

Extracts from Raimund Lull's writings

I see many knights going to the Holy Land, in the expectation of conquering it by force of arms, but instead of accomplishing their object, they are in the end all swept off themselves. Therefore it is my belief that the conquest of the Holy Land should be attempted in no other way than as thou and thine apostles undertook to accomplish it - by love, by prayer, by tears, and the offering up of our *own* lives. As it seems that the possession of the Holy Sepulcher and the Holy Land can be better secured by the force of preaching than by the force of arms, therefore let the monks march forth, as holy knights, glittering with the sign of the cross, replenished with the grace of the Holy Spirit, and proclaim to the infidels the truth of thy passion; let them from love to thee exhaust the whole fountain of their eyes, and pour out all the blood of their bodies, as thou hast done from love to them! Many are the knights and noble princes that have gone to the promised land with a view to conquer it; but if this mode had been pleasing to thee, O Lord, they would assuredly have wrested it from the Saracens who possess it against thy will. . . . But since that ardor of devotion which glowed in apostles and holy men of old no longer inspires us, love and devotion through almost the whole world have grown cold. Therefore do Christians expend their efforts far more in the outward than in the spiritual conflict.