



A Night To Embroider: Who Sank The Titanic?

*"My mother always believed that the **Great Eastern**, the first steamship of any size to speak of, met with repeated disasters because God was jealous, as He was of the Tower of Babel. In 1917, my cousin, Lawrence Bishop, told me that he thought 'the Lord prepared a great iceberg' for the **Titanic** in annoyance at the claim of the shipbuilders that she was unsinkable."*

- - Aleister Crowley, *The Confessions of Aleister Crowley*

Fourscore and seven years ago yesterday, the first great tragedy of the modern world slammed home to newspaper readers all across the globe. The *S.S. Titanic*, proudest and newest ship of the White Star Line, had struck an iceberg and sunk, taking over 1,500 lives with her. This event's iconic power is hard to fathom so many years and so many tragedies later, but the collision of ice and steel, of design and Nature, seemed in hindsight to presage a century marred by bloody miscalculation and hubristic designs. As, no doubt, it did, somewhere in the mythic sphere - - the best known disaster of its time is still enough to drive a billion-dollar epic around the world, fixing the *Titanic* in the mind afresh, and setting off any number of inspirational legends and rumors usable in your game of myth, tragedy, or conspiracy.

"When Cameron began his film career . . . he was already a member of the Freemasons . . . Since a group of Freemasons helped Cameron finance his film projects while they secretly embedded MK-ULTRA technology into his films, it's logical to conclude that the person controlling MK-ULTRA technology under project MK-SEARCH at that time was none other than George Bush . . ."

- - Daniel Perez, "James Cameron, 33rd Degree Freemason"

Leaving aside (however reluctantly) an MK-ULTRA mind-control conspiracy to plant unwholesome lusts for Leonardo DiCaprio in the hearts of red-blooded prepubescent girls everywhere, or the threads of Astartean sacrifice running through the film career of Kate Winslet, we can look at the *Titanic* through the familiar lenses of the unflagging conspiratologist: *cui bono*? Who benefits when the pride of the White Star Line sinks?

According to *The Titanic Conspiracy* by Robin Gardiner (and didn't you just know there'd be a book by that title out?), the White Star Line benefited, having had the presence of mind to switch the much cheaper *Olympic* (the *Titanic*'s sister ship and near double) for the *Titanic* at the last minute and give Captain Smith (a suspicious moniker if there ever was one, no doubt) orders to smack it into the first convenient iceberg he ran across. Then, the White Star folks pocketed the insurance money (from the policy of the more generously insured *Titanic*) and moved on to bigger and better things. For added fun, the *Titanic* (under its *Olympic* pseudonym) served for

23 more years, retiring in 1935. Folks with those kind of tendencies hint darkly at J.P. Morgan's stake in the Line (supposedly a controlling share through dummy stockholders and so forth), and point to the fact that he gave up his berth on the *Titanic* (or *Olympic*) because of his wife's "premonitions of disaster."

Folks who want to add yet another layer of excitement to the plot can point out that Morgan's business rivals John Jacob Astor (identified by Lyndon LaRouche as a puppet of the British Crown's opium trade, and parse that how you wish) and Benjamin Guggenheim both went down with the great ship - - leaving Morgan in a position to found the Council for Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission, and the Federal Reserve the next year. While we're going on about coincidences, it's too cool that the U.S. Ambassador to France, who also canceled his *Titanic* trip at the last minute, was named Robert Bacon - - a lovely echo of Francis Bacon, our Secret Master deluxe (and, of Roger Bacon, whose putative *Voynich Manuscript* surfaced, rather than sank, in 1912).

"The way shall be opened to him that hath power over his feet, and he shall see the Great God in the Boat of Ra, when souls are counted therein at the bows, and when the years also are counted up."

- - *The Egyptian Book of the Dead*

Moving further into the foggy North Atlantic of mysticism, rumor states that the *Titanic* had a passenger even more noble and deadly than Colonel Astor - - a 3,400-year-old mummy, usually identified as a princess of Luxor from around the reign of Thutmose III. Dug up in the late 1890s, the four men who clubbed in to buy the mummy case all suffered disaster (one wandered into the desert, one was shot in the arm by an Egyptian servant, one went bankrupt and the fourth was broken by illness). The British Museum wound up with the case, but moved it to the basement when a visitor's child died of measles after he'd treated the case disrespectfully. (Mummies are touchy bastards under the best of circumstances; the guy had it coming.) Two of the Museum's moving staff died, a photographer who was tracking the curse committed suicide, and finally in desperation, the Museum sold it to an American collector - - who packed it on board a ship for New York. One guess which ship that was, of course - - and the absolutely silliest versions of the story have the case being rescued from the choppy Atlantic, shipped to America to kill yet more random passersby, and then be shipped back to England - - on the *Lusitania*. Now *that's* a curse - - the case must be in Warehouse 23 by now. (It would be far too cruel to let some [GURPS Cliffhangers](#) PCs find that case in some unlikely place after great trouble. Far too cruel.)

