



# The songs of Roland

**Richard Cirulli outlines how the parable in his latest book can lead us to a better morality in our everyday lives**

## Setting the Scene

Once upon a time, in the not too distant past, there was a kingdom where children were taught the morality tales, myths and legends by the best of Bards in the land. With their innocent eyes wide open and with ears eager to learn, their maturing minds and souls sought to emulate the deeds of these ancient heroes who accepted life's quests and searches for their Holy Grails. The bards told their stories of King Arthur and Guinevere, and sang the Song of Roland, Joan of Arc, El Cid, and Robin Hood too, to name just a few. The Bards captivated the youth with these mighty tales of heroes and avatars fighting and sacrificing themselves for something greater than themselves, who sought not the treasures of the earth but spiritual paradises beyond the lands of the profane.

Then this mighty kingdom fell to the hordes of modernity, complete with its computers and cell phones. Terrible monsters in the form of downloaded apps made evil egregores that plundered our compassion, empathy, and love of fellow humanity, transforming each citizen into their own kingdom as large as their selfie and expanding self-serving ego. Within their virtual worlds they built false myths and legends about themselves.

To seek acceptance in the herd of the profane, this new humanity delegated their thoughts, emotions, dreams, and soul to texts, selfies, emails, and popular culture. Even romance became virtual in this new kingdom, where the love songs of the troubadours and romantic poems of the Bards were mocked as human folly – replaced with virtual romance without human touch, voice, and feelings.

## Meet our Hero

Roland enters the scene; a contemporary moralist and romantic, viewed by society as an anachronism as he navigates his ordained quest through a series of gauntlets to assist humanity in distress. Roland is a recently divorced ageing baby-boomer now living the life of a spiritual seeker, intellectual, existentialist, and artist. A man of harsh self-criticism, discipline, and honesty, he is driven with the idealism to assist humanity in distress. Roland is a moralist who stands up against the injustices of life at all hazards.

Roland begins his spiritual quest in his youth. It takes him on an arduous path to the western hermetic tradition of Gnosticism, the Kabbalah, and esoteric Freemasonry, eventually achieving the grade of magus and adept of the illuminati. Through a number of synchronistic events, Roland finds himself intimately involved with Candice, one of his former college students. As the relationship grows, Roland is plagued with a frequent nightmare of being burnt alive at the stake for being a Christian Heretic in Southern France during the Albigensian Crusade of the 13th century. These endless nightmares

ultimately reveal to him that he is a reincarnated Cathar who was burned alive at the siege of Montsegur for his faith.

Having failed in his Cathar incarnation, Roland now finds himself in 20th century America, where he must fulfill his heavenly mission with Candice, his reincarnated cohort, to make right his failings from his previous life. He liberates himself by following his destiny – to rebuild Montsegur as the temple and university of light that eventually saves humanity and paves the way for the Messiah.

## The Allegory

The moral of this story is to offer hope for each of us to overcome the demons in our souls, and to build a new humanity now guided by an intervening Divinity. The story is deep, painful, and illustrates who we really are, and what we must become.

*The Songs of Roland* is as much an anachronism as it is a timely story that speaks with prophetic relevance to today's world of chaos as the masses seek to find a false sense of security in materialism. The book is a wake-up call to open our eyes to what the future will behold for humanity if it fails to achieve a spiritual renaissance.

The subjects of this book integrate and synthesize many Gnostic schools of thought such as Freemasonry, Kabbalah, ritual magic, Rosicrucianism, alchemy, the Christian hermetic tradition, and sacramental lovemaking as per the tantric and Kama Sutra traditions. It is existentially written on multiple levels that speak to the flesh on the surface, while also addressing our subconscious nature, and our soul. ●

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\* He holds a PhD in Sacred Science and is also certified in Reiki, Nutrition and Herbology.

\* He has written 12 volumes of metaphysical poetry and meditations.

\* *The Songs of Roland: The return of the Cathar Magi*, £15.95

