

## CHAPTER XX

### *Lucifer Convokes a Council in Hell in Order to Discuss how to Hinder the Works of Christ our Redeemer and His Most Holy Mother.*

222. The tyrannical sway of Lucifer over this world was not any more so unopposed as it had been in the ages preceding the Incarnation of the divine Word, for from the hour in which the Son of the eternal Father descended from heaven and assumed flesh in the bridal chamber of his virginal Mother, this strong-armed one (Lk. 11:21) felt a superior force which oppressed and crushed him, as I have related in its place (*Inc.* 130). After the birth of Christ he felt this power when the infant Jesus and his Mother entered into Egypt (*Inc.* 643), and on many occasions afterward this dragon was routed and overcome by the force of divine truth issuing from the great Queen. Comparing and connecting these past happenings with all the new experiences related in the preceding chapter, the ancient serpent was beginning to be much troubled by his fears and suspicions lest a new and vast force had established itself upon the earth. But since the sacrament of the Incarnation was deeply hidden from him, he lived on in his blind fury without suspicion of the truth, though since his fall from heaven he had always been alarmed and vigilant in order to search when and how the divine Word would leave heaven and assume human flesh, for this wonderful work of God was what his arrogance and pride feared most of all. This concern induced him to convoke the many council meetings of which I have spoken and shall later relate in this History (*Inc.* 322, 502, 649; *Tran.* 356, 417), and also the one of which I shall now speak.

223. Finding himself then full of uncertainty concerning the experiences of the demons and of himself with Jesus and Mary, this enemy of the human race questioned himself as to what power it was by which he had been vanquished and put to flight in his attempts to ruin the dangerously sick and the dying, and in his other encounters with the Queen of heaven. Since he could not discover the mystery for himself, he resolved to consult those of his associates most eminent in malice and astuteness. He gave forth a roar or tremendous howl in hell, using the language understood by the demons, and called together his subjects to him. All of them having been gathered together, he gave them a speech, saying: "My ministers and companions, who have always followed me in my just opposition, you well know that in the first state in which we were placed by the Creator of all things we acknowledged Him as the universal source of all our being, and thus we respected Him. But when, to the detriment of our beauty and eminence which partook so much of the Deity, He gave us the precept that we adore and serve the Person of the Word in the human form which He desired to take, we resisted his will; for though I knew this reverence was due to Him as God, yet since He was to be at same time man, of a vile nature so inferior to mine, I could not bear to be subject to Him, since He would not do with me what He had determined to do with that man. And He not only commanded us to adore Him, but also to recognize as our superior a Woman, who was to be a mere earthly creature as his Mother. I recognized, and you with me, these grievances so injurious to us, and we opposed them and determined to deny Him obedience; for that we were chastised by the pains and unhappy state which we suffer. Although we know these truths and with terror acknowledge them here among

ourselves (James 2:19), it is not advantageous to confess them before men, and this I command so they cannot know our ignorance and weakness.\*

224. "But if this Godman and his Mother who are to come must cause our ruin, it is clear their coming into the world will be our greatest torment and bitterness, and for this reason I must work with all my strength to prevent it and destroy them, even if it means traversing and perverting the entire globe. You all know how invincible has been my strength until now, since such a great portion of the world has obeyed my command and is subject to my will and cunning. But in the last few years I have noticed on many occasions that your powers seemed to have decreased and weakened, that you were oppressed and overcome, and I myself feel a superior force which restrains and intimidates me. Several times I have searched with you through the whole world, trying to find some clue for this loss and oppression which we feel. If this Messiah who is promised to the chosen people of God is already in the world, we not only fail to discover Him on the whole face of the earth, but we see no certain signs of his coming, and we perceive none of the pomp and outward show naturally attendant upon such a person. Nevertheless I have my misgivings lest the time of his coming from heaven to the earth be already near. Therefore we all ought to be eager to destroy Him and the Woman whom He shall choose for his Mother, and whoever shall labor most in this work shall be given the greater reward in token of my appreciation. Until now I have found guilt and the effects of guilt in all men, and I have seen no such majesty and grand magnificence as would induce the Word to become man and oblige mortals to adore Him and offer Him sacrifice, for by this homage we shall be able to recognize Him. The certain indication of his coming, and the distinguishing mark of the Messiah, will no doubt be that neither sin nor its consequences, common to other children of Adam, will ever be able to touch Him.

