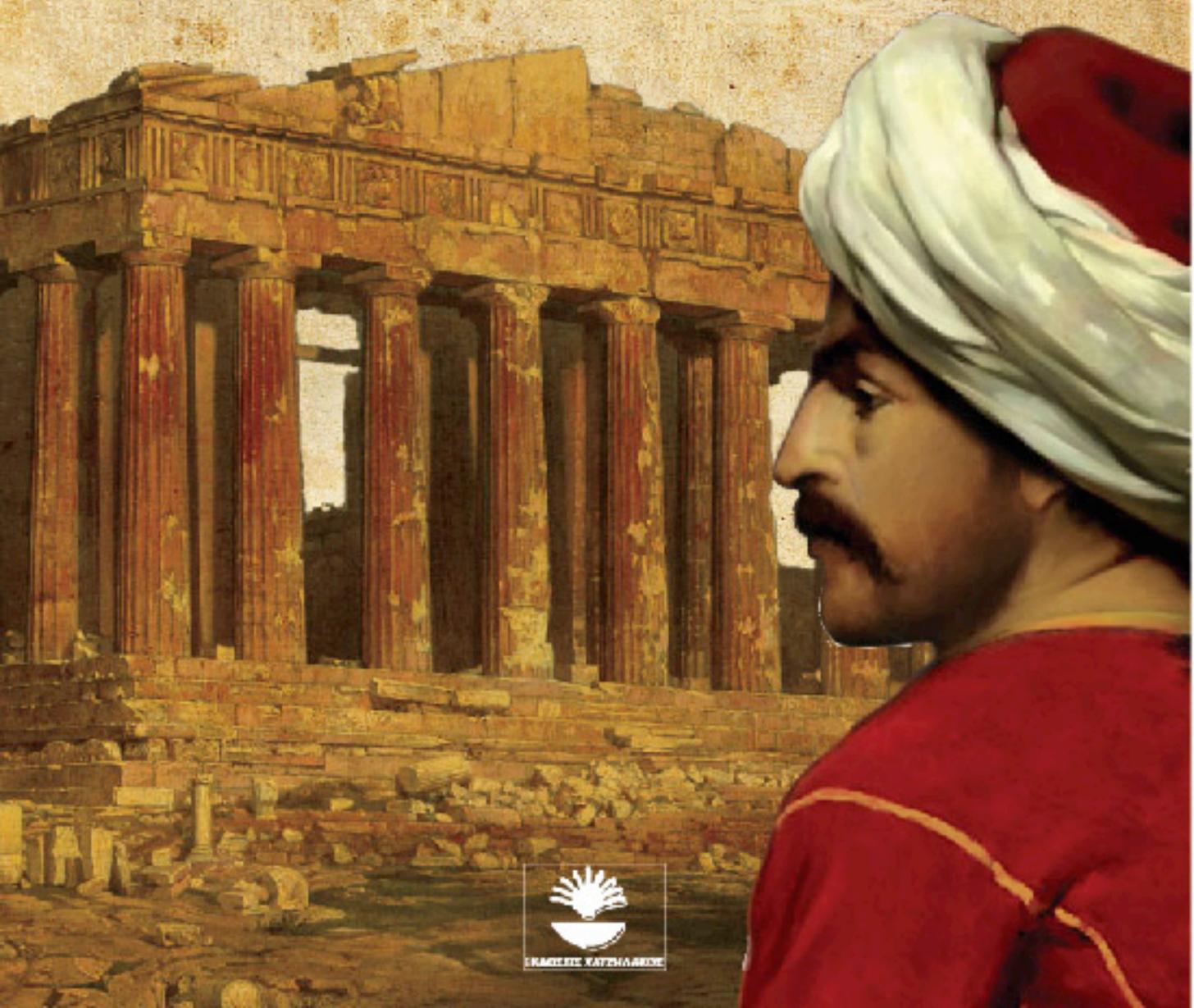


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ΣΥΝΩΜΟΣΙΑ ΣΤΟΝ  
ΙΕΡΟ ΒΡΑΧΟ



## A Plea To Humanity

by Tom Jackson  
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A number of years ago, I attended a conference here in Athens, at the Zappeion, on the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles. The keynote speaker at the event was the late Jules Dassin (the film director and husband of Melina Mercouri). Like the vast majority of British nationals, I had little knowledge of the exact sequence of events leading up to the Parthenon Marbles being owned by Britain, and housed in the British Museum. For me, they were merely another collection of antiquities we had acquired a couple of centuries ago. We owned them! Why should we just hand them back? What was the big deal?

