



Image 02: Japanese Commuter Prison.

The Secrets of a Map

Life can be seen as a journey into the unknown. Like most travellers going to where they have never been before, the journey is easier if you make use of a map. The Grail Quest is a map for the journey of life. The design of this map is an old one with a legend that marks out an ancient path. Despite its age it remains as relevant today as it ever has been. This is because the journey of life has never really changed. We are born, we grow from childhood into a world of adult ambitions and desires. We die. Within this journey we face challenges, surmount obstacles and achieve ambitions. Even the most humble of us tread this path in the same way as the more illustrious.

We all share the journey of life.

Our human history is full of the stories of those of us who have gone before. They have left their footprints in the sand of mortality and for those who wish to see, there is a real benefit in learning from these memories of life. Some may think that the world of today excludes the value of lessons learnt in past times. Such a dismissal of experience is rarely the foundation of a wise life. As true as it is that the world of today is very different from the world of any past time, in life the fundamental nature of the challenges we face remain essentially the

same. We need to raise families, we need to provide food for our tables, we need to deal with adversity and we need to understand our own story in the life of our communities.

This is the continuity of the drama each human life plays out on the stage of our lives. The settings may be different, the language of the narrative may differ, each drama may have its own plot but the nature of the story never changes. We are born into a place of mystery and own a life, our life, for reasons we find difficult to explain. As we share that common experience, we all face the final destiny of mortality. Such an inevitable consequence of the journey unites us both in awe and dread. All we can do is make our time on the path as worthy of the gift of life as we are each capable of doing.

We can travel the journey blindfolded or we can search out the wisdom and experience of those who have gone before us. The Grail Quest is just one map of many available to us. The old cartography offered here comes from a legend well known to many; The Arthurian Grail Quest. A story of a King and his knights, a tale of adventures, hard times, harsh battles and ideas of honour and integrity. Despite its setting, this life play tells of ways to face the challenges of life and much more.

As a map, the Grail Quest serves to show us where we are in any moment of our lives. The design enables us to look at our lives and see where we stand on the map. We can see where we have come from and which direction we need to take to move on. However, this map has a more powerful element of support than just pointing the way. Once you understand this map it can advise you on the actions you need to take in any situation or for any step forward.

The task here is to provide an understanding of this Grail Quest map in terms and references which are of our time. As the story unfolds the insights of the past act as signposts for the ways and routes we face

now. No matter how you define your own sense of spirituality the Grail Quest map can inform because it is simply about the basics of human life. Whatever it teaches, the map leaves you free to define your own life in your own way. The lessons are about the topography of life but free of demands regarding how it is you travel the journey.