

BITTEN BY DEVILS

BY LESTER SUMRALL

THE SUPERNATURAL ACCOUNT
OF A YOUNG GIRL
BITTEN BY UNSEEN DEMONS,
DOCUMENTED BY MEDICAL DOCTORS
& HER MIRACULOUS DELIVERANCE
THAT WOULD BRING
RIVIVAL TO A NATION

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Unless otherwise indicated
all Scripture quotations are taken from
the *King James Version of the Bible*.

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Revised Edition

ISBN 0-937580-98-8

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Published by LeSEA Publishing Company

P.O. Box 12

South Bend, Indiana 46624

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INTRODUCTION

It is not easy to give a detailed report of such a sensational story as this. So much was said by so many. Experts conflicted in their diagnosis and opinions. News reporters viewed the story differently.

The story is incredible and even changed the spiritual climate of the Philippines. 150,000 people accepted Christ as their Savior following the deliverance of Clarita Villanueva.

We have tried to tell the story as it happened; as it was reported by the most reliable newspapers and by Dr. Lara, who was more closely associated with it than any other person.

The following facts are indisputable and unassailable:

Clarita Villanueva was bitten and choked by unseen adversaries.

Her case could not be solved by medical or mental science.

She was instantly delivered by the power of simple prayer to Christ.

The glory and praise for this modern-day miracle we unreservedly give to God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

LESTER SUMRALL

1

DEVILS DISTURB MANILA

The metropolitan radio and press of Manila, and the world press, carried the sensational story of a young provincial girl who had been picked up on the streets of Manila for vagrancy, and placed in Bilibid Prison, which is the Manila city jail. This girl, Clarita Villanueva, suffered torments supposedly inflicted by devils. The newspapers gave sensational front-page reports of the happenings in the city jail. The following are some that I clipped and filed:

The Daily Mirror, May 12: Police Medic Explodes "Biting Demons' Yarn."

"A city jail inmate puzzled police and medical examiners with her tale about two devils biting her last night. Sgt. Guillermo Abad detailed with the city jail last night, said the

girl claimed she was bitten twenty times and she shouted every time she was hurt.

"Clarita talked and answered questions weakly, but sensibly, before a crowd of observers. Suddenly, her facial expressions would change to anguish and horror as if she were confronted with 'The Thing.' She would look around wildly and then scream as if she were trying to shake off 'The Thing.' Then her strenuous resistance would cease and she would collapse into the arms of those holding her, weak and half-conscious.

"After regaining her senses, she said that one of the devils was big and dark with curly hair on his head, chest and arms. He has large sharp eyes and two fangs. His voice is a deep-echoing sound. He is shrouded in black.

"Fr. Vargas, the prison chaplain, was summoned at 2:30 a.m., and he agreed to come only as an observer.

"Clarita was bitten for the last time on the right knee. That was the first bite on the lower part of her anatomy. Other bite marks appear on her neck, arms and shoulders. Observers insist that they are within sight all the time."

**The Manila Chronicle, May 13:
Police Medics Probe Case Of Girl
Bitten By Devils**

"Police medical investigators failed to give

a convincing explanation to the puzzling case of the girl who claimed she was being attacked by demons, and who substantiated the claim with marks on her skin.

"At least twenty-five competent persons, including Manila's chief of police, Col. Cesar Lucero, say that it is a very realistic example of a horrified woman being bitten to insanity by 'invisible persons.' She displayed several bite marks all over her body, inflicted by nobody as far as the twenty-five witnesses could see. Villanueva writhed in pain, shouted and screamed in anguish whenever the 'invisible demons' attacked her.

Fr. Benito Vargas (Roman Catholic), OP, chaplain of the NGH, who witnessed Villanueva in her fits, said it was not his to conclude any verdict. 'But,' he said, 'the fact remains that I saw her bitten three times.'

"Villanueva claimed she had been seeing the 'invisible persons' since last Sunday. She claimed the phantoms were two; one tall, evil-looking, dark, and garbed in black, and the other short and cherubic, with snow-white hair. She said the latter did most of the biting.

