

Biography of Raymund Lull

was sent to a foreign shore craved to win the heavenly palm and wear the purple passion-flower. The spirit of the Crusades was in possession of the Church and its leaders, even after the sevenfold failure of its attempts to win by the sword. Bernard of Clairvaux wrote to the Templars: "The soldier of Christ is safe when he slays, safer when he dies. When he slays it profits Christ; when he dies it profits himself."

Much earlier than the end of the Middle Ages the doctrines of martyrdom had taken hold of the Church. Stories of the early martyrs were the popular literature to fan the flame of enthusiasm. A martyr's death was supposed, on the authority of many Scripture passages,* to cancel all sins of the past life, to supply the place of baptism,

* Luke xii. 50 ; Mark x. 39 ; Matt. x. 39 ; Matt. v. 10-12. Compare the teaching of Roman Catholic commentaries on these passages.