

THE LEFT HAND OF GOD ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Here there are endless bits and pieces of everything I have ever read or heard, from The Book of Judges to The Duchess of Malfi to a line from an old children's film – too many to mention individually. Some borrowings are crucial: I am indebted to John Keegan's brilliant The Face of Battle and not just for his description and analysis of the Battle of Agincourt. Agincourt by Juliet Barker was immensely useful in its detail of the complex days leading up to the battle itself, as was Mathew Strickland's and Robert Hardy's The Great Warbow from which I took precise details of the use of the bow and crossbow. For IdrisPukke's philosophy of life I stole heavily from Arthur Schopenhauer's Essays and Aphorisms and On The Suffering of the World; for Chancellor Vipond's, La Rochefoucauld's Maxims set the tone. Scattered here and there are lines from Robert Graves' great translation of Homer, The Anger of Achilles.

In some editions the acknowledgement concerning Sullivan Ballou's letter to his wife, Sarah, a week before he died at Bull Run was inadvertently omitted. It is first quoted by Arbell to Cale and then repeated by him later to mean its exact opposite.
SEE http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sullivan_Ballou

THE LAST FOUR THINGS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire.” Gustav Mahler

There are many acts of righteous larceny throughout these three books, from Paradise Lost to a shampoo ad from the Sixties, from Francis Bacon to a Millwall Football Club chant. Two of Bosco's speeches in The Last Four Things, on the essential worthlessness of mankind and the lonely greatness of the hangman, are based on essays from the Catholic philosopher Joseph de Maistre

There are a number of scenes indebted to the long forgotten Mary Herbert, particularly Death To The French and The Unhappy Prince. Arthur Schopenhauer and La Rochefoucauld take their usual bow in the observations of IdrisPukke and Vipond. Much of the tactics and the idea behind the episode at Duffer's Drift come from E D Swinton's imaginative training manual of the Boer War, The Defence of Duffer's Drift (out of print but available on the web). Lines and half lines from the King James Bible are everywhere, the beautiful and the ugly. The practical usefulness to me of the Iliad and its descriptions of violence is straightforward. The web in general and YouTube in particular made it possible to use the shouts and cries of men in the middle of battle in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also enabled me to find footage of Saddam Hussein's denunciations of his soon-to-be-dead rivals during the

Ba'ath Party Assembly in 1979, here used during Bosco's similar strategy at the Congress in Chartres.

The idea for the Klephts came from John Keegan's brief but incisive discussion of these impressively unheroic Greek bandits on page 10 of *A History of Warfare*. The details of the operation on Vague Henri follow closely the account by surgeon John Bradmore of his successful attempt to remove an arrow from the face of the fifteen-year-old Prince Henry (later Henry V) in 1403. Anyone who doubts the potential physical strength or tactical ability of teenagers should read an account of Henry's youthful military campaigns and note that he took this hideous wound in the face early on in the Battle of Shrewsbury, fought 'hand-to-hand' for the rest of the day, and then led a cavalry charge in the evening which had a major effect on the outcome.

The harrowing description of the starvation of the Folk that Cale forces Arbell to read aloud comes from *A View of the Present State of Ireland* by Edmund Spenser, author of *The Faerie Queene*. Spenser is not just responsible for the terrible brilliance of the description of famine, a brilliance that might be expected from someone generally considered to be one of the greatest of all English poets, but also for the view that a policy of genocide through starvation was the only solution to the problem of Ireland. Anyone who believes that it is not possible to write hideous ideas beautifully might like to read the full text. The assumption that the reason, for example, Nazi art is so arid is because it is rooted in such an inhuman ideology has to confront this little known work. Evil is not necessarily banal.

Cale's idea for a concentration camp to isolate his opponents from the support of the native population was first carried out during the Boer war with the same, admittedly unintended, consequences.

THE BEATING OF HIS WINGS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The description of King Zog and his habits on is based on *The Court and Character of King*

James I, probably by Sir Anthony Weldon

Bose Ikard's speech claiming he has reached agreement with the Redeemers is substantially that of Neville Chamberlain's in 1938 on returning from a meeting with Adolf Hitler claiming that he had secured 'peace for our time'.

