

HIDDEN HISTORY
OF THE
GRAIL
QUEENS

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OF THE
GRACE
QUEENS

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Our Spirit, LLC
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Quest

Chapter 1

Are You on the Quest for the Grail?

Every aspiring soul seeks union with nourishment that only the spirit can provide, a sort of quest for the holy grail to transcend the physical and re-enter a paradisiacal state of consciousness. You may call it enlightenment, the golden moment of illumination, or the quest for the holy grail of your personal yearnings, among many other names. This seemingly insatiable desire arises like a flaming sword that cuts through the barriers separating the soul and its spiritual longing to find the garden of paradise again and gain the fruit of the Tree of Life. Like a powerfully hurled spear of fire, the awakened consciousness that is gleaned from wielding a flaming sword of wisdom falls like a meteor piercing the heart and opens a wound that blossoms into a brilliant vessel of love. This vessel of consciousness and compassion overflows with the descending rain of love coming from the fiery thoughts of wisdom that rush in to the pierced, humble heart-grail of the spiritual aspirant.

This process of awaking consciousness is the physical signature of the cosmic descent of the human spirit into the heart and soul. It is an ongoing process and must be sought after like the quest of the grail knights or “The Way” of the early Christians.

It takes an open, seeking soul that has purified itself beforehand to witness and participate in this wondrous process of human spiritual evolution called the “search for the holy grail.”

Throughout history, humanity has described this process in many different myths, legends, stories, and religious beliefs. The holy grail mysteries of the blood have been little understood as a process of spiritual evolution. Often, in Christian religious beliefs, the stories of human spiritual evolution are directly linked to the life, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus becomes the archetypal human being, the “Second Adam,” who redeems the Fall from Paradise and opens the way back to the Garden of Eden. Thus, to the Christian, the blood of Jesus Christ becomes the redemption of the fall of humanity into this earthly world. Truly the blood of God, through his only begotten Son, became the vehicle of redemption as it was spilled into the earth through the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus.

The “blood of the gods,” which the Greeks called “ichor,” was occasionally shared with humanity by Zeus having children with female humans. These half-human, half-god heroes and heroines often had to conquer great evil on the earth to attain immortality in the stars, just as Hercules and Psyche did to gain eternal life. The divine ichor in the blood veins of Hercules from his father Zeus made it possible for him to become immortal. Ichor was shared with Hercules as a sort of gift from Zeus, the gift of divine blood that causes immortality and pseudo-divinity in a human being.

Whether we examine the stories of the Greek heroes, the Hindu god Krishna, or the Norse god Odin, we find that divine beings who sustain our world often sacrifice themselves for the good of humanity. There are numerous pre-Christian “solar heroes” that prefigure the deeds of Jesus Christ. These pagan Mysteries were melded into the stories, myths, and legends that surround Jesus. The Roman Catholic Church, much like the Romans before them, often amalgamated the deities and beliefs of those who they conquered into their own pantheon of gods and goddesses. Jesus Christ, for the Romans, became the ultimate

solar hero who fulfilled all prophecies and had the same characteristics of prior divine solar heroes.

Jesus is the archetypal representative of humanity and each seeking soul can identify with the suffering of what is called, the “Twelve Stages of the Cross.” These stages seem to replicate the steps of suffering that awakened consciousness in many gods and heroes. The Christian path of the holy grail, “The Way,” is one of longsuffering love, deep compassion, and ageless wisdom that arises from devotion to the holy blood Mysteries of the Passion of Jesus Christ.

Right up until the time of Abraham, human and animal blood sacrifices were the propitiating offerings that communicated with the divine beings who live outside of the seen world. Blood sacrifices were a central focus of many ancient religions and cultures. Blood, offered up to the gods, was the primary substance that humans believed the gods were interested in. Burnt offerings were also part of many devotional rituals, including burning the body after death as a means to cross over the threshold into the spiritual world. Throughout all these spiritual practices, blood was the key to religious and spiritual experience and was believed to be the vessel of consciousness.

