

# Underneath

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Freemason symbolism: the broken pillar;  
Musée des Beaux-Arts, Carcassonne.  
Photo: Jeanne D'Août.

When researching a certain topic, have you ever felt that delightful rush of adrenaline the moment the penny drops and everything falls into place?

Then you will understand the addiction of a researcher who spends countless hours looking for clues on maps, in books, or in art. In a world of many unsolved mysteries there is much to be found “underneath” the veil when the eye is willing to see. There are many theories about the Rennes-le-Château enigma, but as we all figured out long ago, there is not just one enigma. It is a collection of several enigmas, fed by all kinds of theories and findings, like a river that is fed by side streams and sources, growing all the time. But what about the underground streams? What is going on “underneath”? To find out, we first need to go on a journey through time.

It is well known that, in the first half of the fourth century CE, the Roman emperor Constantine the Great and his successors moulded the then very popular sects, Christianity and Mithraism, into a new Christian religion in order to appease and unify Europe and create a Christian empire under one Christian emperor. It does not surprise that, in the centuries that followed, the original writings, written before 325 CE, would become heresy. Many of the original scrolls were therefore destroyed and the early Christians, who wanted to stay true to their original philosophies, had no choice but to go underground. This is how the first secret Christian-mystical brotherhoods were born; brotherhoods that, a thousand years later, would

become extremely popular in Europe, especially during the Renaissance period. Because it was too risky to spread this “heretic” knowledge by the literally written word, it was hidden in a different form: in cryptic texts, fairy tale stories, card games and tarot decks, riddles, legends, myths, paintings, murals, geometry, and many other forms. The question is: what exactly are we looking for?

For over 2,000 years, the French region of Occitania has been a safe haven for refugees from the Near East. Many mystical teachings were brought to France during different periods of time, starting even before the Christian era when the Romans invaded Palestine. This is how it became possible for the Hermetic Teachings, the Essene philosophies, Jewish mysticism and early Christianity to blossom in the first millennium in this particular region in France. These refugees brought to France one important common factor: forbidden knowledge. To find echoes of these ancient teachings in southern France, all we need to do is visit certain places often found on the itinerary of guided tours. Many hints and clues can be found—evidence of long-forgotten wisdom—when you are traveling through the breathtaking landscapes of rural Occitania, leaving no stone unturned. Sometimes quite literally ...

## Location: The Hermitage of Saint Anthony of Galamus

At the Hermitage of St. Anthony of the Desert in the Galamus Gorge we find a cave chapel which contains a rather curious stone. On it sits a head

with its mouth wide open, symbolizing God speaking the First Word (Gospel of John). Beneath the head is a plaque with a mysterious text:

SATOR  
AREPO  
TENET  
OPERA  
ROTAS

“The sower reaps; Tend to the rotating wheel.”

Referring to Karma (what goes around, comes around) and the Jewish Merkabah (or Ezekiel’s Wheel), this so called magical square, readable in all directions, was found on several locations known to have belonged to the Knights Templar.

This medieval order of warrior monks, faithful to the Pope at first, was not only famous for its powerful military force and presence on all main pilgrim routes from Europe to Jerusalem; they were also masters of trade, inventors of the banking system, and successful beer brewers and wine growers. They traded in many goods, among which were sacred relics from the

Holy Land. It is said that, during their presence in Jerusalem, a group of knights on a secret quest discovered several relics underneath the Temple Mount and at other sites, scrolls, artifacts, perhaps even human bones. Some of the higher elites in the order are said to have become mystics, probably with a Christian basis, but much more open to new information. Perhaps they had found scrolls similar to the Dead Sea Scrolls or the Nag Hammadi Library, gnostic writings mainly written by the ancient order of the Essenes, who were most probably also the authors (and copiers) of the Gospels. The Essenes, originally from Egypt, owned several settlements in ancient Palestine some 2,000 years ago and they were not only gifted healers, but also gnostic mystics and philosophers. Ideas were discussed, perhaps even reshaped, during their daily morning meetings, then written down for later generations and kept in libraries in cool caves like the ones at Qumran near the Dead Sea in present-day Israel. It is quite possible that many more scrolls were hidden in different

## THE AUTHOR



Since 2007, a resident of the Aude-Pyrénées, Jeanne D'Août is not only an author and researcher, but also a tour guide in Cathar Country,

France, tour organiser in Greece, a photographer, and a producer at PanOccitania Media.

