

Fiery Darts, Faith's Shield

Explanatory Note

The following incidents, one fact-based from an account by Dr Peter S. Ruckman, the other from this writer's experience, depict applications of Ephesians 6:16 "***Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.***"

Incident I is extracted from this writer's novel *Peace of Home*. ECSO Escambia County FL Sheriff's Office Deputy Sheriff Teri Coleraine and her partner Deputy Sheriff Caitlin 'Cat' Delaney are residing in a safe house at their captain's behest because Teri terminated with extreme prejudice an MS-13 assassin named Eduardo Ramirez. MS-13 has sworn revenge. With Cat and Teri for additional protection are Escambia County Fire Rescue Lieutenant Liam Grainger, seconded to ECSO as a special deputy owing to ECSO's severe personnel shortage and Deputy Sheriff Lara Medway, Liam's fiancée. A strange incident occurs one night not related to MS-13 but of the enemy nevertheless. Numerous accounts exist of saints protected by supernatural Guardians in white.

Incident II is self-explanatory.

Incident I

Teri woke with a start to the sound of the humming, and sat bolt upright in bed. The luminous display on her wrist watch showed almost 0300 hours. With sudden fear, she realized that the hairs of the nape of her neck and on her forearms were prickling and tingling as though reacting to static electricity.

Her mouth felt like sand-paper, all too reminiscent of the lure and ambush encounter with the late Eduardo Ramirez.

Heart pounding, Teri threw off the counterpane, swung her feet onto the floor, pulled on and laced up her trainers, conscious of the weird illumination outside. Leaping to her feet, Glock in hand, with a sharp intake of breath she stared trembling and wide-eyed at the pulsating unearthly blue glow that irradiated the velvety darkness of the night sky.

The glow was visible through the partially drawn curtains of the bedroom window.

Teri clenched her teeth to stop them chattering. She realized with dismay that whatever this intrusion was, and the humming seemed to emanate from immediately above the roof, the movement sensing security lights positioned around the house had not detected it.

"You okay, Teri?" Liam's voice sounded anxiously from the corridor, accompanied by rapid knocking on the bedroom door. The lieutenant's distinct voice calmed the young woman somewhat. She was able to regain control of her jaw movement sufficiently to speak without stammering.

"Okay, Liam," Teri assured him.

Grabbing her cell which Teri saw was functioning though the internet connection was dead, she pocketed it, and quickly ventured into the corridor.

There Teri found Grainger, Lara and Cat standing together, Glocks in hand like her.

In the limited illumination of Liam's flashlight, they looked as apprehensive as Teri still felt, Liam's reassuring voice, and her word of assurance to him notwithstanding.

"CCTV monitors are out, and everything else electrical except for torch, watch and cell batteries. I tried the hall switch," Grainger grimly told Teri, evidently having informed Cat of what Lara and Liam already knew.

The young officer then looked upwards, and called loudly, "No point wasting your time. You won't get past our Guardians in white, and we are all covered by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. So on your way and don't come back. In Jesus' name. Amen."

"Amen!" the three girls exclaimed...

The humming and the eerie glow outside immediately diminished, and then ceased altogether. The corridor lights came on, the monitoring and security equipment [and cell web connections] started working again, and everyone's physical alarm sensations disappeared...

Incident II

See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs%27_Memorial with respect to the Oxford martyrs Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley and Thomas Cranmer burnt at the stake near the spot of the memorial on October 16th 1555, Latimer and Ridley, and March 21st 1556, Cranmer.

The first photo shows the statue of Thomas Cranmer holding the Holy Bible. The inscription on the plaque underneath his statue refers to the errors of the Church of Rome. Statues of Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley occupy two other sides of the memorial. On the Memorial, Cranmer faces north holding a Bible; Ridley faces east; and Latimer looks to the west, with his arms folded across his chest. See

www.oxfordhistory.org.uk/stgiles/tour/martyrs_memorial.html.

See also

familybiblelearning.com/ukchristianhistory/pages/oxford.html for a closer view of Cranmer holding the Holy Bible and the inscription on the plaque underneath his statue. Latimer is the figure on Cranmer's left. The words

the errors of the Church of Rome can be discerned about two-thirds of the way down on the plaque. The inscription reads in full:

“To the Glory of God, and in grateful commemoration of His servants, Thomas Cranmer, Nicholas Ridley, Hugh Latimer, Prelates of the Church of England, who near this spot yielded their bodies to be burned, bearing witness to the sacred truths which they had affirmed and maintained against the errors of the Church of Rome, and rejoicing that to them it was given not only to believe in Christ, but also to suffer for His sake; this monument was erected by public subscription in the year of our Lord God, MDCCCXLI*.”

*1841, the memorial was actually completed in 1843.

A strange incident occurred near the memorial on June 14th 2014. This writer and his family were in Oxford on that date. On the morning of June 14th this writer went to view the memorial. While this writer waited at the stoplights just across the street from the memorial, an individual quickly walked past behind. The individual was alone, not speaking into a mobile phone, male, bald, Caucasian, of average build and height and in a dark coat. No-one else was in the vicinity. As this individual went past, he spoke an obscenity quite distinctly but which only he and this writer could have heard. The obscenity was a demand to *Go away, now, and never come back*. It may well be that the enemy was so incensed to see someone else close by the place where he had brought about the deaths of those martyrs and who held to their Bible belief almost 500 years on that he prompted one of his minions to cast a fiery dart, Ephesians 6:16, even if of small calibre.

Psalm 27:1 therefore comes to mind. ***“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”***

