

## DANIEL, BEL, AND THE SNAKE

<sup>1</sup> And king Astyages was put to his fathers, and Cyrus of Persia took [*or received*] his realm.

<sup>2</sup> Forsooth Daniel ate with the king, and was honoured above all the friends of him.

<sup>3</sup> Also an idol, Bel by name, was at Babylon, and twelve measures of clean flour, of which *measures* each contained three bushels, and forty sheep, and six measures of wine, *that be called amphoras*, were spende in it (*or were spent upon it*) each day.

<sup>4</sup> And the king worshipped that *Bel*, and went each day to honour him; certainly Daniel worshipped his God. And the king said to him, Why worshippest thou not Bel?

<sup>5</sup> Which answered, and said to him, For I worship not idols made by hand, but God living [*or (the) living God*], that made (*out*) of nought heaven and earth, and hath power of (*or over*) each flesh.

<sup>6</sup> And the king said to him, Whether it seemeth not to thee, that Bel is a living god? whether thou seest not, how great things he eateth and drinketh each day?

<sup>7</sup> And Daniel said laughing, King, err thou not; for why this *Bel* is (*made*) of clay within, and of brass withoutforth, and eateth not, [*neither drinketh*], any time.

<sup>8</sup> And the king was wroth, and called the priests thereof [*or the priests of him*], and said to them, If ye say not to me, who it is that eateth these costs, *either expenses*, ye shall die.

<sup>9</sup> Forsooth if ye show that Bel eateth these things, Daniel shall die, for he blasphemed Bel. And Daniel said to the king, Be it done by [*or after*] thy word.

<sup>10</sup> Forsooth the priests of Bel were seventy, besides (*their*) wives, and little children, *either servants*, and sons. And the king came with Daniel into the temple of Bel.

<sup>11</sup> And the priests of Bel said, Lo! We shall go out, and thou, king, set (*forth the*) meats, and meddle (*or mix the*) wine, and close thou the door, and aseal *it* with thy ring.

<sup>12</sup> And when thou comest [*in*] early, if thou findest not all things eaten of (*or by*) Bel, we shall die by death, either [*or*] Daniel *shall die*, that lied against us.

<sup>13</sup> Soothly they trusted, for they had made a privy [*or an hid*] entering under the board (*or they had made a secret entrance under the table*), and by it they entered ever[*more*](*or repeatedly*), and devoured those things.

<sup>14</sup> Forsooth it was done, after that they went out, and the king setted (*forth the*) meats before Bel, Daniel commanded to his children (*or his servants*), and they brought ashes, and he riddled (*them*) through(*out*) all the temple, before the king (*alone*). And (*then*) they went out, and closed the door, and asealed (*it*) with the ring of the king, and went forth [*or away*].

<sup>15</sup> But the priests entered in the night, by their custom, and the wives, and *(the)* children of them, and ate and drank all things.

<sup>16</sup> Forsooth the king rose most early, and Daniel with him.

<sup>17</sup> And the king said, Daniel, whether the seals be safe? And he answered, King, *those (or they)* be safe.

<sup>18</sup> And anon when they had opened the door, the king beheld the board *(or at the table)*, and he cried on high with a great *(or a loud)* voice, Bel, thou art great, and no guile is at *(or with)* thee.

<sup>19</sup> And Daniel laughed, and he held the king, *(so)* that he entered not with-in. And *Daniel* said, Lo! the pavement, perceive thou whose steps these be.

<sup>20</sup> And the king said, I see *(the)* steps of men, and of women, and of young children. And the king was wroth.

<sup>21</sup> Then the king took *(hold of)* the priests, and the wives, and *(the)* children of them; and they showed to him *(the)* little privy *(or secret)* doors, by which they entered, and wasted those things that were on the board *(or consumed those things that were on the table)*.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore the king killed them, and betook Bel into the power of Daniel, which destroyed that *Bel*, and his temple.

