



Templar Tarot: the Journey

Update from Printer— New Release November 13, 2009

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The good news is that the proofs are beautiful. More good news is that while we didn't quite make our October 13 release date at least it is still before the winter holidays here in the US and many other countries. And it will be on a Friday the 13th, which has a significant meaning to the Knights Templar.

allenchester.com



Allen Chester

Insight About the Box Sleeve

An interesting thing we did with the design of the box cover was opting to leave off the names of the artist and author as a byline on the cover or spine of the box sleeve. Their names do appear but it is on the back in some text about the contents of the box. While both Allen and Stephen contributed a substantial amount of time and energy to this project, neither feel as though it is entirely their work. This is our way of giving the Templars top billing.



Stephen Dafoe

stephendafoe.com

This has been an inspired project from its early beginnings. Allen and Stephen have gone to their limits edge to enter into a space where the inspiration for this project has long awaited their service. Together they are bringing to the readers a story that is not about ego, ownership or authorship of any kind. It is a Universal story that ultimately belongs to all of us. For that reason, we chose to leave off the bold names, marketing, praise, and other text designed to "sell" the product. We trust the magic and know that those that are meant to have it will get it and those not, will find it another time.

Advanced Praise from Dr. Jim Nourse

"At the nexus of depth psychology and spirituality, Chester and Dafoe have discerned and crafted nothing less than a road map for the soul. Steeped in timeless archetypal wisdom yet newly and freshly expressed, this is a masterful guide for the spiritual warrior, perfectly appointed to the task of defeating our inner adversaries and walking our true path."

— James C. Nourse, Ph.D., L.Ac.
Author of Simple Spirituality: Finding Your Own Way

Below are some images from the new deck:



22 Obligation



38 Betrayal



29 Affinity



39 Interrogation

A Brief History of the Templar Tarot & Templar Tarot the Journey

The Templar Tarot project came about following suggestions from friends that Allen's art resembles Tarot art in that really speaks to them in a different way than most art. Allen, being an inspired artist, enjoyed the many different interpretations offered by people appreciating his art. He was often amazed at how one person would focus on a certain aspect and the next person would see something entirely different but it always seemed that the painting was custom painted just for the individual viewing it at any given time. He did not set out to create a Tarot deck at first and did not make the connection to the Templars until several years into the project. He had always been fascinated by the knights of the crusades but it was not until the High Priestess was complete that he realized he was painting a story long held silent and considered a mystery. The Knights Templar began to surface in everything he painted and then spilled over in to his personal life. He did not plan his paintings before he began but instead would sit at the easel until his brush on the canvas began to come to life.

Toward the end of the completion of the art for the original Templar Tarot deck he met Daria Kelleher through a business associate. Daria was an editor and writer for a small publishing company and coincidentally had read Tarot for years. Acknowledging that he was not capable of writing about his own art or connecting the art to the Tarot meanings, he asked Daria if she could write a booklet to accompany the deck. This was his first Divine Connection. Daria was not only a Tarot reader but she was a also somewhat of a Templar historian and had done much research for her personal interest and for a young adult book that she wrote about the Templars.

Allen did not feel finished after the 78th card was painted and painted one last Major Arcana painting that was finished only days before we were due to go to press with the deck. Somehow the printer was able to work it in and the 79 card deck was printed and launched by the end of November, 2001.

The odd 79th card made itself recognized after the finished deck was in our hands as the first card of a sequel deck that would come later. He continued painting for the next seven years and produced another collection or art similar to the first deck. Finally, one evening in the Fall of 2008 he decided it was time. He discussed with his wife who would be the best author for the sequel book text and they both knew it had to be Stephen Dafoe, the founder of TemplarHistory.com and renowned author of several factually based Templar books. Since they did not know Stephen personally, it was a long shot that he would be in a position to accept such an unusual request.

Yet another Divine Connection occurred. Stephen Dafoe replied to the brief email request within only a few hours stating that he would be interested in hearing more about the project.

And so began a long distance collaboration between Allen and Stephen with Allen's wife, Cathy, as the intermediary for the many conversations that brought it all together. Stephen decided to focus on the Templars' history and chose 21 new works of art along with the 79th card from the first deck. The 21 cards are divided up in to 3 segments, the Birth, Life and Death of the Knights Templar. He interpreted each of the 21 paintings in a way that ties it to the Templars but also to each reader's own personal life. It is genuinely magical to see and experience the synchronicity that occurs when this deck is blended with the cards from the original deck.

Allen and Stephen have still never met or even emailed each other but yet it is as though when writing the book, Stephen was able to re-experience Allen's inspiration when he was painting the art.

Allen and Stephen look forward to meeting each other at some point in this life. Or maybe the next.

Next Issue—How to use a 101 card deck. (Oh, and yes, Allen did one extra card again.)

In the next newsletter we will talk a bit about the different ways you can use the large deck.

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at info@inspirebydesign.com