"Villanueva was perfectly normal between fits.

"After talking for a while, she would shout, have convulsions and hysterics, all the time screaming, and her eyes flashing with fire. She would point to a part of her body being

attacked, then fall almost senseless into the hands of investigators. Teeth marks, wet with saliva, marked the spots she pointed at.

"All the time, all witnesses agree, she was never able to bite herself."

**The Manila Times, May 14:
"The Thing" Bites Girl Again**

"Eighteen-year-old Clarita Villanueva was again bitten twice before mystified doctors and thirty medical interns studying her between 2 and 4 p.m. yesterday.

"Later in the night, cellmates of the girl said that she had gone into a violent tantrum when they refused to give her water. They said Villanueva then grabbed an aluminum cup standing bottom-up on a window and drank from it. (She drank from an empty cup.)

"The cellmates said that Villanueva suddenly grabbed a statuette of the holy family and was about to throw it on the concrete floor when they held her back and snatched the image away. Ten minutes later, a policeman removed the magazine of his pistol and shouted at Villanueva to tell her 'imagined evil spirit' that he would challenge him to a shooting duel.

"Then Villanueva got violent again, tried to attack the policeman and was calmed down only after he had been sent away.

"Rid of the horrified look on her face but still weak and trembling, Villanueva confided to her cellmates that 'The Thing' would be at her bedside at 2:00 a.m. this morning.

"Dr. Cabreira said that he had requested that the girl be taken to the city morgue for psychological observation. Villanueva refused to answer their questions after several minutes. Dr. Lara pricked her arm with a needle several times but she did not seem to feel it.

"Shortly before 4:00 p.m., Dr. Cabreira continued, the girl became terror-stricken. The observers grabbed her by the hand and arms. Then she stiffened momentarily before sagging down. She looked at her right index finger. The observers saw two big teeth marks, fresh, on it.

"The second attack was the more mystifying. Dr. Cabreira said that Alfonso Aquino, a morgue helper, was holding her arms as the others looked on. Suddenly she looked to the left of her and then at the ceiling and started beating her arms.

"As she revived from a faint, she muttered to Aquino: 'Tata, nasa ilalim ng kamay mo' (it is under your hand). Aquino removed his hand and in the back of Villanueva's hand, Dr. Cabreira said, were teeth marks that were still moist with saliva and sinking into the skin.

"One of the male students was able to take a picture of the bite immediately after the

attack. He had placed the camera in powerful focus to better take the teeth imprints."

**The Daily Mirror, May 22:
"The Thing" Defies Protestant Pastor**

" 'The Thing' and a Protestant minister, Dr. Lester F. Sumrall, were locked in a struggle to the finish at the chapel for women detainees at the city jail this morning. 'The Thing' which the camera could not see, spoke resolutely through its host, Clarita Villaneuva, and after a violent tussle yielded to the pastor. Dr. Sumrall asked her, 'Where is 'The Thing'?

"She replied, 'He ran out of the window.' Clarita appeared calm."

**The Manila Chronicle, May 28:
Victim Of "The Thing" Says Torturer
Has Disappeared**

"THE THING" IS DEAD!

"This every believer can now proclaim as Clarita Villaneuva...claimed yesterday that 'The Thing' has finally been exorcised.

"Clarita told of her deliverance from her attackers as she pleaded for mercy before Judge Natividad Almeda-Lopez who was to have tried her on vagrancy and prostitution charges.

"The girl said the prayers of an American minister, Dr. Lester F. Sumrall, who purposely visited her to purge the devil, did it.

Since Friday, May 22nd, when the minister prayed with her at the city jail chapel for women, 'The Thing' had never appeared again, Clarita added."

The Philippines Free Press, May 30: The Strange Case Of "The Thing"

"This is about the strange phenomenon of what has been arbitrarily called 'The Thing' which the first couple of weeks of her confinement at Manila's city jail as vagrancy suspect, brought much suffering and misery to eighteen-year-old Clarita Villanueva, an unlettered Visayan girl from Bacolod City. Clarita claimed that 'The Thing'—invisible to anyone else but herself—bit her in various parts of the body and generally made her life miserable. 'The Thing,' according to the girl, was really composed of two 'things', a big one and a small one.

