

How I Came to Write *Plagueman*

I started out writing *Plagueman* back in the 1980s seeking to comprehend the meaning of nuclear holocaust. A 1950s "duck-and-cover" bomb-baby, I grew up in constant fear of the Atom Bomb and impending atomic war. In my short story "The Chairs" (sold to Eldritch Tales, 2/14/92) I recounted such terrors in the context of my native San Francisco. As I studied philosophy, art, history, I wondered, "How did others cope in the face of such terror and seemingly imminent universal annihilation?" I found a parallel to our radioactive nightmares in the plague years—the age of the Black Death (1347-).

With the possible exception of Daniel Defoe's *A Journal of the Plague Year*, Albert Camus' *The Plague*, and Steven King's *The Stand*, most other related techno-thriller novels and movies tell about how we humans survive, overcome, and conquer ever obstacle: whether the plague, a deadly virus, alien spawn, Martian attack, the malfunction of the Earth's core. *Plagueman*, on the other hand, is more about how to go on in the every-day, how to live real life in an age of plague, to not just survive but to stand strong in a time of terror without losing one's humanity and compassion.

Plagueman is carefully researched, both concerning medieval medicine and the effects of the plague, and concerning details of 14th century life in Tuscany and at the Papal Court of Avignon.

In all my work I have followed the guidelines of *The Handbook of Nonsexist Writing* (Miller & Swift, 1988) and similar more recent style guides. In May, 1999, I sold my science fiction novel *KillWare*® to VirtuaBooks Publishing, which was then marketed by ArcheBooks. The *KillWare Chronicles Trilogy: KillWare, The Wastes*, and *The Accidental Prisoner*, were later also published by ArcheBooks Publishing. I am presently working on *KillWare IV, A Garbological Romance*.

K.D.Kragen (2004 C.E.)

The conflict between the mystic
and the barbarian in all of us.



First there was the plague (1347-1665). Then there was *Plagueman*. From the creator of *KillWare* and *The Wastes* (killware.com) comes *Plagueman*.

An epic of history and death and love and death. A grand celebration of suffering and passion and the Chianti Classico hope and prosciutto-pasta life of medieval Italy during the years of the Black Death. *Plagueman* is the story of awakening desire in the devout heart of a beautiful young girl, Theresa of Siena, who befriends a disillusioned soldier, Kierkive of Sarai. *Plagueman* is about the conflict between the mystic and the barbarian in all of us.