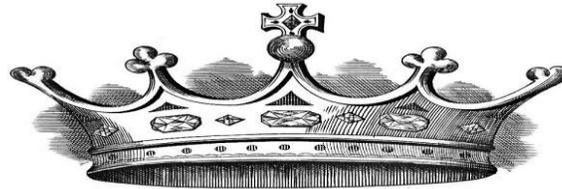


# The Crown & Cross

The Crown



Associated with the Christian traditions and ceremonies performed by European monarchs, the symbol of the crown is commonly acquainted with power, honor and reverence. Crowns are not only the traditional symbolic form of headgear worn during coronations, they are depicted widely among many cultures and in various forms, from the wreath to the halo. The symbolism of the Crown is therefore rather straightforward: It conveys feelings of victory, grace and divine sanction. Additionally, the Crown can refer symbolically to the head which is associated with wisdom, intelligence and authority.

The Cross



From a purely Christian perspective, the Cross is probably the most notable and common symbol signifying the suffering and death of Jesus. Because the Knights Templar align themselves with Christianity, the symbol of the Cross is as straight forward as it might seem. However, as with many symbols in Freemasonry, additional meanings are common even if sometimes only speculative.

Take, for example, the symbol of the Cross outside of the context of Christianity. More than 2000 years prior to the birth of Jesus, the cross was already in use in several alphabets, including ancient Hebrew where it denoted the letter "tau" which is a letter that is remarkable in its complexity. In the Hebrew alphabet, Tau is the final letter. On its own, it represents completion. In the greater sense, the Tau might represent the sum or the finality of all things combined. In fact, the Tau is derived from the Egyptian word meaning "mark". Tau appears symbolically throughout Jewish and Christian scriptures, and commonly represents a stamp or a seal as on a letter; the final mark on a completed piece of work.

Symbolically, the Cross may then represent our completion: death. The Cross may then serve not only as a reminder of our personal debt but also of our own finite existence. If we chose to delve even deeper into the symbolic meaning of the cross, we might dismantle the letter Tau and make note that it is comprised of two separate letters: Daleth and Nun. These letters spell out Din or Dan, meaning "judgment". Referring to both finality and judgment, the cross grimly spells out our inevitable judgement after death.

#### The Crown & Cross



Within the order of the Knights Templar, you may notice that the Christian Cross and the Crown are almost always combined. Oftentimes, the Cross passes through the Crown, a symbol which actually appears outside of Freemasonry, most often in Roman Catholicism. It has commonly been symbolically interpreted as alluding to the heavenly reward awaiting those who live their lives ready for judgment after death. The Crown may also serve as a reminder that death is not final but that we can continue on towards victory with honor.

In the context of the Knights Templar, the symbol of the Cross and Crown is referred to as the "Knights Templar's blood-red passion Cross and Crown." Oftentimes, this symbol is accompanied or surrounded by the Latin phrase "In Hoc Signo Vincas", meaning "By this sign thou shalt conquer". This phrase was a military motto used by Constantine, but has been used widely in ancient as well as in modern times, from school mottos to an appearance on the package of Pall Mall cigarettes.

Arranged & Edited by

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