

An Interview with Nathan Sadasivan

June, 2010 Featured Author

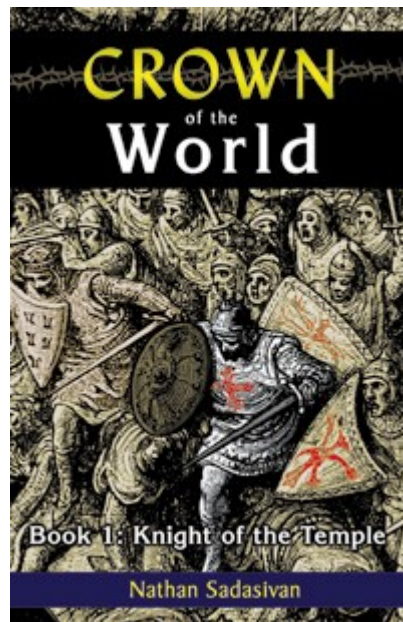
at

Time with Tannia

(<http://timewithtannia.tripod.com>)

By:

Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés



1. Tell us about yourself (Keep it short and sweet)

I am Nathan.

2. Based on your experience, what are some of the benefits and struggles of homeschoolers? Do you think there is a stigma associated with it?

If not a stigma, there's definitely a homeschool stereotype. Most of us know what that is. For myself, I'm proud and glad that I was homeschooled. It gave me a solid foundation as a person which I could take into the world and use. Because of the education I received, I learned to always look for the highest - to look for real friendship and real love and never to compromise. I do not regret that my parents homeschooled me. But there are many dangers involved. It's very easy to shut yourself off from the world. Opponents of the movement worry that homeschoolers will be undersocialized, and they are talking about a legitimate danger. It's important for young men and women to use the virtues they learn in

the classroom, and to use them in a sometimes hostile environment. And it's just as important to realize that the outside environment isn't always hostile at all. I flirted with that pitfall in high school. (I spent too much time absorbed in books... or writing... and it was all too easy to do that when everything I had to do was inside the house.) But in the end the benefits far outweighed the drawbacks.

3. A good epic story must contain elements of philosophy, religions, military affairs and history inside a world created by the author for the reader's delight. Do you agree with this statement? Who are your favorite epic's writers?

You forgot swords. And a few battle axes.

Your statement about epics is true. However, the philosophy and religion can be implicit. Tolkien is a good example of that. (I firmly believe that *Lord of the Rings* is the first modern epic.) Tolkien has always been one of my favorite authors, because while his characters are not nearly as deep as the great classical epics, his adventure is more sweeping. He captures the Good, the True, and the Beautiful in an unusually clear way, which is also important to an epic. *The Song of Roland* is another of my favorite epics, because it captures the spirit of knighthood. I have a deep love for the pagan epics too - the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* and the *Nibelungen Saga* (I love Norse Mythology!). But I didn't discover them until after I wrote *Crown of the World*, so I can't count them as influences. My books were influenced only by the Christian epics.

4. You have ran marathons, played rugby, and gone skydiving. Those are sports that required discipline, determination, focus, and endurance. Do you apply the same training skills to your writing? Share with our readers how these sports have shaped your mind and body.

Actually rugby and skydiving came after writing the book. It would be more accurate to say that the book inspired them. But the endurance I learned from long distance running came in handy. When you write a novel, you have to keep persevering even when you don't like it. All in all, it's true that physical discipline carries over into writing.

5. Have the music from Dvorak and Wagner influenced the battle scenes of your trilogy *Crown of the World*? How does music stimulates your creativity and controls the development of your characters?

Music has always had more influence on the story than on the characters. When I wrote the novel, I was influenced mostly by soundtracks. Since then I listen to a lot more contemporary music, which is about people. But soundtracks are about stories. So the music would remind me of the grandeur of the Crusades, the hope and despair. It reminded me of the ideals - of knighthood and heroism and love. In that way, music fueled the story, because it fired me up about all these good and beautiful things so that I had to put them into writing somehow.

6. Before publishing *Crown of the World*, you wrote other two books. What happened to those manuscripts? Have you considered review and rewrite them for potential future publication?

A great story has to start with a great idea - a brilliant climax, a fascinating character, or some such flash of inspiration. Once you have that, a novel can grow up around it. But if

the original idea is poor, it's very hard to give life to the novel even when you return as a more experienced writer. The ideas for my early novels were only moderately good, so I doubt that I'll ever return to them. I'll look for new, better ideas.

7. How do you handle rejection letters? What lessons have you learned from them?

After I'm done writing a book, I form an opinion about it pretty quickly. (Though usually not until after I've sent it in to a publisher). While I'm actually in the process of writing something, of course I think it's good - even if it really sucks. But once I'm done writing and I look back at it, I make a more accurate judgement. So far my rejection letters have been for books that I had already condemned. (In fact, *Crown of the World* is the only novel that I was happy with after I was done writing it.) So the earlier rejection letters almost came as a relief.