<sup>23</sup> And a great dragon *(or a large snake)* was *(also)* in that place, and *(the)* Babylonians worshipped it.

<sup>24</sup> And the king said to Daniel, Lo! now thou mayest not say, that this is not a quick [*or a living*] god; therefore worship thou him.

<sup>25</sup> And Daniel said to the king, I worship my Lord God, for he is God living [*or (the) living God*].

<sup>26</sup> But thou, king, give power to me, and I shall slay the dragon (*or I will kill the snake*), without sword or staff. And the king said, I give (*leave*) to thee.

<sup>27</sup> Therefore Daniel took pitch, and tallow [*or fatness*], and hairs, and seethed (*or boiled them*) together; and he made gobbets (*or lumps*), and gave (*them*) into the mouth of the dragon (*or and put it into the mouth of the snake*), and the dragon was all-broken [*or burst*]. And Daniel said, Lo! whom ye worship.

<sup>28</sup> And when (*the*) Babylonians had heard this thing, they had indignation greatly; and they were gathered (*together*) against the king, and said, The king is made a Jew; he destroyed Bel, and killed the dragon (*or the snake*), and slew [*or killed*] the priests.

<sup>29</sup> And they said, when they were come to the king, Betake thou [*or Give*] to us Daniel, that destroyed Bel, and killed [*or slew*] the dragon (*or the snake*); (*or*) else we shall slay thee, and thine house.

<sup>30</sup> Therefore the king saw, that they fell in on him greatly; and he was compelled by need, and he betook [*or gave*] Daniel to them.

<sup>31</sup> Which sent him into the pit of lions [*or into the lake of lions*], and he was there (*for*) seven days.

<sup>32</sup> Certainly seven lions were in the pit, and two bodies and two sheep were given to them each day. And then those were not given to them, (*so*) that they should devour Daniel.

<sup>33</sup> Forsooth Habakkuk, the prophet, was in Judea [*or Habakkuk was a prophet in Judea*], and he had sodden pottage, and had set in (*or put some*) loaves in a little pannier [*or vessel*], (*or basket or bowl*); and he went into the field, to bear (*it*) to (*the*) reapers.

<sup>34</sup> And the angel of the Lord said to Habakkuk, Bear thou the meat (*or Take the meal*), which thou hast, into Babylon, to Daniel, which is in the pit of (*the*) lions.

<sup>35</sup> And Habakkuk said, Lord, I saw not Babylon, and I knew not [*or know not*](*where*) the pit (*is*).

<sup>36</sup> And the angel of the Lord took him by his top, and bare him by the hair of his head; and set him (*down*)[*or put him (down)*] in Babylon, on (*or above*) the pit, in the fierceness of his spirit.

<sup>37</sup> And Habakkuk cried, and said, Daniel, the servant of God, take thou the meat (*or the meal*), that God hath sent to thee.

<sup>38</sup> And Daniel said, Lord God, thou hast mind on me, and hast not forsaken them that love thee.

<sup>39</sup> And Daniel rose, and ate; certainly the angel of the Lord restored Habakkuk anon in(*to*) his (*own*) place (*again*).

<sup>40</sup> Therefore the king came in (*or on*) the seventh day to bewail Daniel; and he came to the pit, and looked in, and lo! Daniel (*was*) sitting in the midst of (*the*) lions.

<sup>41</sup> (*And*) The king cried on high with (*a*) great (*or a loud*) voice, and said, Lord God of Daniel, thou art great;

<sup>42</sup> and *the king* drew him out of the pit. Certainly he sent into the pit them, that were (*the*) cause of his perdition, and they were devoured in a moment before him.

<sup>43</sup> Then the king said, They that dwell in all the earth, dread the God of Daniel, for he is God living into worlds (*or the living God forevermore*); he is (*the*) deliverer, and (*the*) Saviour, doing miracles and marvels in heaven and in (*or on the*) earth, that delivered Daniel from the pit of (*the*) lions.

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