When Jesus, the Son of God, offered his blood and body as a sacrifice of redemption for the prior “original sin” of humanity incurred in paradise, the scales of human evolution tipped in favor of the spirit. Pre-Christian beliefs predicted the archetypal blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ, whose blood and body were given to the earth as spiritual seeds to alleviate the continuing fall of humanity into cold, dark matter. Jesus Christ’s spiritual deed enkindled the fire of spirit that descends from heaven to warm our hearts with the same love God expressed in offering His only Son as the “final blood sacrifice.” Through this blood sacrifice, Jesus donates to each person a “living drop” of spiritual blood, like divine ichor, straight to their heart. This living blood (“The Life”) can receive the descent of the Pentecostal tongues of flames (“The Truth”) and the fiery love and compassion of Jesus Christ (“The Way”) to regain its divine nature. Finding and understanding this “living

blood” is the spiritual inheritance needed to ascend back to the Garden of Paradise with the Holy Grail—the transformed human heart.

When we use the flaming Sword of Wisdom (Sophia) to cut the ties of attachment to this world and seek the heavenly kingdom that Jesus came from, our thoughts become spiritual fire that pierces fear, doubt, and hatred and burns away earthly dross. Wielding the Sword of Wisdom begins the process of ascending back to paradise. The blood of Christ is everlasting and was seeded into the earth and the hearts of every person, whether they believe in Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, or any other belief. All religions, mythologies, and effective spiritual paths point to the reality that the lower self can rise into a higher self through virtuous thoughts, feelings, and actions. The goal is always the same—it is the attainment of the Holy Grail that feeds us the exact spiritual nourishment that we need to take the next step in our personal spiritual evolution. This holy grail is connected directly to “living blood” that is necessary to ascend to spiritual worlds through the higher self. It is not the grail that we actually seek; it is the spiritual blood inside the grail that nourishes the soul and connects with the spirit.

It is incumbent upon the aspirant of the spirit to master the same twelve stages (Herculean labors) that Jesus of Nazareth conquered through His passion, death, and resurrection. Each knight or lady of the grail must pass tests to be allowed to find the Holy Grail and learn to use it to turn their blood into a vehicle of spiritual consciousness that transcends the physical world. In the grail traditions, the knights who attain the grail must then become faithful guardians of the grail and protect it from unworthy eyes. Thus, the chivalrous knight must conquer his own inner demons and dragons before he comes to the Grail Castle to witness the procession of the Keepers of the Grail, the Grail Maidens, as they display the bleeding spear and the vessel that catches the blood. And even then, after beholding the grail procession, the worthy grail knight might not have developed enough higher consciousness to understand what he has seen

and then ask the appropriate question, “Whom does the grail serve?”

Might and valor serve the grail knight only in the beginning stages of the quest. Seeking the grail ultimately brings you to your own personal “Dark Knight” that you must conquer with faithfulness, devotion, and love—not war, fighting, and killing. These first stages are appropriate for grail seekers to tame the dragon, conquer the ills of the outside world, and turn from the physical sword and spear to the spiritual flaming Sword of Wisdom and the Spear of Love and Mercy. The tools of war must become spiritual tools that conquer the knight’s lower self.

It is the unending desire to seek and find the higher self in the outer world that embodies the quest in the first stages. The dutiful knight of the divine fights to control lower desires of selfishness and vice. When virtue wins the battle with vice, the Holy Grail is recognized as a worthy cause for the sacrifices made throughout the quest. It is a slow and often difficult pilgrimage path (“The Way”) back to paradise.

The archetypal nature of Jesus Christ’s blood-sacrifice starts with the divine Trinity deciding to send the only Son of God to earth to mitigate the effects of evil upon the human body, soul, and spirit. Christ, the second being in the solar logos, makes the ultimate sacrifice and descends into a human body with its many limitations and still unredeemed evil. This was the greatest pain and humiliation that a divine being could endure. To move so far back in spiritual evolution and unite with humanity’s slow spiritual growth was the ultimate sacrifice of all times: the death of a God. Christ offered His blood and body as the gifts that keep growing, like a grail overflowing with love and mercy feeding all who approach. Each person who takes up this Christ (higher self) impulse and fans the flame of love for all beings in their heart (grail) becomes a living image of what Christ has accomplished so perfectly. We simply follow the path (“The Way, The Truth, and The Life”) that we have been shown by Jesus Christ’s perfect example. We need only follow “The Way” of Christ to fulfill the mission of attaining the blood Mysteries of the Holy Grail in our own Christ-filled heart.