225. "Hence (continued Lucifer) so much the greater is my confusion at present, for if the eternal Word has not yet come into the world I cannot understand these new experiences, nor whence comes this strong opposition which overpowers us. Who drove us out and hurled us from Egypt? Who destroyed the temples and crushed the idols of that country in which we were adored by all the inhabitants? Who oppresses us now in the land of Galilee and its neighborhood, and prevents us from perverting many of the persons in danger of death? Who keeps away from sin so many souls as if they were withdrawn from our jurisdiction, and who causes so many to better their lives and begin to seek the kingdom of God? If this damaging influence is allowed to continue, great misfortune and torment may arise for all of us from this secret force which we do not comprehend. It is necessary to put a stop to it and search anew over all the world, seeing if it contains a great Prophet or Saint who seeks our destruction. I have not been able to discover anyone to whom I could ascribe such a power. However, I have a mortal hatred against that Woman, our enemy, and more so after we persecuted Her in the temple and later on in her house at Nazareth, for we have always been vanquished and terrified by the virtue which shields Her and resists our malice. Never have I been able to search her interior or come near her person. She has a Son, and when both of them attended at the death of his father all of us were unable to approach the place where they were. They are poor and neglected people; She is an unknown and helpless little woman. But I presume without a doubt that both Son and Mother must be counted among the just, for I have continually sought to draw them into the failings common to men, and yet I have never succeeded in causing them to commit the least of the disorderly or reprehensible actions which are so common and natural with other people. I know the Almighty conceals from

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\* cf. *Coronation* 306 [Ed.]

me the state of these souls, and this doubtlessly argues some hidden danger for us. Although the interior condition of some other souls has been concealed from us on certain occasions, yet this was but rare and not in the manner as with these two; and even if this Man is not the promised Messiah, at the very least these two are just and our enemies, which is sufficient reason for persecuting them and ruining them, and especially for seeking to find out who they are. All of you follow me in the enterprise with all diligence, for I shall be your leader in our fight against them.”

226. With this exhortation Lucifer concluded his long speech in which he gave to the demons much other information and malicious counsel. But I need not mention them here, since this History shall contain other references to their hellish plots in order to make us understand the cunning of that venomous serpent. Immediately the prince of darkness, together with countless legions of evil spirits, issued forth from hell and spread over the whole world. They persisted in roaming through it many times, searching out in their malice and cunning all the just, tempting those they recognized as such and provoking them and other men to commit the evil deeds hatched out in their own infernal minds. But Christ our Lord in his wisdom concealed his own Person and that of his Mother for many days from the haughty Lucifer. He did not permit him to see or recognize Him until His Majesty went to the desert, where He arranged and desired to be tempted after his long fast; and at that time Lucifer tempted Him, as I shall relate in its place (284).

227. When this meeting was held in the infernal regions Christ, to whom as our divine Master all was known, prayed in opposition to the malice of the dragon, and among other petitions He prayed as follows: “Eternal and most high God and my Father, I adore Thee and exalt thy infinite and immutable essence. I confess Thee as the immense and highest Good, to whose divine will I offer Myself in sacrifice in order to vanquish and crush the infernal powers and their counsels of malice against my creatures. I shall fight for them against my and their enemies, and by my works and victories over the dragon I shall leave them encouragement and an example of what they must do against him, and I shall leave his malice greatly weakened for injuring those who serve Me from their heart. My Father, defend souls from the deceits and ancient cruelty of the serpent and his followers, and grant to the just the powerful virtue of thy right hand, that through my intercession and death they may gain victory over their temptations and dangers.” Our great Queen and Lady had a similar knowledge of the evil counsels of Lucifer, and saw all that passed in her divine Son and the prayer He offered. As the Coadjutrix of these triumphs She joined in the prayers and petitions of her Son to the eternal Father. The Most High granted all of them, and on this occasion Jesus and most sweet Mary obtained immense assistance and rewards from the Father for those who battle against the demons invoking the names of Jesus and Mary. So great was the efficacy of their prayers that all those who pronounce these Names with reverence and faith overcome their hellish enemies and banish them in virtue of the prayers, triumphs and victories of Jesus Christ our Savior and his most holy Mother. Because of the protection thereby offered to us against the arrogant giants of hell, and with this remedy and all the others the Lord accumulated in his holy Church no excuse is left to us for not battling\* legitimately and valiantly, overcoming and vanquishing the demon as the enemy of the eternal God and our own enemy, for in this we must follow the example of our Savior according to our ability.

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\* cf. I Peter 5:9 [Ed.]