Since early childhood, she enjoyed studying the lost history of civilization, the first centuries of Christianity, the Gnosis, and mysticism. With her esoteric adventure novels, which were published worldwide in English, she has already drawn many people to this beautiful area and its mysteries. She has been a guest on many radio shows in Australia and the United States, but also on a live television talk show in Las Vegas in 2013. In 2012, she was interviewed for a TV documentary called “Himmler and the Holy Grail,” giving her a page on IMDb. She has also worked with the well-known American filmmaker, Frank LaLoggia, writing a synopsis for a possible screenplay for her first book *White Lie~The Quest for The Forbidden Relic*, which is available together with its sequel, *The Eye of Ra*, on Amazon. (See [www.jeannedaout.com](http://www.jeannedaout.com) for all the direct links). In 2015, Jeanne became a member of the ITW (International Thriller Writers Organization). In 2016, both *The Forbidden Relic* and its sequel, *The Eye of Ra*, were published on Kindle eBook. The third book in her *Time Travel Trilogy* is expected in 2019.



Stone carving at Galamus of a head with its mouth wide open, symbolizing God speaking the First Word. Photo: Jeanne D'Août.



places in Israel and Egypt. This is of importance to us, because Jewish and Hermetic mysticism and Essene/Gnostic philosophies are the origins of the Christian religion.

As Christianity had already “evolved” to a different level at the time of the Knights Templar (early 12th to early 14th century), those original scrolls dating back to the first few centuries may have contained information that was not at all convenient for the Church at that time, and anyone discovering such a text would be in grave danger. The Templars therefore will not have delivered these scrolls to the Pope, but they may have hidden them somewhere else. Since the Knights Templar Order owned many territories in Occitania, it is said that—like the Christians and the Jews before them—they too wanted to create a new Jerusalem, a new “Holy Land,” in this strategically situated corner of Europe; a region with a mountainous countryside, forgotten caves and ancient Roman and Visigoth mines. Most Occitan territories were—at some point in time—owned or rented by the Knights Templar Order, so here we have an unquestionable link between Occitania and the

Holy Land. What has been brought here for safekeeping we may never know for sure, but the Templars will always intrigue us, for we don’t know half of their story. They were, however, masters in coded messages and geometry, measuring the land carefully to be to create accurate maps.

### Location: Vals

Mysticism is important, because it helps us understand higher natural science. In Jewish mysticism, every person is born accompanied by a Seraphim, a guardian angel and the lifeline between you as a biological human being living on planet Earth and the Almighty. As you are born, the Seraphim is born, symbolically wearing a cloak of peacock feathers to remind you that God sees everything through the eyes of your Seraphim. So, with the birth of yourself and the Seraphim within you, your conscience is created. It symbolizes the Eye of Ra, the all-seeing eye, present within all living beings, the Divine Presence no one can lie to, no one can escape from, and everyone has to answer to, eventually. A rare mural of the Birth of a Seraphim can be seen in the church of Vals, located not far from the market town of

Mirepoix. It is from a time when Judaism was still very much part of Christianity. It is a miracle that it has survived at all, safely hidden underneath a thick layer of plasterwork. Ancient science ...

When we travel further south, we find another Jewish element inside a Christian church.



Mural of the birth of a Seraphim at Vals Rock Church. Photo: Jeanne D'Août.

### Location: Rennes-le-Château

Many things can be hidden from the untrained eye when it comes to art and paintings. There is symbolism in the way the hands and fingers are painted, and sometimes a certain facial expression can say it all. On the right, “Fright” by Charles le Brun, reminds us of one of the most famous statues in Rennes-le-Château, the statue of Asmodeus.

In French art, Charles le Brun (24 February 1619–22 February 1690) was one of the first to experiment with facial expressions. Beloved by King Louis XIV, who called him the greatest French artist of all time, he was inspired by the French painter Nicolas Poussin, who is known to have painted several paintings with



Church at Galamus. Photo: Jeanne D'Août.