The German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer makes his usual extensive contribution to the observations of IdrisPukke. Sister Wray's comments on the sun are from William Blake. The popular tune sung by Riba in the carriage has a line based on the title of W H Auden's *O Tell Me The Truth About Love*. The line, 'Love has no ending' comes from Auden's *As I Walked Out One Evening*. The words 'under' and 'umbrella' are borrowed from Rihanna Fenty. The

trial of Conn Materazzi is partly based on the transcript of The Trial of Sir Walter Raleigh in Cobbett's Complete Collection of State Trials. Cale's comments about being seen to watch over his men echo the letter by Sullivan Ballou to his wife shortly before his death and first quoted in The Left Hand of God. In some foreign editions this acknowledgment was inadvertently omitted. The exchange between Dorothy Rothschild and Cale that ends Chapter 31 is from a line by the under-rated American President Calvin Coolidge. There are many half quotes or ones so buried and rewritten that I can no longer recognize or trace them. If the reader suspects other sources from Homer to Homer Simpson they can, of course, resort to Google cut and paste – the greatest sneak in the history of knowledge.

ARTEMISA

The character of Artemisia in The Beating of His Wings is inspired by, but not based on, Artemisia of Halicarnassus, the admiral who fought for the Persians against the Greeks at Salamis in 480 BC. Against the prevailing opinion she strongly advised Xerxes not to attack the Greek fleet in the narrow straits where they would have too great an advantage. Fortunately for the subsequent development of the Greek Golden Age, the growth of democracy and, very possibly, western civilization itself Xerxes went along with the advice of the majority and as a result lost heavily. Although alternative history is a bit of a mug's game, who knows if Artemisia had been listened to more carefully whether the Americans might have had to weed Saddam Hussein out of London or Paris rather than Baghdad. Perhaps there wouldn't have been an American democracy at all. Contemporary feminist historians are deeply suspicious of the traditional account of her death which claims she threw herself off a cliff because she had fallen in love with a younger man who did not return her affections. For them, perhaps rightly, it smacks of the sexism of the classical world. Such a tough-minded woman, they argue, would not have been so psychologically fragile. But perhaps not - the classical world also has similar tales of great soldiers confused by love - take Anthony and Cleopatra. In our own time the militarily much admired former general David Petraeus, who stabilized the collapsing American occupation of Iraq in 2008 and had a reputation as a subtle and sophisticated thinker, was forced to resign his job as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency over his affair with his biographer. As Thomas Cale would have to accept, there's nothing that unusual about having nerves of steel and a heart of glass.

JAN ZISKA

The origin of the tactics and practices of Cale's New Model Army lies with the Hussite general Jan Ziska, military leader of what was, as Luther later acknowledged, the first Protestant Christian sect in early 15th Century Europe (based around effectively the modern Czech Republic). Alexander the Great inherited an army whose skill and tactical superiority had been established by his father, but Ziska is very close to being unique in military history in that he developed a way of fighting professional armoured soldiers in huge numbers using peasants armed with weapons based on agricultural implements and farm wagons. He also pioneered the development of lightweight gunpowder weapons. This problem-solving, tactically brilliant, completely original genius is barely known outside the Czech Republic.

Warrior of God: Jan Zizka and the Hussite Revolution Victor Vernay

The Hussite Wars, 1420 - 34 Stephen Turnbull, Angus McBride

The battle at Bex is sometimes but not always based on the Battle of Towton in 1461. Again oddly, despite probably having the highest death rate in English history (including the first day of the Somme) at around 28,000, Towton has faded from popular memory in favour of less important and less bloody conflicts.

Blood Red Roses: The Archaeology of a Mass Grave from the Battle of Towton AD 1461
Veronica Fiorato (Author, Editor), Anthea Boylston (Editor), Christopher Knusel (Editor)

Towton: The Battle of Palm Sunday Field John Sadler

Some readers have been critical of the way in which the names of 'real' world places turn up jumbled together without rhyme or reason in the geography of the world of The Left hand of God trilogy. I'd ask them to consider the following: Riga Sweden Egypt Belfast Greece Norfolk Manchester Hamburg Kent Warsaw Cambridge London Peterborough Syracuse Rome Amsterdam Potsdam Batavia Dunkirk Reading (not far from Lebanon) Dover (not far from Smyrna) Mansfield Stamford Norwich Hyde Park Troy Bangor (next to Nazareth not far from Bethlehem) Sunbury Palmyra Westminster Emmaeus Mt Carmel Delhi Berlin Peru. The list could go on. What do these bizarrely disparate places have in common? They are all towns, villages and small cities within 250 miles of New York (formerly New Amsterdam).