Heavenly Grail

The Christian story of the Holy Grail starts in heaven with the sin of Lucifer, whose pride made him refuse to bow down to Adam and Eve after God the Father had created them. Lucifer believed he could create a better man and woman. He sat on the throne of God and claimed to be as great as God the Father. Lucifer was one of the brightest of angels and his light was great, but it still paled next to the light of the throne of God. Lucifer was so jealous and prideful that his hubris drove him away from the presence of God and into the darkest corners of heaven, where he fashioned great stones of light for his crown and a mighty sword to strike down his enemies.

When Lucifer came before the throne of God again, the Archangel Michael was on the right side of God with a flaming sword of power and a spear of might. The Archangel Gabriel stood on the left side of God and in front of the newly created human beings who were hiding behind the throne. In his hand, Gabriel held the Lily of Heaven, a pure grail-vessel of beauty and grace. Lucifer had become a dragon of darkness, and his hatred filled him until he directly attacked the throne of God. The Archangel Michael struck the crown of Lucifer from his prideful head and the central green stone of the crown was dislodged and fell like a meteor from the presence of God. Michael then used his spear to cut a huge gash into the outer wall of heaven to let the stone and Lucifer fall from heaven into the outer darkness. As he fell, the Father of Lies swept one third of the human souls up with his tail and pulled them down into the darkness with him. The dragon fell like a meteor to the earth pulling humans, like falling stars, behind him.

The stone of Lucifer's crown fell into the deepest part of the earth, Palestine. It was found and brought to the King of Tyre, who polished it into a bowl that looked like a heavenly emerald. This bowl was given to King Solomon by the King of Tyre to place in the holy of holies of Solomon's Temple. Joseph of Arimathea used this bowl to gather the blood of Jesus of Nazareth

during and after the crucifixion. When the blood of the Son of God touched the stone of Lucifer's crown (Solomon's Bowl), the redemption of Lucifer and humanity began. The blood of the gods (divine consciousness-ichor) had spread to all humans and merged with their blood (spiritual-consciousness) transforming the human being into a potentially immortal, divine being. And Lucifer, having Jesus Christ's human/divine blood pour into his "jewel of the crown" emerald bowl, finally bowed before a human (Jesus of Nazareth) and recognized his sin of pride which caused his fall from paradise. This began the redemption of evil.

When the blood of Christ united with the earth, humanity was given the blood of the gods (ichor) that can transform the kingdom of Lucifer (earth) into a sacred Grail Castle. These secrets are referred to as the Mysteries of the Holy Blood Relics and the Quest for the Holy Grail. If a seeking aspirant (grail knight) understands the living imagination of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus, he has entered the Grail Castle where the Grail Maidens (the Three Marys) display their devotion to the grail and ask the important question: Whom does the grail serve? Each seeker can quest for the grail and use "The Way" to find the entrance to the Grail Castle so they might awaken and ask the "grail question," hopefully being morally developed enough to understand the answer.

Every element involved in the Fall from Paradise and the Crucifixion of Jesus are important tools for the questing knight and lady of the grail. In the first stage of seeking, we are all soldiers of the divine trying to right the wrong and conquer the dragons and wild animals that exist in humans below the virtue of the heart. We need the sword of Michael to strike pride from our haughty heads and let the jewel of the crown become a humble, simple stone that falls into the flowing compassion and love of the heart. We also need the fiery spear of heaven that can hold the demons and dragons at bay without killing them. We need to use the spear to keep the distance between our higher Michaelic/angelic forces and the lower forces derived from the seven deadly sins of vice and immorality led by Lucifer and his hosts. The spear also

cuts open the prideful wall of the mind so that consciousness can find its home in the heart instead of cold, earth-bound thinking centered in the head. We must not separate the Sword of Wisdom and the Spear of Love but use them together as spiritual weapons to conquer the dragon of selfishness that rules the lower nature of human vices.

We can also be seen as the Archangel Gabriel in this heavenly grail imagination. Gabriel is the archangel of the moon, as Michael is the archangel of the sun. Gabriel rules procreation, birth, and the blood forces of the female body that are embodied in the image of Gabriel holding a pure white lily: a six-sided chalice that represents the female womb. Gabriel appears to Mary as the messenger of God who brings the blessings of the Holy Spirit and delivers the Son of God to her pure soul. At the time of the Fall of Lucifer, Gabriel held back two thirds of humanity while Lucifer was pulling one third down into darkness with him as he fell from heaven. Gabriel also held back and protected two very special souls who would later become the vehicles for Mary and Jesus when they incarnated on the earth—the one and only time they would incarnate in a physical human body. These bodies would become the “new Adam and Eve” under the cross, which became the “new Tree of Life” granting immortality.