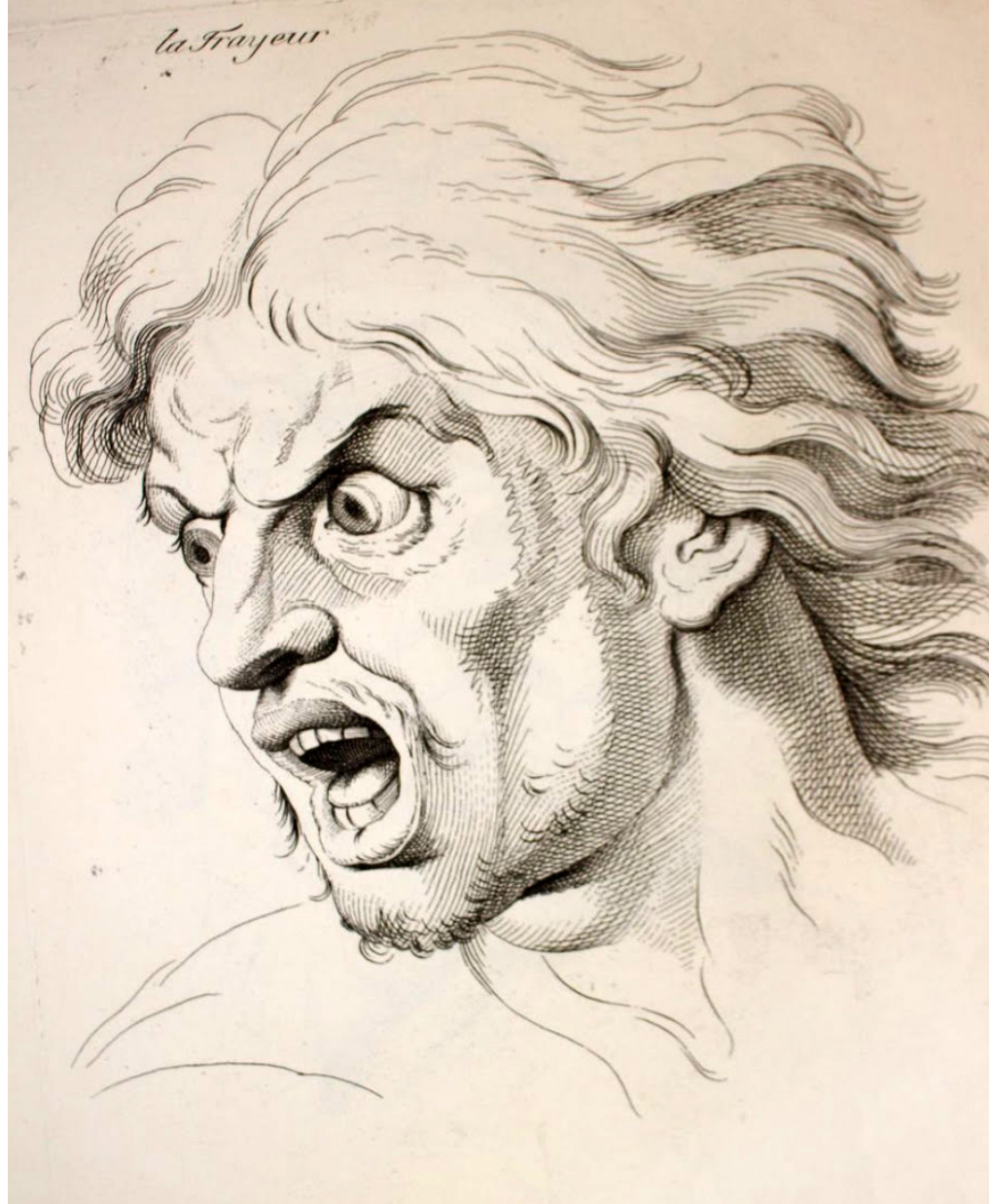
coded messages. Le Brun was his pupil and worked for him in Rome for four years. He had also worked with Nicolas Fouquet, brother of François Fouquet, the Bishop of Narbonne, who renovated the Notre Dame de Marceille near Limoux.

