

VIRGILE PACE

GOLF AND THE GRAIL

THE QUEST FOR INSPIRED GOLF



PREFACE BY
EDOUARD MONTAZ

Cover: Galahad drawing the sword from the stone. In: Lancelot-Grail: The Quest for the Holy Grail, (Queste del Saint-Graal), Cambrai or Saint-Omer-Th rouanne, 1290. Parchment, folio 405. Manuscript held in the Biblioth que Nationale de France (BnF).

First print run of 10 numbered copies on large-format vellum

*Translated from the original French
"Le Graal et le golf - La Quête du golf inspiré"
by Elizabeth Guill*

The illuminated letters were drawn ex gratia by Clément Faure, a companion in the Quest, to whom I extend my warmest thanks.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to my wife Antonella, Henri-Pierre, my father, Claude, my friend, my brother, and companion in the quest, "chief" Patrick, thanks to whom this Adventure began, Jacques and Nicole, my grandparents, who introduced me to the Grail and who have now entered the Castle of the Fisher King. Your unfailing love and support nourished my quest for inspired golf.

To Shawn

*Your "wisdom" leads the way to
inspired golf. Your grateful children.*

To Édouard

*Cantor of inspired golf pedagogy.
Without you, this book would not
exist.*

To my son, Joseph.

An inspired little golfer. With all my love. "Infinity times infinity plus infinity".

CONTENTS

Preface

Prologue

THE SECRET OF THE GRAIL AND THE QUEST FOR
INSPIRED GOLF

THE CASTLE OF THE GRAIL AND CASTLES BUILT OF
SAND

Part One

INITIATION (CONSCIOUSNESS)

THE LONG HARD ROAD

OBSCURANTISM

DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE EVERYDAY WORLD

FORCES THAT DELAY PROGRESS

THE SEARCH FOR "ADVENTURE"

THE PROVIDENTIAL MAN

THE VERBAL JOUST

KNIGHTHOOD

THE VISIONARY TROUBADOUR

INITIATION

THE REVELATION

CONSCIOUSNESS OF MAN

CONSCIOUSNESS OF PLANET EARTH

NON NOBIS

Part Two

INSPIRATION (MASTERY)

SALISBURY

ENCHANTMENT

SENSATION

INTUITION

MASTERY OF THE SELF

MASTERY OF THE FIVE ELEMENTS

AETHER

FIRE

AIR

WATER

EARTH

Epilogue

VALUES IN COMMON WITH COMPANIONS IN THE QUEST

COMMUNION AND SHARING

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE ROUND TABLE AND THE
APPRENTICE GOLFER

THE SWORD IN THE ANVIL AND THE CLUB IN THE STONE
ETERNITY

PREFACE

I will never forget my first meeting with Virgile in Paris, seven years ago when it all began.

He had contacted me several days previously. He was living in Italy, in Rome, at the time. He had just discovered my work and videos on YouTube and wanted to take lessons with me at any price, for “an entire week, every day for two hours.” He would come to Paris for that express reason. It was “urgent”. I was, he said, “his last chance”.

He had tried everything. Every possible method imaginable. He had read everything. Seen everything. In vain. He was making no progress. Golf was merely a “source of physical and psychological suffering”. He wanted to give up this “thankless” sport for “schizophrenics”. This time, he swore, for good.

When I saw him for the first time, what struck me was the orange notebook he was carrying. A thick, laminated notebook. No pupil had ever before come to me for golf lessons in this fashion. I was intrigued.

I could not believe my eyes. In the notebook he had copied down everything I had said in all my videos. For the past ten years. To the letter. In meticulous detail. A monumental, incredible task. I was lost for words. My sense of connection with this extra-terrestrial hit me like a bolt of lightning and was reciprocated. It was obvious that I must never leave this extraordinary terrestrial being.

On the slopes of Etna, in the Roman Campagna, as far afield as Antananarivo and Malaza in Madagascar, Virgile became a ‘quest’ companion. For real. For better or for worse, as we say.

Never have I argued so much with a pupil. Never have I encountered so much resistance. Never have I had to draw so heavily and so extensively on my resources to find the ‘right’ analogies and the ‘right’ words.