"But, you would ask, could this be possible? Qualified authorities, including medical experts and psychiatrists, hold widely divergent views on the phenomenon. A member of the medical staff of the Manila Police Department at first diagnosed the case as one of plain insanity and claimed the girl probably bit herself during her epileptic fits. An army psychiatrist of V. Luna General Hospital in Quezon City came out with the view that it was a case of 'hysterical fugue.' One medical authority claimed that it was a case of malnutrition. Still

others insisted that it was a case outside the realm of medical science: that the girl was under the influence of diabolical spirits and must be exorcised of 'The Thing.'

"Not all of those who advanced their views on the strange case actually saw Clarita being bitten by the invisible 'Thing.' The medico-legal officer who first thought that the girl was insane changed his mind later when he saw with his own eyes teeth marks on the arms of the girl after an attack. He also saw for himself that the girl did not bite herself as he suspected.

"When the girl is attacked, she appears to cower before an invisible monster. Stark terror is mirrored in her dilated eyes. Then she screams in blood-curdling agony. Tears stream down her face and then 'The Thing' apparently lets go as she literally wilts to the floor. Sometimes, she does not need to point to the fresh teeth marks on her arms or neck because the bites are too pronounced to escape notice.

"The strange case caught popular fancy and people were talking about it in the buses, in the jeepneys and in their homes. To satisfy our own curiosity, we decided to look into it. Before we set out, however, we were almost determined NOT to believe 'The Thing.' Why, it was too fantastic, we thought.

"We went to the women's detention building in the prison compound Thursday morning

in the company of Dr. Abelardo Lucero, of the Manila Police Medico-Legal Department. Just as we were mounting the steps of the squat concrete building, we were startled by blood-curdling screams from within. 'The Thing' had struck again!

"We went with all possible haste to the cell occupied by Clarita but before we reached it, the screams had stopped. In the cell we found Clarita seated on a wooden bed, with tears still flowing down her cheeks. An American civilian who we later learned was Rev. Lester Sumrall, a Protestant minister, was kneeling on the cement floor before the stricken girl. He was holding both of Clarita's hands by the wrists. He was praying. Manila Police Department's chief medico-legal officer, Dr. Mariano B. Lara, was standing to one side, wiping away tears from his own eyes. Prison officer Capt. Antonio Ganibi stood speechless behind Dr. Lara. Holding Clarita by the arm was Mrs. Dominga Reyes, a professor of psychology and philosophy in a local university. There were a few other people in the cell, but just then we were too occupied by the engrossing scene to notice them.

"We could see immediately that the other people in the cell, besides Clarita, had gone through an experience they could not easily forget. They looked wild-eyed, perhaps from a little fear and also from a sense of bewilder-

ment. Dr. Lara, who has become accustomed to opening cadavers in the Manila Police Department morgue without batting an eyelash, was shaky. He held the left arm of Clarita and pointed out to us the fresh bite on it. As accusing us of disbelief, he asked in a quavering voice, 'Don't you believe that?'

"We drew closer and took a hard look at the bite. The sight sent a cold shiver down our spine. It did not, in any way, resemble a human bite. In the first place, it was too large for human teeth. In the second place, the bite was completely round. (Anybody may find out for himself by actual tests on his own arm that a human bite is elliptical.) And finally, we were awed to discover that all the teeth marks appeared to have been made by molars. Clarita seemed exhausted and so was Rev. Sumrall. He was visibly shaken and his hands trembled. It would seem that 'The Thing' won the first round.

"Early the following morning, we returned to find out more about 'The Thing.' Rev. Sumrall had two other Protestant ministers with him when he showed up at 9 o'clock. Before going into the cell of Clarita, he pleaded with the people around to keep away as 'exorcising the evil spirits' was not a show. Only Dr. Lara went into the cell with the ministers. After a while, we also sneaked in.

