



The Spear of Lepanto

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Author: Leon J. Radomile / Published by Vincerò Enterprises / Fiction, 334 pages

If you want a fast fun read then *The Spear of Lepanto* is for you. It is an outstanding historical novel written by Leon J. Radomile. The book contains all the elements of a great epic. If the book were written in the 1940s, surely Hollywood would have made it into a matinee movie starring the likes of Tyrone Power or Errol Flynn.

Italian American Radomile is a student of history. His knowledge of Renaissance Italy amplifies an already exciting and suspenseful plot. He brings up throughout the story historical facts and anecdotes that will further educate and enlighten the reader about Italy's incredible past, especially during the 16th Century.

The setting of the book is 1570 and the Ottoman Turks are on the verge of invading Italy. Italy is not one country but rather made up of city-states. Venice is one particular city-state with colonies in the eastern Mediterranean consisting of islands off the Greek coast. The Turks want to take possession of those islands and start a war with Venice. The Ottoman Empire is the dominant power of the time and Venice turns to Rome and Spain, with its colonies Naples and Sicily, for help in fending off the Turks. Rome is led by Pope Pius V. The pope knows that the combined strength of Venice, Rome and Spain is still no match for the mighty Ottomans. He seeks an advantage by obtaining a sacred object believed to give immense mythical power to any army that possesses it. Hence, part of the title of the book, the sacred object is the spear used by the Roman centurion Longinus to pierce the side of Jesus Christ during crucifixion. It is this spear that the pope and his aides believe will give the alliance of Rome, Venice and Spain divine power to defeat the Ottoman Turks.

The spear is housed in Topkapi palace in Constantinople. The pope enlists the services of his diplomatic troubleshooter, the book's main character, Leonardo Radolowick to sneak into the Turkish capital and retrieve the holy relic. Accompanied by members of the Knights of St. John and a young Spanish writer and adventurer Miguel de Cervantes, Radolowick sets out on the mission aboard a ship uniquely designed by Leonardo Da Vinci. What follows is a most entertaining tale by Radomile. The saga unfolds with pirates, swashbucklers and sea battles, spies, assassins, the intrigues of kings, emperors and popes and of course the helpless maiden rescued and loved by the main character.

What is most impressive about Radomile is his grasp of history. He provides rich details of the Renaissance. The reader learns that Italy was no island unto itself. The region had considerable trade with a number of other countries and cultures and Italy epitomized internationalism. For instance, the main character Radolowick is a native of

Bosnia but grew up in Italy after his village and home were destroyed by Turkish invaders. Many displaced Bosnians integrate into Italian society and it suggests that many of today's Italians actually have roots in such eastern European nations like Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Albania. Certainly the name Radolowick and Radomile are very similar. As a perceptive student of history, the author has traced his family roots beyond Italy to Bosnia. Hence, *The Spear of Lepanto* is a wonderful historical novel that any reader will immensely enjoy and in addition a quiet tribute by the author to his family.

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The Spear of Lepanto Book One, is award winning non-fiction writer Leon J. Radomile's first novel and is an epic two-part tale of adventure, romance, and heroism, vividly bringing the distant past to life. Set in the 16th century, Radomile's story is about a quest for an enigmatic relic (the Spear of Longinus) that Pope Pius V believes will decide the fate of Christian Europe. Only a brokered alliance forced by the Holy See between Spain and Venice can give Europe a fighting chance against the invincible Ottoman Turks, who plan to seize Rome as a stepping-stone for total domination.

One of the novel's central characters is a young Miguel de Cervantes, who joins a special group formed by the pope and the Knights of St. John to recover the ancient relic from the Turks in Constantinople. The troupe sets out aboard a stunning new sailing vessel built from a recently recovered design by Leonardo da Vinci. On the way, they confront blind ambition and savagery far beyond any they had ever imagined.

"As a novel, '*The Spear of Lepanto*' will interest a wide audience of readers from history buffs and romantics to those who enjoy adventure and mystery.

Leon J. Radomile has had a life-long love of history. Born in Philadelphia in 1949 of Italian parents, he moved with his family to San Francisco at the age of nine. In 1972, he graduated from the University of San Francisco with a degree in history. In 1999, as a businessman and entrepreneur, he began writing and publishing his own books, beginning with the best selling, bilingual, "*Heritage Italian-American Style*" www.italianheritage.net / BAIPA Best Fact Book 2003. He followed that success with "*Heritage Hispanic-American Style*" www.hispaniclatino.net / *2004 Latino Book Award Winner – Best History Category Sponsored by Latino Literacy Now – Book Expo America - Chicago / *2004 BAIPA Award Winner – Best Cultural Guide

Becoming involved in genealogical research began as a recurring daydream of his Italian ancestors and grew into this fictional Renaissance adventure, based on the Battle of Lepanto, 1571.

In the book's acknowledgements, Radomile credits his long-departed paternal ancestors who settled in Italy during the 16th century from the region of Bosnia as the inspiration for writing the novel. "They were the sparks that lit the fires of my imagination to write this fictional ancestral adventure. When delving into family genealogical research, one cannot avoid musing and speculating over the many 'what ifs' that are shrouded in times past. My fanciful 'what ifs' inspired an adventure novel. Perhaps researching your family genealogy will inspire you to recreate for fun the unknown gaps of your own family history."

The Spear of Lepanto is available in paperback for \$19.95 and can be ordered direct from the publisher Vincerò Enterprises at: 1-800-715-1492. Also available from Amazon.com. For more information, please visit: www.spear-of-lepanto.com