8. Now let us talk about your trilogy, *Crown of the World*. Some of the elements that captivated my attention while reading the first book, *Knight of the Temple*, were the detailed description of the scenes, the characters' emotions, and your depiction of historical figures into the plot. What inspired this story? How long did it take you to write it? Who is your targeted audience?

I got the inspiration while reading history for school. When I read about Baldwin and the Kingdom of Jerusalem, I thought, "Wow, this is really cool. Someone should write a book about it." So I did.

It took me three years to write the whole trilogy. It didn't feel like a burden, though. I knew pretty much the whole story when I sat down to write, so I couldn't be content until I had poured out everything onto paper. The story is meant for anyone old enough to understand it - teenagers, adults - I think they can all enjoy it equally well.

9. The main character, Godfrey de Montferrat, is a fine example of why we should not rush to make an oath without having fully considered all the implications and ramifications of our decision. Tells us about him. Who does he represents in our struggles in life?

When I wrote the character of Godfrey, I didn't think of him as an Everyman who represents human nature. He was just a character largely drawn from who I was and who I wanted to be. But he 'represents' us all insofar as every man and woman is called to be a hero. Everyone has Godfrey's longing somewhere in their hearts. Heroism isn't relative - it's not dependent on being better than everyone else. It just depends on being great - loving greatly and acting greatly. I think that's the most important level on which we can relate to Godfrey.

10. Which one of the characters better describes you as a person and as an author?

There's a little bit of me in every character, both the goodguys and the badguys, but Godfrey is the most directly like me.

11. What makes Arx Publishing stand out among other fiction publishers?

Arx stands out because it demands high literary standards in a genre which normally has no standards at all. Science Fiction and Fantasy are notorious for being swamped with crappy stories, because there are a thousand wannabe Tolkiens and Frank Herberts who have no literary talent. It's easy to throw some orcs and elves and dwarves onto a map

that you drew five minutes ago and write a storyline about it. The surprising thing is that so much of it gets published. I'm a fan of both Science Fiction and Fantasy, because I think that their best is really good stuff. But you have to dig deep to find their best. Arx only takes high quality stories and writing, which is exactly what we need to clean out Fantasy writing.

12. Where can our readers purchase your books?

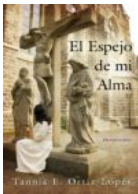
You can purchase the books at the Arx Publishing website (<http://arxpub.com/literary/Crown.html>). You can also search Nathan Sadasivan on amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, or borders.com and it will pop up right away.

13. Are you working on the sequel? If yes, give us a teaser.

The sequel is already written. The title: *Prometheus' Flame*. Up front: Godfrey does not appear in the sequel after the first ten pages. The second book is about Malik, the Saracen who fought Godfrey at the beginning. It's about Malik's adventures with the Assassins while the war between Arabs and Egyptians rages. The battles in this book are going to be even better, and the Dramatis Personae are much more diverse. If you read the first book already, you might be a little bewildered as to how this is a sequel - it has a completely different cast of characters (with a few exceptions...). But by the end, you'll see how it all ties in. The third book will bring Godfrey and Malik's stories together.

14. A word of advice to young writers

Write about heroic characters! They don't have to be knights or superheroes, but the best way to give a protagonist some vivacity, to make him both likeable and human, is to make them into a hero or a heroine - make them into someone you want to be. Don't worry: if you write honestly (and perhaps place them in a situation that demands heroism) your characters will have depth and realism.



Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés, author of *The Window To My Soul; My Walk With Jesus* (2004 Tate Publishing;). *El Espejo de mi Alma* (2010 Pleasant Word) .

Author's websites: timewithtannia.tripod.com., www.shoutlife.com/tanniaortizlopes, and www.myspace.com/tanniaortizlopes The author also has a blog at www.amazon.com

Copyrighted June 2010, Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés – All Rights Reserved

READERS' COMMENTS:

Date Received: June 1, 2010

Name: Jo Linsdell

Email Address:(optional)

Web site URL:(optional) www.jolinsdell.com

Where did you hear about this interview? Tannia

Comments: Interesting interview. I wish him the best of luck.

Date Received: June 17, 2010

Name: Linette

Email Address:(optional)

Web site URL:(optional)

Where did you hear about this interview? Tannia

Comments: I enjoyed this interview. It looks like the author has a good head on his shoulders. good luck in your writing career.

Date Received: June 17, 2010

Name: Compasse

Email Address:(optional)

Web site URL:(optional)

Where did you hear about this interview? Online

Comments: Congratulations on and blessings for your book, Nathan. I had purchased it several months ago for planned summer reading, and began this month. Great stuff! Your characters are interesting, your historical setting very real and well researched, and your writing style/command of the English language is exceptional (if it was not a sin, I might even admit to envy in this area...). I pray you go easy on the skydiving... your God given Faith and talent make you too important to the world to check-out early. Looking forward to the next in the series...