



Barcelona Esotérica

A SPIRITUAL TOUR OF THE CITY

by Sandra Burela

Romans, Visigoths, Jews, counts, sailors, merchants, people from all over the Mediterranean walked the streets of this 2000 year old city. Remaining walls of old Roman Barcino, medieval churches, incredible modern architecture...

But there's a legendary and mystical Barcelona, a story of Templars, Jews and the great emergence of Kabbalah in Catalonia. The splendors of Freemasonry in all the arts and society of the 19th century. Hidden symbolism related with the spirituality of the Western esoteric tradition. All resist being forgotten and claim their footprint in our history to understand this city and its spirit.

This city has LVX!

CHRISTIANITY
JUDAISM AND
KABBALAH

FREEMASONS
AND
TEMPLARS

HISTORY
SYMBOLISM
AND
BEAUTY



OLD ROMAN BARCINO

Where the current city of Barcelona stands, more than two thousand years ago according to Roman diviners there were the ideal telluric current conditions to plant a Roman camp in this hilly district, and on one in particular, Mont Taber, a temple dedicated to Augustus or, more covertly, in honor of Jupiter, the deity of prosperity.

The design of the Roman city is curiously an octagon, although elongated, a geometric shape with a lot of symbolic charge that later the Templars used in the floor plan of many of their buildings or in the dome of their churches.



HERMES

What's up with this Greek God and Barcelona? He's all over the place!

Well, Barcelona is an Aquarius air sign, rebellious, idealistic and adventurous.

In Roman tradition he is Mercury and in the Egyptian the great Thoth, messenger of the gods, the inspirer of knowledge, science, art and commerce.

This city is full of caduceus staffs and Hermes wings that give it the potential to fly very high and as far as its people's collective consciousness can take it.



TEMPLARS AND FREEMASONS



The origin of Freemasonry, according to one historical interpretation, goes back to when the Templars were persecuted and killed in the early 14th century and some survivors fled to Scotland taking with them the great secret or "treasure" of the Temple Order - more than a physical treasure it was a treasure of wisdom and knowledge - to then reappear a few centuries later in the form of the speculative Masonry of the 18th century.

In Barcelona, Masonic footprints are present because in the 19th century 80% of the politicians were Freemasons as well as the bourgeoisie and artists who drove the famous Catalan Modernism so characteristic of the city. 40 years of Franco dictatorship in the 20th century made them disappear since they were under threat of death penalty. But they are back today.



The Templar traces, because of their antiquity, are more difficult to detect. The Templar cross pattée is present in the cathedral, and the base of the dome with its characteristic octagonal shape is also typical in Templar constructions.

Old kings and counts of Barcelona like the great King James I "The Conqueror" were educated by the Templars and Count Ramon Berenguer III on his death bed became a Templar and left his inheritance to the order.

JEWISH QUARTER AND KABBALAH

When the word "Kabbalah" is mentioned, many people think of something distant related to ancient Jews, numbers and ... Madonna! Actually there is a much closer relationship to the Catalan and Hispanic culture than the neophyte could imagine.

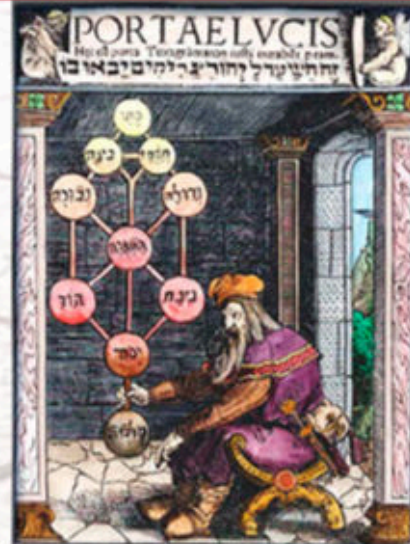
Great modern Kabbalists like Shev Ben Halevi consider Catalonia the cradle of the medieval Kabbalah inspired by Nahmanides in Gerona.

13th century Barcelona also had its synagogues and talmudic school with a famous rabbi named Shlomo ben Adret, very orthodox and contrary to the ideas of Maimonides (Cordova) and his Aristotelian line. Less known is that there were also mystical studies of the Kabbalist current, and that Abraham Abulafia (Saragossa) studied with Rabbi Barukh Togarmi for two years.

If philosophical studies of Maimonides were vetoed by the orthodoxy of the times, the mystic and Kabbalistic practices were branded as obscure and scandalous.

