

## KNIGHT TEMPLAR MAGAZINE ARTICLE No. 6

August 10, 2006

Sir Knights –

Isn't it a pleasure to be able to hop in your car, drive to your local grocery store, pick up whatever items you happen to need at the time, drive back home, and spend the evening in comfort? Isn't it a joy to relax in the knowledge that you are safe in your own home, that the dangers of the world are at bay, and that you are protected by the local authorities who are there to insure your privacy as well as your wellbeing?

For more than two hundred years, this has been the scenario in the vast majority of homes in this great land called the United States. Our forefathers created something that the rest of the world has simply dreamed of: a land where each individual could live up to the reality of his dreams; a land where opportunity was provided for any who chose to pursue it; and a land where, when problems and difficulties might cause great inconvenience, the population would amaze itself by its desire and ability to overcome.

Today, the citizens of the United States and the rest of the world are faced with one of the most difficult opponents with which they have ever been confronted. An opponent that is elusive, that is sometimes impossible to see and to identify, and one that is so widespread that it is seen insidiously invading countries around the globe. It seems almost impossible to be able to escape the terrorism being foisted on the world by Muslim extremists.

The latest threat (as of this writing) involves a group of at least two dozen terrorists, primarily British and Pakistan citizens, who were planning to blow up almost a dozen jet airliners en route from Great Britain to the United States. Under surveillance by British authorities for a number of months, the group was arrested just as they were preparing for a "dry run" to test their ability to smuggle the makings of chemical bombs on board the airliners. Actual attacks were to occur within three to four days of the arrests.

The immediate effects here in the United States seem to revolve around frustration at long lines waiting to slog through security check points at busy airports. Passengers will no longer be able to carry certain items onto their flights, primarily liquids and gels that could possibly provide the materials necessary to construct a chemical bomb on board the aircraft. Inconveniences that no one wishes to tolerate.

By far the more important reaction needs to be the realization that we are, indeed, involved in a conflict (call it a war or whatever else you like) that is being fought on terms with which we have little familiarity. It is a conflict that has been going on for many hundreds of years, and the battles that are waged today are but another chapter in a book that goes back to antiquity.

Our namesake ancestors, the Knights Templars of the Middle Ages, fought a desperate battle on behalf of Christianity against the Muslim invaders. Their efforts prevented the

invasion of Europe and, literally, saved the Western culture that formed the basis for our society. Today, Muslim extremists have the same desire of their ancestors: to destroy all that do not believe as they do. It is vividly apparent that the fight against this kind of terrorism, this kind of tyranny, will not end any time soon. It has been with us for ages on end, and will continue for many years to come.

During our recent Summer Assembly of York Rite Masons in Maggie Valley, one of our speakers, Akram R. Elias, Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, gave an incisive presentation concerning the current geopolitical world situation of today and the relationship of Muslim extremism to our organization. Those in attendance were privileged to learn why it is of such importance that we continue the fight against this evil enemy, and what we as York Rite Masons (particularly Knights Templar) can do to help. Brother Elias has been seen on several recent television productions concerning Masonry, its history, its teachings, and its relevance to the world today. He is extremely knowledgeable in the area of international diplomacy and trade, particularly as they relate to the Islamic world. It is my hope that each of you will have the opportunity to hear Brother Elias speak and to learn why these matters are of such grave importance to each of us.

Of the greatest significance is the fact that it behooves each of us to learn more of what is happening in our world today, and to understand how the events that are reported in the media really and truly affect every human being. If the society in which we live is of any value, it is essential that we do everything within our power to vanquish this foe, that our successors will be able to live without the fear that is now pervading many of the daily encumbrances of life that we once took for granted.

The teachings of our Order provide that we will love one another as our Lord and Saviour loves us, that we will do good to all mankind, and that we will trust in our Heavenly Father to look after us, nurture us, and eventually call us to a higher existence. They also require that, if called upon to wield our sword in defense of religion, we will give preference to that of Christianity. Let us not waver in our dedication to our duties; let us not provide solace to our enemies; let us not become derelict in our responsibilities to ourselves as well as to each other; rather, let us remain strong, maintain our vigil, and overcome those who would bring destruction and evil to the empire of our Blessed Redeemer, that those who are to follow us will know peace, happiness, and a blessed way of life.

## **It's Your Rite!**

Fraternally,

William B. Brunk  
Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of North Carolina