

February 2021 Grand Prelates Reflection

Sir Knights;

Recently, there was an article about a star that can be seen in the night sky. We call it “Beetlejuice”. Its actual name is Betelgeuse. It is a red supergiant star and can be found in the upper left corner of the constellation Orion. It is easily identified because it has a reddish tint to it. It is massive. If it were centered in our solar system, it would extend to Jupiter.

The article stated that Beetlejuice is coming to the end of its life. They know that it will erupt into a massive supernova. The explosion may have already taken place. Given its distance, from the Earth, and the speed of light, it could have taken place a thousand years ago. We are only now seeing it.

At this point, you might be wondering what this has to do with the Grand Prelate’s reflection and the Knight Templars. In this time of pandemic, there is a tendency for us to close up shop and stop all of our activities. As we near the end of our lives, we tire and believe that we are not able to help in any meaningful way. These are very real feelings and beliefs. If we do have these feelings, it becomes very easy for us to forget that there is a world out there. There might be people who are experiencing far more difficult problems than us. It is at those times; we might set aside our feelings and act.

During the closing months of World War II, the Germans launched a counter offensive in what is known as the Battle of the Bulge. Allied troops found themselves trapped in a small town called Bastogne. Though tired and hungry, General George Patton’s troops, turned and marched a great distance to save the troops at Bastogne. It would have been easy to ask for food and rest. They knew what was at stake and they acted.

When we act to help someone, we might never know the reach of our aid. There are times when we donate our money without ever knowing how it aided someone. There are times when, like planting a seed, it might be a long time before we see any results. That should not be why we act. As Knights Templar, we are called to aid the poor and weary pilgrim traveling from afar. We act because there is a need and not for the results that we want.

A star is a wonderful thing. Most will glow for billions of years. Our Sun will be glowing for another five billion years or so. Its energy is what we need to survive. When it finally comes to an end, it will not be like Beetlejuice. It will not explode. It will get large and then, like the embers of charcoal, it will slowly fade away. Until then, its light will shine every day.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is like a star. He is the light of the world. His light will never be extinguished. His light is in each and every one of us. Just as the Sun gives us energy, our Lord is the reason for our existence. His love shines bright. Let us, as Knights Templar, choose to shine in a world that needs our actions so very much.

Until next month, shine on!

Mark Pennypacker
Grand Prelate