"Rev. Sumrall knelt before the girl and took her hands in his. He asked her if she knew him and she said she did. But after a moment, while the minister was invoking the Lord to 'liberate this little creature from the devil,' Clarita's countenance changed. She became wild-eyed and screamed at the minister before her, telling him to go away.

"The minister alternated prayer and sacred song with invocation for the Lord's help and exhortations against the devil, but Clarita continued to scream. When Clarita seemed to cower away from him in unrestrained fright, he covered her eyes with his hands and told her not to be afraid as he was going 'to bind the hands and feet of the devil this morning.'

"The struggle continued. At intervals, Clarita was as meek as a lamb and, at the prodding of the minister, said that she liked Jesus Christ. The very next moment, however, she grew violent and cursed God and told the minister to go away. At one stage of the proceedings, Clarita became so violent and hysterical that she fainted.

"The minister then turned around and informed those present that they had better go down on their knees and pray 'for your own salvation.' Everybody was on his knees in a jiffy. Perspiring and growing visibly weary by his efforts, Rev. Sumrall resumed the task at hand. He slapped Clarita a couple of times and she

came to, but in no time at all she was screaming again.

"After about an hour, Clarita's face seemed to soften. She became more attentive to the minister before her. In reply to a question, she told him that she liked Jesus Christ. At this state, the minister recited the Lord's Prayer and Clarita followed him. Then the minister asked Clarita if she was still afraid of 'The Thing' and she replied in the negative. She indicated that 'The Thing' went out the window. And the three ministers sang a joyous 'Hallelujah.' Clarita appeared worn out and she slowly stretched herself on her wooden bed to sleep.

"The following day we saw Clarita again. She appeared happy. She told us that the night before, she had another struggle with 'The Thing.' She related that she seemed to be losing the fight when, in desperation, she exclaimed, 'Dios ko!' (My God!) and 'The Thing' took to flight.

"According to Clarita, she has three brothers in Bacolod City, but she has no father nor mother. Both parents died when she was still very young. She said that her brothers were not as loving as they should have been and she came to Manila two years ago to shift for herself. Clarita served as maid for a few months and then eloped with a man who turned out to be married with four children.

"When she discovered the bitter truth, she

abandoned him 'for the sake of his children' and became a dancer. One evening some three weeks ago, she saw a late movie, she said, and on her way home she was picked up by police and booked on suspicion of vagrancy. She was committed to the city jail on May 6th. The first few days and nights in the women's detention building were uneventful.

"Then on Saturday night, May 9th, something unusual happened. Without her knowing it, she said, her right leg got wedged in her wooden bed. She said that it was only with great difficulty that she was finally able to extricate her leg. She said she did not attach any special significance to the incident but, after a while, she noticed that small pebbles were being thrown into her cell. Her cellmates also noticed the stones.

"Clarita and her companions thought that perhaps somebody was only having a little fun. Then bigger stones came pelting into their cell. The women began scolding their unknown tormentor. They raised so much noise that the guard came around and ordered them to bed. She related that it was while she was sitting on her bed preparatory to going to sleep that she first saw 'The Thing' (the big one) perched on a beam overhead.

"Clarita said that 'The Thing' made a move to jump on her and she froze with fright. 'The Thing,' she said, actually jumped on her and

sat on top of her. Then the big one, which she described as big, black and covered with curly black hair, started biting her. Because of her fright at the sight of the supposed monster, she did not immediately notice the presence of the small one, which she described as small, spindle-legged and with a beard on its round face. She said that the small one helped the big one in biting her.

“According to Clarita, she thought that the cell guard, as well as the other detention prisoners, did not believe her when she told them what happened. But when her screaming was brought to the attention of Capt. Ganibi, the prison officer, he ordered them to pray before the improvised altar in one of the cells. Clarita complained to the prison officer that she could not see the altar as the big one was obstructing her view. She told us later that Capt. Ganibi even slapped her because she insisted on turning her head away from the altar.

