

In the 14th century, the idea of the crusade remains still alive. After the fall of Acre in 1291, however, historians speak rather of continuation of an ideal. In fact, the crusading efforts of the popes and the princes became mostly the false crusades, without the interest of reaching the original objective - the deliverance of the Holy Land. The idea of the crusade found an ardent indefatigable defender in Philippe de Mézieres (1327-1405). Joining the military expedition to the East, the twenty-year old little noble of Picardy visited the places of the Passion in Jerusalem. Profoundly touched by confrontation with the miserable condition of the holy places and after receiving a divine mission, he decided to found a new military order and consacred his life to the passagium generale for the deliverance of the Holy Land. He went trough various careers of a knight, of a royal and papal ambassador, of a royal chancellor, councillor and tutor. His last years were spent by literary activity.

Being a part of the Philippe's all-life crusading propaganda, the extensive allegorical composition *Songe du Vieil Pelerin* (the Dream of the Old Pilgrim, 1389) should have reminded the French king Charles VI. of virtues of a good ruler and encourage him to make peace with England, to finish the schism and to reform the kingdom of France. The reform of the French kindom and whole Christiendom should have finally provided concetration of the forces essential for the planned crusade to Orient. In accordance with the contemporary literary patterns, the Dream speaks both in form and content about events, routes and plans experienced by the author during his life which provides enough material for historical research.