraging healing and reconciliation.

Regarding the need to remain undaunted by “political correctness,” Prince Matthew has given eloquent expression to this issue, on the Order's webpage on [Spiritual Self-Defense](#), focused especially on the Hermetic knowledge and traditions of the Ancient Priesthood of Egypt, which is such an essential heritage of the lineally restored Templar Order:

### From “Spiritual Self-Defense” – a Templar Message from Prince Matthew of Thebes -

“The Ancient Priesthood of Egypt is the source of Hermetic traditions of Theosophy, and the inspiration for most concepts of New Age spirituality. It also embodies the origins of Christianity, and the earliest forms of Chivalry. Accordingly, ancient Egyptian teachings are highly significant and profoundly revealing about interfaith doctrines on the spirituality of active defense against all forces of evil.



*'King Kay Khosrow' depicted as ca. 7,477 BC by Hossein Qollar Aqasi (ca. 1950) Iran (Detail)*

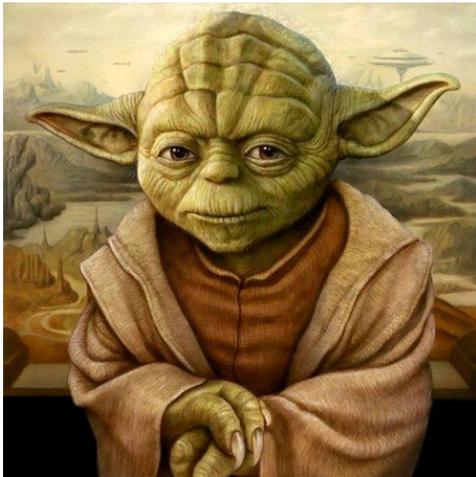
Since the very beginning of recorded human history, the Ancient Priesthood has included the essential function of defenders of Faith and guardians of the Sacred Wisdom. This iconic role has always focused on upholding the principles of Justice, through disciplined Sacred Activism promoting positive traditional values of good over evil:

In ca. 10,068 BC, the Assyrian “Nart” Knights were founded by King Jamshid, becoming the first known chivalric priestly guardians. They were spiritual defenders of the esoteric “Nartmongue” Holy Grail, and Knights of an egalitarian “Round Table” Order. From ca. 7,477 BC, the Narts were continued and led by King Kai Khosrow, who for these reasons is considered the “Persian King Arthur”. In Old English, the ancient name “Narts” actually became the medieval word “Knights”.

It is this Ancient Priesthood of Sumeria which was the original Priesthood of Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18; II Samuel 15:24-29), which became the Priesthood of Solomon (I Kings 1:39), and later became the Biblical Magi of the New Testament (Matthew 2:1-2). Jesus was the Chief High Priest of this Magi Priesthood of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5:5, 5:6, 5:10), thus continuing the Priesthood of Solomon.

The Sumerian Magi Priesthood of Melchizedek had also influenced and continued through the Egyptian Priesthood. This is evidenced by artifacts from the Tomb of the “Scorpion King” one of the earliest High Priests of ancient Egypt, dated to ca. 3,150 BC. The Tomb contained imported ceramic jars containing residue of sacramental wine, indicating a gift from the Sumerian Magi Priesthood.

It is the Ancient Priesthood of Egypt which both Saint Augustine and Saint Jerome recognized in 418 AD as the original “true religion, which... began to be called Christian”, and “established anew the Ancient Faith” within Catholicism.



*Yoda the Jedi Master of Star Wars Jedi Knights, painting by Naoto Hattori (2015)*

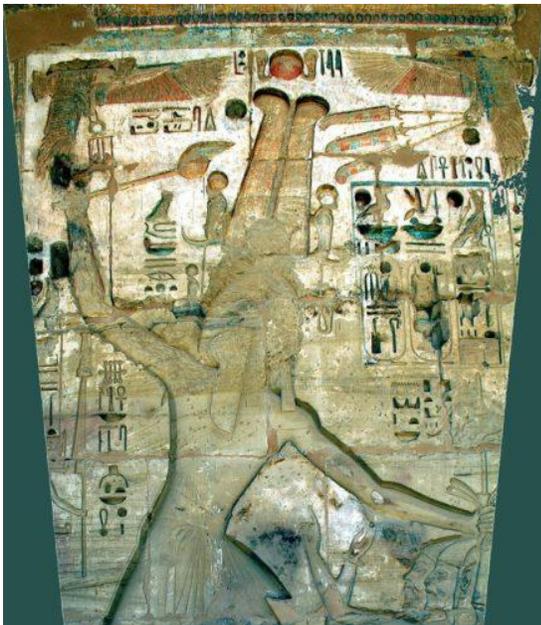
The Egyptian Djedhi Priests were a special class of High Priests, named after the “Djed” pillar associated with the “god” (actually an Angel) Osiris. Djed Pillar artifacts were prevalent in ancient Egypt as early as the Predynastic period, demonstrating that the Djedhi Priesthood existed as early as 5,500 BC.

The Djed pillar, depicting the spinal column as a symbol of strength, was a reference to the Djedhi Priests having a moral “backbone” and being pillars of moral strength, as guardians of the Sacred Wisdom. The papyrus scroll King Kheops and the Magicians, dated ca. 2,570 BC, evidences that the Djedhi were considered both “Magi” and “guardians” of the Sacred Wisdom, and were appointed to the royal court of Prince Hordjedef in the manner that an Order of Chivalry would be.



### [The Guardians of Peace and Justice](#)

*(The famous “Jedi Knights” of the Star Wars films by George Lucas were based upon research from his mentor, the scholar Joseph Campbell, who noted the historical Templars continuing the Djedhi Priesthood of ancient Egypt.)*



*Smiting Scene with Angel Holy Spirit hawks, in Habu Temple, Thebes, Luxor (ca. 1,515 BC)*

From the earliest periods of the Ancient Priesthood of Egypt ca. 5,500 BC, the outer walls of the sacred Temples featured images of seemingly military-style victories, representing the spiritual

battle of good against evil. Archaeologists explain the traditional “royal smiting scene and its variations, shown at the Temple entrance – the origins of which may stretch back to the very beginnings of Egyptian history. ... The military exploits of Egyptian kings were often depicted, for symbolic, protective purposes. ... In all periods, however, the function of these scenes is largely symbolic... [for] defense of the Temple against its enemies – the forces of chaos which existed beyond the sacred precinct.”

The role of the Ancient Priesthood thus inherently involved the concept of active protection of the Temple against the forces of evil, and priestly recognition and support of the necessity for vigilance and action in defense of positive values.”

(End excerpt from Prince Matthew)

I look forward to staying in close touch with you all during this exciting time of the growth of our beloved Templar family of sacred activists, and will hold you in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely yours,

*Viscount Michael*

Grand Commander, KTS