“Sunday night, May 10th, was the most horrible night she had spent so far. Because of the almost continuous attacks of both the big one and the small one, Clarita kept screaming and Capt. Ganibi was fetched from his home to handle the situation. Ganibi had the girl taken to his office and had her surrounded by a human ring composed of jail guards and other persons. But the attacks continued and she showed them fresh bites on her arms and

on her neck. Ganibi decided that 'The Thing' was a matter for higher authorities. That was how the phenomenon came to public notice.

"Fact or fancy? Published reports say that cases similar to that of Clarita are 'nothing new in Japan.' According to the Japanese belief, a bewitched woman is usually the object of the jealousy of a deceased or estranged wife. The 'spirit' or 'The Thing' (as in the case of Clarita)—so the Japanese version goes—assumes various forms unseen by anyone except the victim and bites her in different parts of the body until she gives up the surviving spouse of the deceased wife.

"An old employee of the Manila city jail, with a philosophical turn of mind, explained the strange manifestations in the following manner: It is like the wind. The wind cannot be seen. But it can inflict physical damage. 'The Thing' may be likened to the wind. 'The Thing' also cannot be seen. Like the wind, it also can cause physical damage. The wind is real. How about 'The Thing'?"

2

DR. LARA REPORTS

Dr. Mariano B. Lara, the Chief Medical Examiner of the Manila Police Department, wrote an official account of the mysterious case—"Clarita Villanueva, 'The Thing' and the 'Birth of a New Spiritual Experience'." No one was more closely associated with this bizarre case, or more keenly interested in it from a scientific viewpoint.

A PHYSICIAN SPEAKS

"My first notice of Clarita Villanueva, a Bilibid prison cell inmate, whose recent experience during her confinement in jail has attracted worldwide attention, especially from the United States, Australia and Japan, was on the 11th of May. The metropolitan newspapers in

the city of Manila published a news item about her being a victim of bodily bites by an unseen power. The news story reported that Dr. Angelo Singian, my first assistant in the Medical Examiner's Office of the Manila Police Department, had been called to observe the phenomenon during the night of May the 10th. The reporters made the statement to the effect that the bodily bites were of supernatural origin.

On May 11th upon arriving at my office at the city morgue, I was met by Dr. Abelardo Lucero, my second assistant in the same office, who reported to me orally that he, together with his brother Lt. Col. Cesar Lucero, Chief of Police of the Manila Police Department, had, earlier in the morning of this day, gone to the cell to see Clarita Villanueva to make a routine checkup on the biting phenomenon. Dr. Lucero reported that he had seen human teeth-like bite impressions on both arms of the girl, but that he believed that these impressions were likely the effects of her own biting. He further mentioned that he believed the girl, Clarita Villanueva, to be abnormal."

THE UNBELIEVING DOCTOR

"I paid no special attention to this foregoing report by two assistants, considering it a matter of little or no consequence. I did not care to make any opinion about it as I had not seen the phenomenon, and my years of

training as a doctor are only scientific. I find it difficult and near impossible to accept anything of a supernatural character.

"On the following morning, May 12th, when I arrived at my office, Clarita had been called from her cell and examined by Dr. Lucero in his office. I walked inside; I casually paid notice to her. I did not know who she was until my assistant told me that this is the girl who is the victim of the biting phenomenon. I looked at her superficially and noticed the existence of reddish human-like bite impressions present on the anterior surface of both arms. As I scrutinized these impressions, I agreed provisionally to the opinion of Dr. Lucero that they could have been produced by her own teeth. I left the matter entirely to Dr. Lucero for the proper disposition of the girl. He recommended hospitalization in the national Psychopathic Hospital in Mandaluyong, Rizal, in order to prevent the Manila Police Department from being scandalized as a party of believers in fakery, and also to prevent the jail from being deluged with curious people wishing to see her. I allowed Dr. Lucero to enforce his wishes. As a matter of fact, I signed the regular form of recommendation for insanity investigation and transference to the Psychopathic Hospital labeling Clarita an epileptic, or one given to depressive attacks.

