

### Take Down the Dragon



ANDREA JOHNSON/Editor

It was one of those vivid dreams that keeps playing through your head the next day – and keeps you pondering its meaning.

I dreamed I was standing in the doorway of a village shop, along a street lined by stores on both sides. As I looked out the door, I saw a young girl, maybe eight to ten years old, standing alone in the middle of the street. Horrified, I watched as a dragon came lumbering down the road toward the girl, lobbing his head from side to side and whipping around his long tail. But the little girl didn't run or scream. And no one came to her rescue. She seemed annoyed, rather than terrified, by the dragon. Although he tossed her around like a toy with his tail, she seemed to be accustomed to the treatment.

I looked around in disbelief. Why wasn't "someone" running to rescue the girl? Yet my own feet remained planted in the doorway.

Suddenly my oldest, college aged-daughter, Leslee, arrived on the scene. The dragon abandoned the first girl and tramped toward my daughter. I bolted from the doorway and screamed at him, but then stopped short, surprised. Leslee was not afraid of the dragon either. Nor was she about to take his abuse. She firmly told him, "No!" and he left her alone.

When I awoke from the dream I felt ashamed. Why hadn't I tried to stop the dragon from harming the first girl? Obviously, I felt ill-equipped and feared for my own safety. Yet those fears were overcome by my love for my own flesh and blood.

I was also confused as to the young girl's

familiarity with the dragon. Maybe she had first befriended him as a cute baby when he didn't look so menacing, and she thought she could control him. Either people hadn't warned her of the danger, or she had not heeded those warnings. When both grew older, the dragon soon had her in the grip of his wicked talons.

These days it doesn't take a prophet to realize that the "great dragon," the "serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan" in Revelation 12, is trying to destroy this generation. One way he conspires to do that is through the sexualization of our culture. People underestimate the stronghold of sexual sins and the ease at which one can be lured into their grip. What we once thought was the "freedom to express ourselves sexually" becomes a trap from which we cannot escape. Like the girl in my dream, many in our culture are accustomed to living life ensnared by their unquenchable desires, and remain unaware of the danger they are in.

Yet, like me in the dream, many of us choose our own personal safety and comfort over the opportunity to rescue these victims. Maybe we are not equipped for battle; maybe we haven't clothed ourselves in the "full armor of God." Maybe we don't care enough – until the battle involves our own flesh and blood.

First, let's equip ourselves with God's armor. Second, let us train our children how to battle so they themselves, like Leslee in the dream, can withstand Satan's schemes. Finally, let us fully appreciate how much God loves all people – how much he longs that "none should perish." Then let's battle that dragon.

Andrea Johnson,  
Managing Editor

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