

## Overview

This book is divided into three parts:

1. *My Secret Castle*. Starting with a brief description, almost like a tourist guide, of what my Secret Castle at Mora de Rubielos in Aragon (Spain) looks like today, following a couple of decades of restoration work that probably saved the building but unfortunately destroyed much of its ancient symbols, I shall take the reader through a personal search on esoteric signs and symbols that can still be observed in the castle. Most were created under the influence of the Knights of St. John and the Knight Templars, as well in some early European cultures, like in the writings of ancient Ibers or Etruscans, or in some early Christian dwellings (e.g., in Ephesus), and even up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Nazi Germany.

Symbols refer to any sign, mark, or object that can be looked as representing something, including the representation of ideas, beliefs, emotions, abstractions, concepts, and values. Unfortunately, the code that would help us understand all of these ancient esoteric symbols has been totally or partially lost, and unless a Rosetta Stone of symbolism is found in the future, our interpretation can only be speculative.

Modern traffic signs, for example, are understandable to most of us and are universal because they give us warnings and directions to make driving safer. But what exactly did runic symbols, alchemic symbols, early Christian or Masonic marks, mean to the initiates or to several small groups of disciples or followers some 1,000 or 2,000 years ago, is open to question. Esoteric knowledge is traditionally restricted only to initiates and is usually transmitted verbally or by secret signs, tokens, and passwords—hence the difficulty in understanding the meaning and power conferred by this type of teaching

2. *What Happened to Our Grandparents?* When one looks back at the 20<sup>th</sup> century and at its first half in particular, so rich in political and violent turmoil ending in World War II, in which some 50 million lives perished and shaped our present world, one inevitably asks the reasons for such turbulent, disorderly, and uncontrolled behavior. What kind of forces acted upon our grandparents and their generation? Besides rational forces, it became clear to me during my investigations that irrational passions and fanatic ideas were the main motors of these painful historical events. This is why several esoteric groups or societies are also briefly discussed in the context of Nazi Germany. Ideas and beliefs that led to bizarre and yet not fully explained historical episodes, such as the Rudolf Hess solo flight to Scotland in May 1941, when Hitler seemed so close to total victory in Europe. His mission and exactly what happened to him remain an enigma.

Enigma is any puzzling question, person, thing, or circumstance that cannot be properly explained or understood. This is often because the truth has been deliberately hidden, or even destroyed, to protect or maintain the privileges of the powerful. History is full of enigmas, and several are reviewed in this book from a personal perspective based on many years of research. Mystery is slightly different from an enigma because it is impenetrable, the cause or origin of the question or concept is hidden to our human minds or impossible to understand. Thus, for example, the nature of Divinity, the knowledge of good and evil, and our own fate are a mystery to us.

3. *The Last Encounter Between Jesus and Mary Magdalene*

The long personal journey I started in the village of Mora de Rubielos, and that took me across the history of Christianity and western civilization following the steps of the Cathars, the Knight Templars and their brethren the Hospitallers, the Jews and Islam, the Alchemists and the Freemasons, the Jesuits and the Nazis, ended up back in my starting place: the winding staircase with its marks on the steps. Mapping human history took me back to the double helix of DNA, the chemistry of genes. Except in this case, each step was not made of 'chemical base pairs' but it consisted in 'secret concepts'. These concepts were the key to good and evil. They were taught only to initiates from time immemorial to teach them a rational way of deciding how they ought to live and die. Each step meant the intellectual excitement of the search for answers to basic questions on morals, beliefs, feelings like fear, rage, hatred and love, the beginning and the end of human nature and the essence of divinity. The winding staircase leading down from the Chapel (exoteric) to the Temple with the Equilateral Triangle (Esoteric) three floor levels below was the symbolical and allegorical method to communicate such knowledge and moral strength to those who knew the last words exchanged between Jesus and Mary Magdalene.