"I thought the girl was transferred that

afternoon, but found out later that she was not dispatched as planned.

"On May 13th, I again arrived at my office as usual, not remembering this Clarita. Towards midday, visitors came to the office, including my friend, Mr. Laperal, in charge of the Property and Supply Section of the Manila Police Department, all of them inquiring about my opinion of the biting phenomenon allegedly victimizing the girl. I told these people that as far as I am concerned, I have no opinion about this matter as I had had no opportunity to observe her in spite of all sorts of news items appearing in the newspapers with contradictory opinions given by my medical assistants. My friend, Mr. Laperal, invited me to see the girl in the cell; and find out whether it were true or not that she is being bitten by something that is invisible. Wherefore, Mr. Laperal, my medical assistant, Dr. Lucero; my dentist, Dr. Gonzales, and myself proceeded to the female cell where she was confined. We found her there lying on the lower part of a wooden, double-deck bunk. Sitting beside her was another female cell inmate, Mrs. Manuel.

"I talked to Clarita and inquired whether she is the girl as described suffering from the bites as told by the newspaper reporters, and she answered affirmatively in her native tongue. She was nervous and childish, comparable with her age and lack of educational training, but

was polite. I asked her if we could see the bites that we had heard about. Clarita informed us that we should return some time past midday, about two o'clock, when 'The Thing,' causing the bites, would come again. I told her that if I became convinced of someone else biting her, I would try my best to bring her to the Philippines International Fair for exhibition. Clarita smilingly took the joke with the comment that she would be happy for that as she would, no doubt, make plenty of money! However, I could not wait for the bites to appear so I left about five minutes to twelve, on May 13th.

"In the afternoon of the same day, about 2:15 p.m., I returned to my office where a group of thirty medical interns are studying under me, finishing their doctorate degree from the University of Santo Tomas. They were already gathered for their class. Immediately, I asked my orderlies if Clarita had had any bites during the interval while I was away. My orderlies informed me that Clarita had been transferred since midday to the San Lazaro Hospital for confinement and treatment by my other assistant, Dr. David Cabrera.

"I called for Dr. Cabrera and inquired whether or not he had sent Clarita to the hospital as reported and Dr. Cabrera answered affirmatively, explaining that Clarita had a fever at the time. I explained to Dr. Cabrera that I

had an appointment with Clarita at about 2:00 p.m. at which time she promised to be bitten again. Therefore, I requested Dr. Cabrera to have the girl returned from San Lazaro Hospital. This was promptly done and in a few minutes, Clarita was brought by ambulance to the Office of the Medical Examiner, Manila Police Department.

"At the time Clarita arrived, she was unconscious and was carried into my observation room seated on a chair. She was placed in front of the class of interns and myself. The body of Clarita was soft and entirely insensitive to all stimuli. Her arms lifted by me would fall without resistance. Pointed needles and pens touching her skin gave no response throughout her body surface. After several minutes in this condition, Clarita began to come out of this state of insensibility and trance.

"Meanwhile, I was like Sherlock Holmes of the detective stories of Dr. Cyclops, the film character. Equipped with magnifying lens and with an unbelieving mind about this biting phenomenon, I scrutinized carefully the exposed parts of her body, the arms, hands, and neck to find out whether they had the biting impressions. I saw the reddish human-like bite marks on the arms. She was still soft in the entire body and could not stand up by herself. One of my assistants, a cadaver technician, Alfonso by name, helped carry her to a bed

for her to rest during this state of partial trance. Alfonso got hold of her body and deposited her on the prepared bed, placing both her hands over her in order that they would not hang downward. At that very instant, this girl in a semi-trance loudly screamed repeatedly the word 'aruy' (a scream of pain in Tagalog), and when I removed Alfonso's hand from Clarita's, I saw, with my unbelieving eyes, the clear marks or impressions of human-like teeth from both the upper and lower jaws. It was a little moist in the area bitten on the dorsal aspect of the left hand, and the teeth impressions were mostly from the form of the front or incisor teeth. Seeing these with my unbelieving eyes, yet I could not understand nor explain how they were produced as her hand had all the time been held away from the reach of her mouth, and that the place where the bite-impressions occurred, on the dorsal of the left hand, was the very place held by my assistant Alfonso. I knew she could not bite herself nor could Alfonso, who does not possess a single tooth, having recently had them extracted by a dentist. I am also sure that I did not bite the girl causing the impressions to appear on her hand! Not finding any possible explanation insofar as my human experience in medical training is concerned, I kept my mouth shut, but not my mind.