François Fouquet, who had just visited Poussin in Rome, wrote a certain enigmatic letter to his brother, indicating that Poussin was in possession of a great secret:

“He and I discussed certain things, which I shall with ease be able to explain to you in detail—things that will give you, through Monsieur Poussin, advantages which even kings would have great pains to draw from him, and which, according to him, it is possible that nobody else will ever be able to rediscover in the centuries to come. And, what is more, these are things so difficult to discover that nothing now on this earth can prove of better fortune nor be their equal.”

When this letter was found, Nicolas Fouquet was arrested and the French King Louis XIV became obsessed with one of Poussin's paintings, “The Shepherds of Arcadia” aka “Et in Arcadia Ego,” for he wanted to know what mystery the painting was hiding. What did Poussin know that was so big?

We understand that there were two tombs of the last Dame of Rennes-le-Château: Marie de Nègre, Dame d'Hautpoul-Blanchefort, one of which revealed the text “Et in Arcadia Ego.” Saunière must have been led by it to discover the mysteries around the works of Nicolas Poussin et al. We now also know that Saunière must have had a copy of Le Brun's drawing, and that he meant to give his statue of Asmodeus an expression of fright, referring to a Jewish myth in which Asmodeus is scared of water



“Fright” by Charles le Brun. Image provided by Jeanne D'Août.

because it reminds him of God. In our case, Asmodeus is holding up, on his shoulders, the Holy Water Stoop, making him terrified and submissive. So, when Saunière adds the text, “By this sign you will conquer it,” he may well refer to water (a source, a river) instead of the sign of the cross. Just a thought, of course.

But speaking of which ...

### Location: The Notre Dame de Marceille

Known for its miraculous source, the Notre Dame de Marceille Basilica stands majestically on a sacred hill just outside the town of Limoux. It is only half an hour away from Rennes-le-Château, and the 19th-century priest of this basilica, Abbé Lasserre,



Asmodeus holding up the Holy Water Stoop on his shoulders in 1998.

Photo: Jeanne D'Août.



was a friend and colleague of Abbé Henri Boudet of Rennes-les-Bains. Both priests had written books about their parishes and the holy waters of the ancient sites. The best known book is called *Le Vraie Langue Celtique et le Cromlech de Rennes-les-Bains* by Henri Boudet, but is there perhaps also a clue in the book *Histoire du Pelerinage de Notre-Dame de Marceille*, published by Abbé Lasserre in 1891?

Lasserre literally copies a text from *Le Vraie Langue* in chapter two, including Boudet's strange English explanation of the ancient name of the Notre Dame de Marceille, which would have been Marsilla. Boudet believed that the name Marsilla came from two English words: Mar and Seel, respectively meaning "spoilt or corrupted" and "to close your eyes" or "being blinded." Boudet may or may not be right, but it matters that this information is found in both books, and thus it appears to have been important information that had

to be shared. What are we blinded to? What information has been corrupted? Or is it Christian history itself that has been corrupted to "fit" the religious model of Constantine's new Christianity?

At the Notre Dame de Marceille we notice a few strange details in the panel at the back of the Ave Maria Chapel:

A young Mary is presented to Zachary, the High Priest of the Temple of Jerusalem. In the background, a mysterious character can be seen, sneaking away with what seems to be an important object, perhaps a scroll. The maker of this particular panel appears to have known something he wanted to share discretely. It may well be that we are looking at the very moment history was altered to fit a new religion. This panel already existed at the time of Saunière and Boudet. Interestingly, Saunière—possibly inspired by the artwork in the Notre Dame de Marceille—did something

similar in his own church in Rennes-le-Château ...

Opposite the entrance there is a statue group, featuring Jesus and John the Baptist; a statue group that hides several clues to forbidden religious history.

Underneath their worldly clothes (John's camel hide and Jesus' red robe) they wear royal robes, both of the same color and patterns, as if Saunière wanted to tell us that these two gentlemen were both kings of Israel. Also, the cornucopias, three of them, refer to fertility, indicating that Saunière may have believed that there were bloodlines of both John and Jesus.