However, the conference stimulated my curiosity; I became interested in the actual events surrounding the removal of the Parthenon Marbles by Lord Elgin's agents, and undertook considerable research here in Athens and in London – just to get answers!

**This research in turn led me to the undoubted conclusion that the removal of the Parthenon Sculptures was both illegal and immoral.**

Why was it illegal and immoral?

1. **No actual original authority/edict** (called a Firman) from the Ottoman Sultan to remove the Parthenon Sculptures has ever been produced/discovered.
2. The document provided by Elgin's agent to the British Parliament two hundred years ago (which is merely an English translation of an Italian translation of the supposed Firman) **does not authorize** the removal of Sculptures from the Parthenon structure.
3. According to expert opinion, the **format and wording used in the alleged document is inappropriate/inaccurate** for the Ottoman Sultan's Firman (<http://www.greece.org/parthenon/marbles/illegal.htm>) – 'ergo' the Firman did not exist.
4. And, finally, the man actually responsible for the removal, the Rev. Philip Hunt, admitted quite openly at the time to the British Parliament, that he was able to remove the Parthenon Marbles only through a combination of '**cajolery, threats and bribery**' (testimony to the British Parliament in 1816).

**The removal of The Parthenon Sculptures was thus both illegal and immoral – issues that the British Parliament intentionally chose to ignore at the time – and to which it continues to turn a 'blind eye', even in today's enlightened world.**

I remain convinced that, in time the people of the United Kingdom, and in turn the British government, will see the '**Justice**' in returning the Parthenon Sculptures to their homeland. There is no more appropriate, logical, rightful, or beautiful setting for them to be displayed than the inspiring 'New Acropolis Museum'.

And as the saying goes:

***'Justice should not only be done, but should manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done.'***

The Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures will provide a moving example of Humanity's ability to recognize, and correct the mistakes of our ancestors.

My research into the activities of Lord Elgin and his agents provided me with the germ of an idea for a work of fiction with the removal of the Parthenon Marbles as the underlying theme – and thus my novel ‘The Devil’s Legacy’ (<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/99678>) – an adventure/mystery set in the present day with flashbacks to the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries – was born. I probably spent over a year researching before I started the writing process – and, all told, two to three years actually writing ‘The Devil’s Legacy’. I made every possible effort to ensure that the historical scenes are as accurate as possible as regards persons, events, situations, dates, etc, (within the spirit of fiction). Each chapter is prefaced by a quotation from the works of the Greek poet, Constantine Cavafy, which relates directly to the theme of that particular chapter.

As a British national my hope and desire is that my novel may serve to highlight the need to, and justice in, returning the Parthenon Sculptures to Greece, and if my novel can stimulate interest in the subject, even in a small way, then I will feel I have succeeded. There have been many publications of a purely academic nature regarding the removal of the Parthenon Marbles. However, I am not aware of any work fictionalising the event – and thus felt that my novel may well offer a uniquely interesting and thought-provoking perspective, which may appeal to a wider audience, and thus have a greater impact.

I believe that ‘The Devil’s Legacy’ combines a compelling and novel journey through time with the search for truth and the restoration of a country’s stolen heritage. Fiction is interwoven with historical fact to create a plausible, yet original and absorbing hypothesis revolving around a highly topical issue – the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures in their rightful home at the New Acropolis Museum.

I have recently signed a book contract with Εκδόσεις Χατζηλάκος (<http://www.chatzilakos.gr>) and my novel is currently being translated prior to publication in Greece in October/November 2013, under the title: **‘ΣΥΝΩΜΟΣΙΑ ΣΤΟΝ ΙΕΡΟ ΒΡΑΧΟ’** – (*‘Conspiracy at the Sacred Rock’*).

I do not ask my countrymen and women to play judge and jury with the facts of history – and decide whether the actions of individuals two hundred years ago were legal, or illegal – moral or immoral!

But rather my plea to the people of my homeland is: **‘look into your own hearts and decide what is just and fair – what is moral and ethical, today’.**

**And what should, and MUST, be done!**

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