

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

* 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.

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

TEACHING OF MOST HOLY MARY, THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN.

228. My daughter, weep with most bitter sorrow over the stubbornness and blindness of mortals in not understanding and acknowledging the loving protection which they have in my divine Son and in me as a relief from all their troubles and necessities. My Lord spared Himself no exertion and left no means unemployed in order to gain for them inestimable treasures of heaven. He gathered the infinite value of his merits in the holy Church, the essential fruit of his sorrows and death; He left them as the secure pledges of his glorious love, and procured for them most easy and efficacious means so all of them could enjoy and apply them for their own use and for their eternal salvation. In addition He offers them his protection and mine; He loves them as children; He cherishes them as his chosen friends; He calls them by his inspirations; He invites them by his blessings and graces; He awaits them as a most kind Father; He seeks them as their Pastor; He helps them as One who is powerful; He rewards them as One possessing infinite riches; and He governs them as a mighty King. All these and innumerable other favors which are pointed out by faith, offered by the Church, and presented before their very eyes, men forget and despise; as if blind, they love the darkness and deliver themselves up to the fury and rage of those they know as such cruel enemies. They listen to their lies, obey their wicked suggestions, and confide in their snares; they trust and give themselves up to the unquenchable fire of their wrath. These enemies seek to destroy them and consign them to eternal death because they are creatures of the Most High, who vanquished and crushed this most cruel dragon.

229. Guard thyself, therefore, my dearest, against this deplorable error of the children of men, and disengage thy faculties so thou mayest clearly see the difference between the service of Christ and that of Belial. Greater is that difference 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 He offers them his life and his company, and with it an eternal happiness such as neither eyes have seen, nor ears have heard, nor ever can enter into the heart of man (Is. 64:4). Lucifer is darkness itself, error, deceit, unhappiness and death; he hates his followers and forces them into evil as far as possible, and in the end inflicts upon them eternal fire and horrid torments. Let mortals give testimony whether they are ignorant of these truths, since the holy Church teaches them and calls them to their minds every day. If men give credence to these truths, where is their good sense? Who has made them insane? Who drives from their remembrance the love which they ought to have for themselves? Who makes them so cruel to themselves? O insanity never sufficiently to be bewailed and so little considered by the children of Adam! All their life they labor and exert themselves to become more and more entangled in the snares of their passions, to be consumed in deceitful vanities, and to deliver themselves over to an inextinguishable fire, death, and everlasting perdition, as if all was a mere joke, and as if my most holy Son had not come down from heaven to die on a cross in order to merit for them this rescue! Let them but look upon the price and consider how much God himself paid for this happiness, He who knew the full value of it.

230. The idolaters and heathens are much less to blame for falling into this error, nor is the wrath of the Most High enkindled so much against them as against the faithful of his Church, who have such a clear knowledge of this truth. If the minds of men in our present age have grown forgetful of it, let them understand this happened by their own fault because they have given free reign to their enemy Lucifer. With tireless malice he labors to overthrow the barriers

of restraint, so forgetful of the last things and of eternal torment men might give themselves over like brute beasts to sensual pleasures,* and unmindful of themselves consume their lives in the pursuit of apparent good until, as Job says (21:13), *in a moment they go down to hell*, as in truth happens to an infinite number of fools† who hate this science and discipline. Do thou, my daughter, allow me to instruct thee. Keep thyself free from such harmful deceit and from this forgetfulness of worldly people. Let the despairing groans of the damned, which begin at the end of their lives and the beginning of their eternal damnation, ever resound in thy ears:△ *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! This, my daughter, thou must fear and ponder in thy heart, so before thou goest to that land of darkness (as Job said [10:21]) and eternal dungeons, from whence there is no return, thou mayest provide against evil and avoid it by doing good. During thy mortal life and out of love do thou now perform that of which the damned in their despair are forced to warn thee by the excess of their punishment.

* cf. Jude 10 [Ed.]

† cf. Eccles. 1:15 [Ed.]

△ cf. Wis. 5:4ff. [Ed.]