



SUNDAY YOUNG PEOPLE'S READING

The HOLY WAR

Made by Shaddai Upon Diabulous for the
Regaining of the Metropolis of the World

or

The Losing and Taking Again of the
Town of Mansoul

by John Bunyan

Retold in Modern English
by Jon Cardwell

June 11th, 2023

(Episode 71)

"I have given symbols..." Hosea 12:10

[Diabolous unsuccessfully attempted to deceive Mansoul with flatteries, but the Lord Mayor of the town rebuked the evil giant. Diabolous tried to fortify his position outside the walls while Mansoul set up their defenses within.] They mounted their slings, they set up their banners, they sounded their trumpets, and put themselves in such order as was judged most for the annoyance of the enemy, and for the advantage of Mansoul, and gave to their soldiers orders to be ready at the sound of the trumpet for war.

The Lord Willbewill also took charge of keeping watch for the rebels within, and to do what he could to take them while without, or to suppress them within their caves, dens, and holes in the town-wall of Mansoul. And, to speak the truth of him, ever since he repented for his fault, he has shown as much honesty and bravery of spirit as any in Mansoul; for he took one Jolly, and his brother Griggish, the two sons of his servant Harmless-Mirth (for to that day, though the father was imprisoned, his sons had a dwelling in the house of my lord); I say, he took them, and with his own hands put them on the cross. And this was the reason he hung them: after their father was placed into the hands of Mr. True-Man the jailer, his sons began to play his pranks, and started ticking and toying with the daughters of their lord; nay, they were too familiar with them, disregarding a serious concern for their honor, the which was brought to his lordship's ear. Now his lordship was unwilling to put any man to death without due consideration so he did not fall upon them hastily. He set watch and spies to see if the thing was true. Not long after, he was informed, for his two servants, whose names were Find-Out and Tell-All, caught them together in uncivil manner more than once or twice, and so they went and told their lord. When my Lord Willbewill had sufficient ground to believe the thing was true, he took the two young Diabolonians (for such they were since their father was born a Diabolonian) and sent them to Eye-gate, where he raised a very high cross so Diabolous and of his army could see it, and there he hung the young villains, in defiance to Captain Past-Hope, and of the horrible standard of the tyrant.

Now this Christian act by the brave Lord Willbewill greatly shamed Captain Past-Hope, discouraged the army of Diabolous, put fear into the Diabolonian runagates in Mansoul, and put strength and courage into the captains that belonged to Emmanuel, the Prince; for those outside had gathered, and that by this very act of my Lord, Mansoul was resolved to fight, and that the Diabolonians within the town could not do

such things as Diabulous had hoped they would. Nor was this the only proof of the brave Lord Willbewill's honesty to the town, nor of his loyalty to his Prince, as will appear later.

Now, when the children of Prudent-Thrifty, who dwelt with Mr. Mind, (for Thrift left children with Mr. Mind, when he was also committed to prison, and their names were Gripe and Rake-All; these he begat of Mr. Mind's illegitimate daughter, whose name was Mrs. Hold-fast-bad); I say, when his children perceived how the Lord Willbewill served them who dwelt with him, what do they do but attempt to make their escape, fearing that they might drink of the same cup. But Mr. Mind, being aware of it, took them and put them in hold in his house till morning; for this was done over night; and remembering that by the law of Mansoul all Diabolonians were to die (and to be sure they were at least by father's side such, and some say by mother's side too) what does he do but takes them and puts them in chains, and carries them to the selfsame place where my lord hung his two before. So there Mr. Mind hung them at Eye-gate as well.

The townsmen also took great encouragement at this act of Mr. Mind, and did what they could to capture some more of these Diabolonian troublemakers in Mansoul; but at that time the rest lay so squat and close, that they could not be apprehended. So they set against them a diligent watch, and went every man to his place.

I told you a little before that Diabulous and his army were somewhat shamed and discouraged at the sight of what my Lord Willbewill did, when he hung those two young Diabolonians; but his discouragement quickly turned itself into furious rage and madness against the town of Mansoul, and fight it he would. Also the townsmen and captains within, they had their hopes and their expectations heightened, believing at last the day would be theirs; so they were less afraid of them. Their subordinate preacher, too, made a sermon about it; and he took that theme for his text, "*Raiders shall raid Gad, but he shall raid at their heels*" (Gen 49:19). From there he showed that though Mansoul should be sorely put to it at the first, yet the victory should most certainly be Mansoul's in the end.

So Diabulous commanded his drummer to beat a charge against the town. The captains in the town also sounded a charge against them, but they had no drum: they sounded trumpets of silver against them. Then they which were of Diabulous's camp came down to the town to take it, and the captains in the castle, with the slingers at Mouth-gate, played

upon them with violent force. And now there was nothing heard in Diabulous's camp but horrible rage and blasphemy; but in the town were good words, prayer, and singing of psalms. The enemy replied with horrible objections, and the terribleness of their drum; but the town answered with the slapping of their slings and the melodious noise of their trumpets. And thus the fight lasted for several days together, only now and then they had some small intermission, and during that time, the townsmen refreshed themselves, and the captains made ready for another assault.

The captains of Emmanuel were clad in silver armor, and the soldiers in that which was of proof, that is, armor sufficiently firm to resist impresion; the soldiers of Diabulous were clad in iron which was made to give place to Emmanuel's engine-shot. In the town, some were hurt, and some were greatly wounded. Now the worst of it was that Emmanuel was currently absent, and a surgeon was scarce in Mansoul. Howbeit, with the leaves of a tree the wounded were kept from dying; yet their wounds putrefied greatly, and some grievously stunk (Rev 22:2; Psa 38:5). Of the townsmen, these were wounded, namely:

My Lord Reason; he was wounded in the head. Another wounded was the brave Lord Mayor; he was wounded in the eye. Another wounded was Mr. Mind; he received his wound about the stomach. The honest subordinate preacher was also wounded; he received a shot not far from the heart but none of these were mortal.

Many also of the inferior sort were not only wounded but slain outright.

Now, in Diabulous's camp were a considerable number wounded and slain. For instance, Captain Rage, he was wounded, and so was Captain Cruel. Captain Damnation was made to retreat and he intrenched himself further off from Mansoul. Diabulous's standard was also beaten down, and his standard-bearer, Captain Much-Hurt, had his brains beat out with a sling-stone, to the great grief and shame of his prince, Diabulous.

Many of the Doubters were also slain outright, though enough of them were left alive to make Mansoul shake and totter. Now the victory that day, being turned to Mansoul, put great valor into the townsmen and captains, and it covered Diabulous's camp with a cloud, but at the same time it made them far more furious. So the next day Mansoul rested, and commanded that the bells should be... **Continued...**