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ALLEGORY of the CHURCH of the TEMPLE

During a recent visit to the UK, I returned to Temple Church in London to further my Masonic knowledge, what I discovered was fascinating.

In the years following the overthrow of the Templars in 1307, the properties were confiscated and given to the Hospitallers, who then leased part of them for Inns and rooms to the high Lawyers of England, who came to London to attend the Kings court in neighboring Westminster, a city, within the City of London (famous as the centre of British politics, law and finance).

The Inns were next to one of the gates of the City known as the "Barriere du Temple".

The *Barriere*, (Barrier), was a Toll checkpoint where payment was needed to pass into the City. The name was eventually changed to "Temple Bar".

Lawyers after qualifying to appear before the Kings court were exempt from payment, this privilege was known as "Passing the Bar", lawyers gaining this high award were afterwards known as "Barristers"

To this day, the qualifications are called Bar exams, and the Barristers belong to guilds called Bar associations.

The Inns are still used but are now schools for Law. Every practicing Barrister in Great Britain has to pass through one of these Inns. These Inns "conjointly" pay for the upkeep of Temple Church and it's surrounding properties.

I think it's the very height of Irony that the Church of the Templars, who were placed outside the Law by the Church and Crown, is now protected and kept in pristine condition by the "Law" itself.

Do you think perhaps some of them may be Freemasons ?

One last thing, it's no coincidence my timing of writing this article, today is the 13th October, the 705th anniversary of that day.