"Clarita kept on screaming for about fifteen

minutes with this bite on her left hand, and she turned bluish in the face and legs as if being choked. There were also a few reddish whelps in the front of the neck occurring with this phenomenon. After about twenty minutes of this attack, accompanied by stiffness and screaming, her body became soft and in a trance-like condition which was a repetition of the observation made when she was first brought into the room. After about ten minutes of this trance and softness of the entire body, she gradually recovered consciousness and shortly thereafter, became normal again.

“In this normal condition, she sat on a chair and the group of interns talked with her. She answered all the questions that were compounded to her sanely and intelligently in which she recounted a story something to the effect as follows: That she was born in Bacolod City in the Province of Negros Occidental; that she had several brothers but that she is not interested in them as they had been unkind to her; that her parents died several years ago.”

DESCRIPTION OF DEVILS

“In full possession of her normal mind, I asked her who was causing her to suffer from bites. She answered that there are two who are alternately biting her; one big, black, hairy human-like fellow, very tall, with two sharp

eyes, two sharp canine teeth, long beard like a Hindu, hairy extremities and chest, wearing a black garment, with a little whitish piece on the back resembling a hood. His feet are about three times the size of normal feet. The other fellow is a very small one about two or three feet tall allegedly also black, hairy and ugly."

3

DIVINE DELIVERANCE

Chapter two is only a part of the documented report of Dr. Lara. His meticulous manner of observing Clarita should convince any unbiased person that he knew what he was talking about.

You might wonder how I became associated with this remarkable phenomenon.

THE TERRIFYING RADIO PROGRAM

It was the tape recorder in the hands of the news reporter mentioned by Dr. Lara that forced me into the story. The broadcast of the Clarita interview over station DZFM lasted for forty-five minutes. It was one of the most blood-curdling programs I have ever heard.

The radio announcer dramatically announced the broadcast as follows:

"Good evening ladies and gentlemen. If you have a weak heart, please turn your radio off!"

I turned the dial of our radio up higher and instantly, there were piercing screams followed by pandemonium. Doctors spoke out of the confusion: "This can all be explained!" "Our records show that this phenomenon has been known before!" "This is a fugue!" "This is epilepsy." "It is extreme hysteria!"

Other persons were excitedly saying: "Look, the marks of teeth appear!" Another would say: "The girl is being choked by some unseen thing. She is blue in the face and there are marks on her neck." Then Clarita would scream again.

I turned to my wife and said: "The girl is not sick and the doctors are helpless before such an enemy. Her cry is the cry of the damned and doomed; that girl is demon-possessed."

It was impossible for me to sleep after listening to that program. I walked the floor crying to God to deliver the poor girl in the city jail. The longer I prayed, the heavier the load became upon my soul. I said, "O God, if the devil is in that girl, you can cast him out! Please do it!"

After I prayed at length, God spoke to my heart: "If you will go to the jail and pray for

her, I will deliver her."

In an unthinking second I replied: "No, God. I can never go to that place. There have been scientists, professors, legal experts and even spiritualists trying to help that girl; and they all have had adverse publicity in the newspapers. I cannot go."

The Lord did not answer me, but said: "If you will go and pray for her, I will deliver her!" Finally, I decided that the next morning I would go and pray for the girl.

A DEVIOUS ROUTE

In a city the size of Manila and in a prison of the mammoth proportions of Bilibid, it is not easy to get an interview with such a notorious person.