One of the reasons Lucifer could not accept God’s creation of the human being was because Lucifer knew that one day, every human being could complete the quest and become “like a god.” Humans not only could be redeemed and become capable of returning to paradise at will, but also would one day become the masters of Lucifer and his minions who still worship the dark forces. When the Holy Grail is attained, humans will outstrip Lucifer’s attempts to return to heaven. Lucifer’s pride made him turn away from fully witnessing the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lucifer still denies that Christ has redeemed his fallen “jewel of the crown,” as well as the entire earth and all of humanity. Lucifer can no longer find the grail himself because of his pride, jealousy, and hatred. He can only see that some humans have attained the grail and have ascended back to heaven.

Someday, the legends say, Lucifer will be completely redeemed by the wisdom of Sophia and the love of the Holy Spirit.

Upon close examination, we see that the same spiritual “tools” were present at the Crucifixion and the Fall from Heaven and Paradise. Archangel Michael’s sword of wisdom was present in the wisdom of Mary who mustered the strength to endure witnessing the passion, pain, and death of Jesus knowing that he was the Son of God. This wisdom could only be fully held in the heart of the Mother of Jesus. It took both the wisdom and strength of Michael and Gabriel combined to “hold all these things in her heart.” Mary was so transformed by her experience that she ascended (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary) bodily into paradise after her Dormition (three days of sleep). Wisdom became love through Mary and the Holy Grail was attained as she ascended into heaven before the followers of Christ to join Her son next to the Throne of God.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, also used her body as a holy grail to birth the “holy blood” of Jesus, a pure spirit who had never incarnated in a human body before (or after). Mary transformed into a living grail whose blood became the vehicle for the divine blood to incarnate. Mary birthed the spirit of the sun, the solar deity, for the redemption of all humanity through the most cruel and vile death of Jesus Christ that was transformed into a divine gift for human spiritual evolution. Mary was over-lighted by Gabriel to bring forth the most perfect human body possible. Thus, through this process she became a “virgin soul” who was the perfect example of a soul questing for the Holy Grail and finding it by reuniting with the divine—our paradisiacal home—our higher spiritual self.

The Archangel Michael was said to be the only angelic hierarchy who could bare to witness the Crucifixion and death of the Son of God. It was Michael who guided the hand of the Roman Centurion Longinus to pierce the heart of Jesus with his spear because Longinus was partly blind and would have needed guidance. Longinus pierced the heart to demonstrate that Jesus was already dead and did not need to have the Sanhedrin break his

legs to expedite his death by suffocation. It was a merciful and loving deed that Longinus did to open the heart of Jesus to bleed for all humanity's redemption. Upon piercing the outer chamber of Christ's heart, blood and water (plasma) gushed forth and struck Longinus in the eyes, healing him of his blindness. Thereupon Longinus called out that "this surely must be the Son of God."

At the moment of piercing Christ's sacred heart, an eclipse occurred along with a great storm and an earthquake. The earthquake allowed the blood of Christ to enter deep into the earth. Longinus's spear broke in half and the spearhead separated from the staff and heated to red hot. It looked as if the broken spear had cut a gash into the earth so that the blood of Christ might enter. Longinus fell from his horse in amazement and then saw that the Spear of Phinehas, the Sanhedrin's banner of authority, had also broken and fallen to the ground. This was the same spear used to behead John the Baptist for Salome and Herod. Thus, the spear of the Roman centurion becomes the Lance of Love as the evil Spear of Phinehas is vanquished and, at the same time, it was reported that the veil that hides the Temple's Holy of Holies had been rent from top to bottom so that the Ark of the Covenant was no longer hidden from the eyes of the believers. This was confirmation that Christ's deed redeemed both Lucifer's War in Heaven and humanity's Fall from Paradise.

Earthly Grail

Legends tell us that Joseph of Arimathea brought Solomon's Bowl to the Last Supper that Jesus had with his disciples. Joseph then brought the bowl to the Crucifixion and used it to capture the blood and water that flowed from Christ's side. Joseph and Longinus also helped take down the body of Jesus from the cross to clean and prepare it for burial. Longinus and Joseph became very close and worked together later in their ministry to spread the truth of "The Way" of Christ's life, even to far away England.