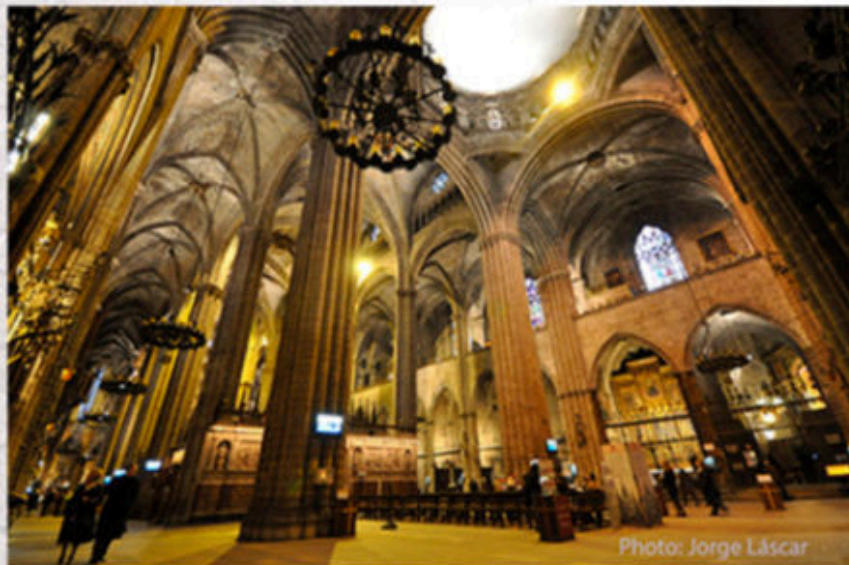
Long ago in the 8th century the Muslims called Barcelona "Madinat Barshiluna". During the Middle Ages, the south of France, Girona and Barcelona formed a triangle of great movement of the medieval Kabbalistic teachings. There was a special connection between the people of Lunel and Barcelona, and Kabbalistic Jews also affectionately used that name, but for them it had a special meaning:

Bar-Shi-Luna > Children of Heaven and the Moon



THE CATHEDRAL

We could say that the cathedral has been a spiritual location for over 2000 years. First there was a Roman temple dedicated to Jupiter, then a paleocristian basilica of the 4th century, a Visigothic church, briefly a mosque (from 718 to 801 during the Muslim occupation by Abderraman I), a Romanesque cathedral (1058) and a 15th century Gothic cathedral which we see today.



Who built the cathedrals? In the peak of its Middle Age splendor several churches and the cathedral were being built in this great Mediterranean city. Like all the Gothic cathedrals of Europe, its construction is based on Sacred Geometry, telluric currents and a flow of energies which facilitate communication with the Divine and Sacred Knowledge. The operative Masons along with that mysterious wisdom of the Templars seem to be the heralds of these gems which we can still enjoy and touch their stones today.

SYMBOLISM - SANT JORDI AND MONTSERRAT



MONTSERRAT

A city guarded and blessed by the Mountain of Montserrat, there's hardly a church in Catalonia where there isn't an allusion to this "Black Madonna found in a cave". She really is the Egyptian goddess Isis, archetype of the feminine energy and hides a great alchemical transmutation enigma. She is called "La Moreneta".

SANT JORDI

The masculine patron of Catalonia is represented by a knight and a dragon, Saint George. It represents a stage of the journey of consciousness, the Higher Self trying to dominate its personality, his ego, represented by a stubborn and unruly dragon, a mythological animal that swims, flies and spits fire.



BARCELONA TODAY...

In modern days, there were times of Masonic splendor as in the 19th century and other times when Barcelona was numb, dull and darkened... But a city is a living entity and is reborn from its ashes. There were events that woke it up like a Sleeping Beauty and made the world turn to look at it. The 1992 Olympic Games marked an important moment of inflection. It was such a magic moment!



And here is this beautiful Aquarian city evolving among its joys and its shadows, but destined to be a beacon of Light. If this is in the deep spiritual desire of the Children of Heaven and the Moon, so it will be.



L.V.X!

SANDRA BURELA



Sandra Burela, passionate seeker and history lover has been studying Kabbalah, Alchemy and Western Esotericism since 1992, both its historical perspective and spiritual practice. Active member since 2003 at the Alta Escuela R+C de Kabbalah & Alquimia de Barcelona, Kaph Resh Yeshivá, of Escuelas de Misterios.

She has translated several esoteric and spiritual books for Escuelas de Misterios S.L. Publishing company which are sold at Librería Iniciática: La Nueva Consciencia de Obadiah S. Harris – Palabras de los Sabios; Guía práctica de las Ciencias Esotéricas – Los Judíos eran Internautas; el antiguo acceso a Internet de Nilton Bonder – Fronteras de la Inteligencia de Nilton Bonder.

"I feel a deep affection and connection with the city of Barcelona and after several years offering private tours through Barcelona especially to North American travelers, I decided to add another of my great passions - esoterica - because I began to discover the hidden and spiritual treasures that this great city also has and created the Historic, Esoteric and Spiritual Tour for www.BarcelonaEsoterica.com.

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