Perhaps they were not cousins, but half brothers. Let us explore this theory and see what we can find. We know that the father of John was Zachary, the High Priest of the Temple of Jerusalem; the same High Priest that Jesus' mother, Mary, was "presented" to when she was young. In the eyes of Saunière—and most



Panel in the Ave Maria Chapel of the Notre Dame de Marceille. Photo: Cameron Broughton.



Statue group at Rennes-le-Château featuring Jesus and John the Baptist.  
Photo: Jeanne D'Août.

likely also of many others in his era and mystical circle—Jesus may well have been John the Baptist's brother from another mother.

### The End of a Royal House

So, who was Zachary? We know he was the High Priest of the Temple of Jerusalem, the husband of Elizabeth and that they were the parents of John the Baptist. However, as Zachary was a Zadok priest (Teacher of Righteousness, "Moreh Zedek") he may have also been the true but uncrowned king of Judea and surrounding regions; a priest-king who had been forced by the Romans to give up his throne to a Romanized Jewish nobleman called Herod (the Great), whom Julius Caesar had appointed governor of Jerusalem and Galilee. Although Zachary—through his priestly line—may have been linked to the Royal Hasmonean House of Judea, he was only allowed to remain in function as a High Priest in the Zadok line; a priestly bloodline connected to the Judean royal house, one that goes all the way back to Aaron the Zadok, brother of Moses, and keeper of the Ark of the

Covenant, wearer of the diadem, the breastplate (Hosen), and the Urim and Thummim divination stones (an ancient Egyptian custom, used in order to ascertain the correct decision in legal proceedings). It may even go back to Melchizedek (Michael Zadok) and the time of Abraham the Patriarch. It is clear that Zachary was not "just" a High Priest during the days of the Nativity. There is more to this Nativity story than meets the eye.

If Zachary could indeed be linked to the royal house of Judea, and his son, John the Baptist, became his heir, John would automatically succeed Zachary to become yet another king without a crown and—after his execution by Herod's son, Herod Philip I—a king without a head. But it is clear that John was the first

born and had first rights.

Next in line would now be his half brother, Jesus. Remember the sign atop the cross above Jesus: Iesu Nazareni Rex Iudorum (INRI), meaning: "Jesus the Nazarene" (the Jews used this word to point out a heretic as it referred to a Jewish sect, the Nazarenes. Nazareth didn't exist yet at that time), and "King of the Jews." The fact that Christianity insists that he was a king—from the moment he was born ("The King Is Born") and honored by the Three (foreign) Kings or Magi, to the moment he was crucified—makes one wonder; perhaps he really was the son of Zachary and heir to the Hasmonean throne.

More and more historians, professors, and scholars have become interested in exploring





the history of Zachary and the possibility that Jesus was indeed the son of Zachary and Mary. Until we know for sure, we can only guess. Maybe Poussin knew. After all, according to the Rennes-le-Château documents, "Poussin has the key." Let us take a look at a Poussin painting that shows us an actual key. The painting is on loan at the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh and is called "The Sacrament of Ordination."

A Tarot lover will immediately recognize the Magician in Jesus' position. However, it is reversed. Left hand up, right hand down. In Tarot language it means that we are being deceived. Let us look closer. He is holding the key high up in the air, with St. Peter at his feet, but it looks as if Jesus is not planning on giving it to him. It is as if Jesus is telling him to move aside. The one who is looking straight at the key, however, is John



1870 photo by Felix Bonfils: "Tombeau de Saint Jacques et de Zacharie."  
Image provided by Jeanne D'Août.

(probably Mary Magdalene), all ready to receive it, with his/her arms stretched out. Behind them in the distance we notice a tomb. Although out of place, it is easily recognizable as what was originally thought to have been the tomb of Zachary in Jerusalem. Had it not been for Christianity, the

royal house of Hasmon may have lived on, producing heirs to crown a new King of Judea the moment the Romans would leave. And, perhaps it wasn't St. Peter whom Jesus had given the keys to, but John, or Mary Magdalene.



"The Sacrament of Ordination" by Poussin. Image provided by Jeanne D'Août.