Thus, Solomon's Bowl, the vials of water and blood, the spearhead of Longinus, the sponges used during the Crucifixion, piec-

es of the holy cross, the holy nails, the veil of Veronica, the burial linens, and numerous other “blood relics” were gathered by the seekers of “The Way” and given to Jesus’s mother and Mary Magdalene. The alabaster vials that held the oils used on the feet of Jesus were also considered holy and were preserved. These “holy blood relics” (grails) were protected by the “Soldiers of God,” like Longinus, while revered and worshiped by the women who became the first Grail Maidens and keepers of the holy blood relics.

Just as Gabriel holds the grail lily as a representation of the female blood mysteries of birth and the moon, so too, Mary Magdalene was seen by some as the wife of Jesus and the mother of his child(ren). There are numerous legends concerning these ideas and different stories say they had either three male children, two male children, or one female child. The male children are often confused with the children of both Joseph of Arimathea and Longinus, who were the founders of Arthurian grail lore in England where Joseph and Longinus established the first church in Christendom at Glastonbury.

In other versions, the female child of Jesus and Mary Magdalene was named Sarah, the wondrous child, who was the founder of the Merovingian line of monarchs in France. Much attention has been focused on this child in books and movies suggesting that the holy blood line of Jesus and Mary Magdalene continues to this day. There are a great deal of legends concerning the child(ren) of Jesus of Nazareth; we will examine them later in this presentation.

Even though legends and traditions exist concerning the children of Jesus and Mary, to carry the “blood Mysteries” into a bloodline is somewhat speculative. Many believe that it is a given that Jesus, “the Rabbi,” had to have been married because it was a prerequisite to becoming a rabbi. Mary Magdalene, the one the Lord loved, is certainly the best candidate as his wife knowing that Jesus seemed closest with her and that she was truly the most faithful follower. It also seems common sense that the Mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalene would cherish and guard any blood relics of Jesus. To add a child to the blood Mysteries, opens the scope of why the women seemed most faithful and

devoted to the instructions and teachings of Jesus. Surely, the first Christian community surrounding the Mother of Jesus would have held all the blood relics as sacred, especially if Jesus had offspring.

The Way of the Cross

Besides the Three Marys beneath the cross, there were three men also: Longinus, Joseph of Arimathea, and John the Beloved (Lazarus raised). Perhaps there was also a child in the womb of Mary Magdalene. The other followers were terrified and did not have the strength to witness the death of the Son of God. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and the other witnesses stayed together after the Crucifixion and eventually ended up in Ephesus. Mary created the devotional practice, *The Way of the Cross* to worship the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Near her house in Ephesus, Mary created a religious practice of walking “The Way” through the “Stations of the Cross” that imitated the path of the *Via Dolorosa* in Jerusalem, the ‘way of sorrow’ that Jesus tread to Calvary. Mary called this devotional practice the *Via Crucis* or *Stations of the Cross*, which had twelve stations replicating the path of sorrow that Jesus walked. Each station added another sorrow to the blood Mysteries of the Stations of the Cross.

One of the most important elements of the devotional practices of Mary and her followers were the Stations of the Cross that became part of “The Way” of Christian devotion to Jesus Christ. Each station held a sacred blood relic that included the crown of thorns, Jesus’s clothes, blood from the scourging, the holy cross, Veronica’s veil, the nails of the cross, the Holy Lance of Longinus, the Last Supper cup, the vials that captured the blood and water, the sponges, the burial linen, and perhaps references to a child(ren) of Mary Magdalene. Each Station of the Cross, that relived in prayer the suffering of Jesus, was dedicated to an aspect of his suffering and the relic that was associated with that

suffering. Mary and her followers started a devotional “Way” that imitated the Passion of Jesus Christ. She also stayed faithful to Jesus’s request to re-enact the ritual of the Last Supper using Solomon’s Bowl as the cup (blood of Christ) and the spearhead of Longinus to cut the bread (body of Christ) during the service. The spear, chalice, and blood became the symbols of the new Christian religion that celebrated the Blood Mysteries of Jesus Christ.

It is the “way of suffering,” through the Stations of the Cross, that became the example that the disciples of Jesus followed in their devotional life. Many Christian followers were martyred only after great suffering that they endured without regret. Some Christian saints were tortured repeatedly, and yet they would not die until they were beheaded like John the Baptist. It is said that Longinus was tortured in twelve ways and would not die. Finally, when the king beheaded Longinus, the blood that burst forth landed in the king’s eye and healed his blindness. This theme is common with the saints who converted to Christianity after being a soldier.