*TEACHING OF MOST HOLY MARY, THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN.*

228. My daughter, always weep with bitter sorrow over the stubborn obstinacy and blindness of mortals in refusing to acknowledge and understand the loving protection which they have in my sweetest Son and in me in all their troubles and necessities. My Lord did not spare any labor, nor lost any occasion, nor failed to do anything, in which He could gain for them inestimable treasures. He gathered the infinite value of his merits in the holy Church, the essential fruit of his sorrows and death; He left them secure pledges of his love and of his glory, easy and most efficacious means so they could enjoy and apply all these goods for their own benefit and eternal salvation. Beyond this He offers them his protection and mine; loves them as children; cherishes them as his beloved and friends; calls them by his inspirations; invites them with benefits and true riches; waits for them as a most kind Father; seeks them as a Pastor; helps them as powerful; rewards them as infinite in riches; and governs them as a mighty King. All these and other innumerable favors are taught them by faith, proposed by the Church, and they have within sight, yet all of them are forgotten and despised; as if blind, they love the darkness, and deliver themselves to the fury and ferocity of those known as such cruel enemies. They listen to their fantasies, obey their malice, and give credence to their deceits; they trust and deliver themselves to the insatiable and burning indignation with which the demons abhor them and seek their eternal death because they are creatures of the Most High, who conquered and crushed this most cruel dragon.

229. Therefore be aware, my dearest, of this lamentable error of the children of men, and disengage thy faculties in order to consider the difference between Christ and Belial, which is greater than the distance between heaven and earth. Christ is the true light, the way, and eternal life (Jn. 14:6); those who follow Him He loves with imperishable love, and offers them his own vision and company, and in it eternal rest which neither eyes have seen, nor ears have heard, nor could enter into the heart of man (Is. 64:4).<sup>\*</sup> Lucifer is darkness itself, error, deceit, unhappiness and death; he hates his followers and compels them to every evil as far as possible, and their end shall be everlasting burning and cruel pains. Let mortals now say whether they are ignorant of these truths of the holy Church, which each day are taught and proposed to them. And if they give these truths credence and confess them, where is their reason? Who has demented them? Who makes them forget the proper love they should have for themselves? Who makes them so cruel to themselves? O insanity never sufficiently considered or mourned by the children of Adam! That they thus labor and strive their whole lives to entangle themselves in their passions, waste themselves in fantasy, and deliver themselves to inextinguishable fire, death, and eternal perdition, as if all was a hoax, and as if my most holy Son had not come from heaven to die on a cross in order to merit for them rescue from this! Let them consider the price He paid, and they shall know the importance of that which cost God so much, which He knows without deceit.

230. In this most unhappy error the guilt of the idolaters and infidels is less serious, nor is the indignation of the Most High directed as much against them as against the faithful children of the holy Church, who come to know the light of this truth. And if in the present age this light is so eclipsed and forgotten, let them know and understand it is by their own fault, and for having given such a free hand to their enemy Lucifer, who with untiring malice does not work on anything more than seeking to remove restraint from men, so forgetful of the four last things, and the eternal torments which await them, they surrender themselves like brute beasts to sensible

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<sup>\*</sup> cf. also I Cor. 2:9 [Ed.]

pleasures,\* and forgetting themselves, spending life in apparent goods, *in a moment they go down to hell*, as Job says (21:13), as in truth happens to an infinite number of fools<sup>†</sup> who hate this knowledge and discipline. Do thou, my daughter, allow thyself to be taught by my doctrine, and separate thyself from such pernicious deceit and from the common forgetfulness of worldly people. Let the mournful despair of the damned, which begins at the end of their lives and the beginning of their eternal death, always resound in thy ears:<sup>Δ</sup> *O we fools, who esteemed the life of the just as madness! O how are they numbered among the children of God, and their lot is among the saints! Therefore we have erred from the way of truth and justice. The sun has not arisen for us. We wearied ourselves in the ways of iniquity and destruction; we have sought difficult paths, ignoring by our own fault the way of the Lord. What hath pride profited us? What advantage hath the boasting of riches brought us? All those things are passed away from us like a shadow. O that we had never been born!*<sup>‡</sup> This is, my daughter, what thou must fear and meditate upon in thy heart, reflecting before thou goest to that land of darkness (as Job says [10:21]) and eternal dungeons, never to return, and realizing it is proper for thee to flee from evil and stay away from it, and work what is good. During thy mortal life and out of love do thou perform what the damned in despair and self-condemnation admit by the force of their chastisement.

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\* cf. Jude 10 [Ed.]

† cf. Eccles. 1:15 [Ed.]

Δ cf. Wis. 5:4ff. [Ed.]

‡ cf. Mt. 26:24 [Ed.]