"From the bridge, engine-room, and a dozen places on her deck the ninety two doors of nineteen water-tight compartments could be closed in half a minute by turning a lever. These doors would also close automatically in the presence of water. With nine compartments flooded the ship would still float, and as no known incident of the sea could possibly fill this many, the steamship Titan was considered practically unsinkable."

- - Morgan Robertson, *Futility* (1898)

Psychic prediction? Time travel? Hellish coincidence? Whatever your fancy, it's interesting to compare the ship in Morgan Robertson's *Futility* (a novel in which an unsinkable ship is brought low by a North Atlantic iceberg on its maiden voyage from England to New York and the passengers drown thanks to inadequate lifeboats) to the pride of White Star. Among other coincidences, Robertson's ship, the *Titan*, was 70,000 tons, 800 feet long, with a top speed of 24 knots; the *Titanic* was 66,000

tons, 882 feet long, and the same top speed. Not bad for 14 years early. And lightning struck twice; Robertson wrote a later book called *Beyond the Spectrum* about a futuristic war between the United States and Japan, beginning with a December sneak attack by the Japanese upon Hawaii and ending with the use of "sun bombs" dropped from airplanes, one of which could destroy an entire city.

*". . . Here, said she,
Is your card, the drowned Phoenecian Sailor,
(Those are pearls that were his eyes. Look!)
. . . Fear death by water."
- - T.S. Eliot, The Waste Land*

The *Titanic* has mythic resonances that begin with the "switched twin" tale (recalling, for example, the *Olympic* god Heracles and his mortal twin Iphicles - - and the rivalry between the Olympians and the Titans) and run through the boats of the Sun (Ra) and Moon (Isis). The Hindu sea goddess Maryamna has her sacred day on April 14 (when the iceberg hit), and the Egyptian goddess Bast holds hers (complete with celebratory boat procession) on April 15, when the ship sunk. Bast, in addition to cats, joined the power of Sun and Moon. Perhaps our mummy case held one of the Cat People's princesses?

Legend has it that the *Titanic's* hull number was 390904, which, when flipped around, spelled out NO POPE (think about it); implying the *Titanic* was indeed a goddess-boat. Her code key was, in fact, MGY, which under the kabbala-tarot correspondence is Hanged Man, Priestess (the famed "Female Pope" card), Hermit; a woman traveling in secret between two silent men. (The distress call the *Titanic* sent was CQD - - Temperance, Moon, Empress; all three women, and one specifically a Moon goddess.) MGY adds to 53, the stone that slew Goliath - - an interesting parallel to the berg that slew the giant ship. 390904 adds to 25, which is "to break," so it's a real shame that the actual hull number of the *Titanic* was 131428, which doesn't spell anything backward, although it does add to 19 (which corresponds to the Strength card of the Tarot, again female power, and specifically congruent with an unsinkable ship). The *Titanic* was a Gemini, "born" in Belfast on May 31, 1911 (more twin imagery). Her death spot, 41 degrees north by 50 degrees west, is the place where 41, "Divine Majesty" (41 kabbalistically) meets 50, Jonah's whale.

*"The answer to all these **Titanic** riddles will never be known for certain . . . Some will disagree, and they may be right. It is a rash man indeed who would set himself up as final arbiter on all that happened the incredible night the **Titanic** went down."
- - Walter Lord, A Night To Remember*

And where there's no single answer, then, there are as many answers as you have [INWO](#) Illuminati cards, and we bisociate thusly.

The Bavarian Illuminati: Interested in cementing Anglo-American ties, the furtive Round Table group sank the *Titanic* to give both nations a shared tragedy, binding the populace together in weepy sentiment and setting up resonances that it would put to good use by sinking the *Lusitania* three years later to draw America into WWI.

Discordians: The iceberg was a practical joke on Captain Smith for his retirement, and like a lot of retirement parties, it got out of hand.

The UFOs: Divers have reported UFO wreckage on the bottom near the ship's stern

- - was there a crashed UFO in the hold, maybe the triangular shadow seen over Wiltshire on April 8, 1912? Was the hole punched outward rather than inward, as the pilot escaped?

Adepts of Hermes: It was a blood sacrifice to Odin; April 14 is Sommarsblot, when blood must be offered for summer's harvest. The Adepts needed a rich harvest of magickal energy to see them through the wars and revolutions of the next decade, and they got it from Njord of the Seas.

Shangri-La: Well, Shangri-La is near India and desires world peace - - which Indian pacifist regularly sank British ships over Atlantis? Could the ghost ship some witnesses saw have been the conning tower of Nemo's *Nautilus*, marking its kill for the Nine Unknowns?

Gnomes of Zurich: Killing Astor and Guggenheim was just a distraction; the real target was Lloyd's of London and the ripple effect on the next 40 years of insurance policies.

Bermuda Triangle: The ship went down on the Bimini-Thule ley line in a geomantic working to open a death-vortex and pin down one end of the Midgard Serpent kundalini.

The Network: Jacques Futrelle, creator of the Thinking Machine stories, was one of the casualties of the *Titanic*, along with an unpublished tale which Told Too Much.

Servants of Cthulhu: Burp.

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