Longinus was the beginning of a long line of “Soldiers of God” who were depicted on a horse with a spear defeating a dragon. This is the archetype of the soldier of Christ taming the dragon within themselves and turning from war and death to “The Way,” which is won through love, compassion, and kindness. This theme continued until it became a true grail path from soldier to saint—from chivalrous knight to the courts of love.

The Way of Suffering was exemplified quite clearly in a Longinus-type Orthodox saint named Phanourios, who turned from war to love and was tortured in twelve different ways and yet would not die. Phanourios was also said to have traveled back to Eden, getting past the angel with the flaming sword, to pick an apple from the Tree of Life. Phanourios’ deed symbolizes the ultimate goal of immortality, which comes along with belief in Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, who conquered death for all humanity. Phanourios, like Longinus, is an example of a seeker of “The Way” who spiritually develops through his belief in “The

Way” of Christ, much like the grail knight who develops from “dullness to blessedness.” This is the common path of the Soldier of God who devotedly dedicates his/her life to being a guardian and protector of the blood Mysteries of the grail stream.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was the keeper of the grail (Solomon’s Bowl), the spear, the blood of Jesus, and the other relics that were used in devotional rituals that imitated and relived “The Way” of Jesus Christ. Each blood relic was a tool of suffering that needed to be transformed into a sacred tool using the healing forces of Christ that were also in the object. These physical items were a memory of the love of Christ and, therefore, transformed his suffering into the ultimate tool of healing and victory. The blood relics of the divine Son of God possessed great power for good, even though it seems like they originally were used for evil. Without the divine sacrifice of Jesus, which was accomplished in total freedom as a human being, the earth would have slowly died due to entropy. Christ added the levity and ectopy that bring life and goodness to the evils of His suffering. Thus, to relive his Passion with understanding and compassion is to transform suffering into wisdom and love.

Jesus Christ’s Passion and Resurrection also gave new life to the blood of every human that will ever live on the earth. Christ’s blood turned our planet into a newly budding sun and the human heart that receives the overflowing blessings of Christ’s love and mercy will be enlivened and renewed by the forces of life burgeoning in the cosmos. Truly, the quest (The Way) for the Holy Grail is achieved through nourishment from the risen Christ (The Life): a never-ending wellspring of grace, mercy, and love (The Truth).

Stages of the Grail Quest

We have found that there are *soldiers of the grail*, *seekers of the grail*, and *the keepers of the grail* (grail maidens, queens, and kings) who work together to guard the Masteries of the blood

relics of Jesus Christ. In the early days, the Christian community revolved around the Three Marys at Ephesus and the first official Christian church at Antioch, led by Peter and others. Antioch became the outer center of the faith while Ephesus became the spiritual heart of Christian practices. For eleven years, the Three Marys and John the Beloved deepened the devotional practices of the Stations of the Cross and revered the blood relics entrusted to their loving care. When the Mother of Jesus was bodily assumed into heaven before the eyes of the seventy-two disciples, the time had come to disperse to the four corners of the world to spread the Gospel of Jesus.

Joseph of Arimathea, Longinus, Mary Magdalene, Mary Cleops, Mary Magdalene's child Sarah, Maxium, Saint James (brother of Jesus), and numerous others sailed to France and encountered many Eastern religious beliefs. Mary Magdalene and the others spread the Gospel and debated every idea until they convinced the pagans that Christianity was the true and proper "Way" to find eternal life. Many Christian churches were founded as Mary Magdalene, Sarah, and James traveled from Eastern France to Western Spain. The path of their ministry created a pilgrim's path of the holy blood relics from Vezaley (France) to Compostela (Spain). Eventually, this pilgrim's path became the Camino (way) de Santiago. Other pilgrim paths of the evangelists stretched all the way to Scotland, where some say the descendants of Mary Magdalene and Jesus (through Sarah) still live to this day.

Joseph and Longinus traveled by sea from France to England, where Joseph had worked as the principal tin-trader for the Hebrews. Many years before, Joseph had brought Jesus to England on one of his merchant ships. Jesus was deeply impressed by Glastonbury Tor and built a simple altar of sticks there as an offering. Later, a small church was built around this altar, and it became the first officially recognized church in Christendom. When Joseph returned to Glastonbury with Longinus, he established this "first" Christian church and subsequently became the leader of the grail knights of King Arthur's Round Table. This

first church was recognized, with the beginning of the first church councils, as the primary seat of the establishment of Christianity. In this instance, Glastonbury was particularly important because it was partially built by the hands of Jesus of Nazareth himself. The children of Joseph and Longinus (some say children of Jesus) became prominent in English history concerning the knights of King Arthur's Round Table. It is said that Joseph brought the Holy Grail (bowl and vials) while Longinus brought his Spear of Love and Mercy to Glastonbury where they were key relics in establishing Christianity and grail legends in England.

Tangible Holy Grail Relics

Throughout the Camino de Santiago, from France to Spain, we find the legends of numerous grails that have found their way into churches, monasteries, and holy places. The legends and stories that accompany these relics are varied and do not match up, especially seeing that there are over one hundred grails in European churches that claim to be the "authentic" cup used by Jesus at the Last Supper. Numerous spears associated with Longinus can also be found in Christian churches along with the blood of the foreskin of Jesus, numerous crowns of thorns, nails of the cross, and the pieces of the true cross, among other blood relics.

The habit of creating third-class relics by touching first- or second-class relics became very popular in the centuries after Jesus. It seemed that Christians needed something tangible from this world to help them believe in a person who lived long ago and now rules invisibly from another kingdom. Even the bones of saints became a touchstone for these early Christians needing proof of the spirit.

Pre-Christian stories of spiritual tools of the gods became mixed with Christian stories of Jesus and the saints. Celtic and Norse myths were mixed with Mithraic, Persian, Indian, and Egyptian beliefs to explain the blood Mysteries of Jesus Christ in

tangible ideas that were familiar to those the Christians evangelized. In France and Spain, the pantheistic ideas of the Romans were prevalent and the Arabic influence in Spain sparked a revolution of ideas about chivalry, courtly love, and grail quests. Most of the grail romance stories came from France as offerings to the Queens of Aquitaine, Castile, Leon, Aragon, Toulouse, and throughout the entire Occitania. Arthurian legends were also written in France, and they begin with stories of Joseph of Arimathea (grail), Longinus (spear) and their miracles and the spiritual sustenance associated with these grail relics (blood Mysteries).

Courtly Love was a “Way” to turn the soldier (knight) of the grail into a seeker of the grail, who ultimately could become a guardian or protector of the holy blood/grail Mysteries. The chivalrous knight vows allegiance to the ladies of the grail, who are the Grail Maidens or Keepers of the Grail who were known originally as the Maidens of the Holy Wells, who gave travelers well-water in a golden bowl and wondrous food to nourish them.

The pre-Christian Celtic blood Mystery myths describe a Grail Maiden carrying a platter with a severed head upon it, while another Grail Maiden holds a spear above it as blood drips onto the platter (grail). This idea is found in Christian beliefs as the head of John the Baptist being brought before Salome and Herod on a silver platter. Thus, an ancient pagan belief pre-figured the reality of the “way of suffering” of Jesus and his followers. Ancient symbols and ideas were not simply adopted by Christians to get their point across to people who had already developed such beliefs. The ancient beliefs were developed by priests and priestesses who were naturally clairvoyant; accordingly, what they worshiped was the truth of what would one day manifest as the fulfillment of their direct clairvoyant experiences.

Ancient beliefs coincide with Christian beliefs because they are describing the same spiritual realities that eventually come to pass. For example, the Finnish *Kalevala* makes a clear prediction about Jesus of Nazareth at the end of the epic, long before Christian times. A clear foreknowledge of the spiritual realities that

had yet to manifest were predicted in most ancient beliefs and can be found merged with Christian beliefs, legends, and tales.

It would be fair to say that Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled all true prophecy and the symbols and spiritual tools of the ancients became physical reality through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. No *one* belief in the ancient world was comprehensive and all-encompassing enough until the one and only incarnation of Jesus Christ merged all prior beliefs into a direct experience of the Holy Grail through the nourishment of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

It is instructive to study the beliefs of the past and understand how the Crucifixion of Jesus becomes the most important moment in human spiritual evolution. The divine deed of the death of Jesus was the “turning point” of human history. From that time forward, the awakened consciousness of the human being became able to seek and find the Holy Grail through their own spiritual striving: “The Way.” Through this individualized path of spiritual self-development, each of us can redeem the expulsion from paradise and attain the spiritual tools for ascending back to heaven and gaining our spiritual self.

The search for the Holy Grail is also the path of the prodigal son who leaves home to seek his fortune and eventually realizes that he must simply return home to accept his inheritance. In this process of redemption, the seeker must tame desire and birth the Holy Grail in their heart. This heart-grail is renewed and given eternal life through the Blood Mysteries of Jesus Christ.

Understanding the blood Mysteries of the Passion of Christ (The Way) create a pilgrimage path to the Holy grail which may appear quite differently for each person. Some people need a spiritual tool like a relic, a cup, a spear, a nail, or a piece of the cross upon which redemption was won to give them the faith to maintain the quest and follow “The Way” of Jesus’s Passion. Others need only the idea of the grail as an analogy or a symbol to attain its nourishment though gaining living, imaginative thinking. While yet others need only their mind (flaming sword), their heart (holy grail), and their tamed dragon of desires (spear) to

be refined into the wisdom, love, and mercy of Christ (the higher self). Whether physical tool, idea, or virtuous path, the quest for the grail can become the Christian way of suffering that leads to the higher self finding its divine nature.

Whom Does the Grail Serve?

The Holy Grail is often described as emitting brilliant light from something descending from above and overflowing a vessel with spiritual substance. The grail also feeds every true need of those who witness it, including nourishing the body, soul, and spirit. Each person experiences the grail differently, and it must be sought after and is seldom attained until great quests, purifications, and oblations have been made before the vision of the Holy Grail. Many seekers quest after the mysterious grail, but few find it and subsequently become protectors or stewards of the grail. After a lifetime of searching, some seeking knights have come to the Grail Castle and asked the question: “Whom does the grail serve?” This question begins the process of understanding the grail, which ultimately can end in inheriting the crown of the Grail King or Grail Queen. In the process, the seeker who has found the Grail Castle can become a Grail Maiden who devotedly serves the grail.

We are told that the kingdom of heaven was filled with light, wisdom, and love emanating from the throne of God. The throne was so brilliant that few could look upon its splendor and glory. All the hierarchies of the angels gathered around the throne to receive nourishment and bask in the magnificence of God. No angel, no matter how high, could rise to the full glory of God’s throne and its glory. This “throne of God” was the original archetypal grail of heaven that all the angels emulated and wished to imitate. Serving this wondrous throne was the highest desire of all the angels until Lucifer’s pride led him to believe that he could sit upon the throne of God. It was this desire to attain the throne (grail) before the requisite path had been followed and the appropriate “blessedness” had been attained that led to the

sin of Lucifer. It was this jealousy of the throne of God (heavenly grail) that led to Lucifer's fall from heaven.

Much like the stories of heaven before the fall, the Garden of Eden was filled with light, love, and everything that Adam and Eve needed to live a beautiful life. The plants, the animals, and the garden itself were all there to nourish and provide for them. The Tree of Life, in the center of the garden, was a wondrous source of living waters that flowed in all directions and fed all living things with its burgeoning life. God spoke to Adam and Eve and tended their every need with love and care. The Tree of Life was a brilliant, living fountain of nourishment that was unending. The Garden of Eden and its Tree of Life are a paradisiacal imagination of a living and conscious Holy Grail. Adam and Eve were complete and satisfied with the nourishment provided to them in the Garden of Eden. It was their desire to "be like God" that led them to disobey and create the sin of jealousy, pride, and separateness that caused the expulsion from Paradise—much like the sin of Lucifer.

The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ was the turning point of time that sparked a divine flame that has grown into a brilliant light of love through his sacrifice. The Tree of Life was transformed into a throne of victory through the holy cross as Jesus Christ implanted his divine blood into the earth and began the process of the earth turning into a living sun. We are told that we are "gods in the becoming," perhaps like the earth transforming into a sun. Only a few faithful followers could look upon Christ's death on the cross where Lucifer's fall from Heaven and Adam and Eve's expulsion from the Garden of Eden were completely redeemed. The Old Dragon, who fell to Earth, was conquered by the power of Christ's divine, selfless deed that conquered the selfish deeds of Lucifer and Adam and Eve. The desire to quickly become "like the divine" is jealous self-gratification of one who is not yet ready to sit upon the throne of the divine. The quest for the grail is the slow and steady path to claim our inheritance to someday sit upon the divine throne rightfully as the Grail King or Grail Queen.