On my way to town the following morning, I stopped at the home of my architect, Leopoldo Coronel. He is a personal friend of Mayor Lacson of Manila. At my request, he called the mayor on the telephone for an interview. The mayor was willing for me to pray for Clarita, but he said that he personally never wanted to see her again! His one stipulation was that Dr. Mariano Lara, Chief Medical Adviser of the Manila Police Department, would grant his permission. Mr. Coronel did not know Dr. Lara but another friend, Mr. Domingo Sapeda, a building contractor, knew him and

requested an interview. This was granted us.

We arrived at Bilibid prison and were escorted to the morgue. The first thing I noticed was a cadaver on the slab. The surroundings were eerie. Another corpse was wrapped in a blanket on a stretcher awaiting attention. On a table were a dozen or more jars of spare parts of human beings in alcohol. We found out later that these were for student demonstrations.

Sitting on a bench in the long, drab morgue, we heard Dr. Lara, a professor and Department Head of Pathology and Legal Medicine at the Manila Central University and professorial lecturer of Legal Medicine, University of Santo Tomas, admit that in his thirty-eight years of medical practice, he had performed over 8,000 autopsies and that he had never accepted the theory that there is a non-material force existing in the universe. But this baffling Filipina, being bitten by devils, had changed his philosophy of life. He turned to me and said, "Reverend, I am humble enough to admit that I am a frightened man."

I realized that my first objective was to convince Dr. Lara that I knew what I was doing and that I knew how to help this girl. So I began slowly, "Dr. Lara, there are only three powers in the universe. There is the 'Positive Power,' or the power of a creative and benevolent God. There is the 'Human Power,' or the power of

men here in the earth. Then there is the 'Negative Power,' or the malevolent and sinister power of the devil. These powers are real and evident around us. Now, do you think Clarita is acting under God's power?"

Dr. Lara shook his head slowly and replied, "No, not God's power."

"Then do you feel that, with your experience with human beings, she is acting like any human being?"

"No, the actions of this girl are not related to human beings."

"There is only one power left. She must be acting under demon power!"

Dr. Lara then explained that his broad experiences as a medical man had not prepared him for this encounter with something that was beyond doubt—"supernatural."

I continued, "Dr. Lara, if there is a 'negative' force in the universe over which a 'positive' force has no control, our universe would go to pieces. If there is an evil which no right can correct, then evil is mightier than right. This cannot be. If this girl has demon power in her, then Jesus Christ can deliver her from that power. I read from Mark 16:17, 'And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils...' Do you believe this?"

Dr. Lara looked at me and said, "I believe.

Now, who will help us?" (The Roman Catholic chaplain of Bilibid Prison, the Roman Catholic bishop of the Philippines, the priests of the Roman Catholic healing center at Baclaran had all refused to pray for her; therefore, he thought assistance from religion was out of the question.)

I told him that I would be glad to come and pray for the girl if he would permit. The doctor said that he would welcome me. I requested that no medication be given the girl during the time that I am praying for her, and that no other groups be permitted to pray for her or offer assistance in any way. If Jesus healed her, He must have all the glory. He agreed. We set the time of prayer for the following morning at 8:30.

I had not eaten since the night before, so I fasted the rest of the day and spent the time alone in prayer and reading the Word of God.

OLD BILIBID: PLACE OF DEVILS

The following morning I arrived at Bilibid Prison. Upon entering its dreary walls, I felt like there was going to be a contest between the God of Elijah and the prophets of Baal; and the observers would know if the Lord be God. Ancient Bilibid, with its centuries of bloody history, was to witness a new kind of battle. Here, the Spaniards imprisoned their victims;

here, the Japanese conducted uncounted atrocities; here, the American missionaries almost starved until the day of liberation. And now, behind its stockades are hundreds of those who have broken the law. To say the least, it is an uninviting place to pray the prayer of deliverance.

On this first morning, I was accompanied by the architect of our church, Leopoldo Coronel, a Roman Catholic. With Dr. Lara, I found a professor from the Far Eastern University. When we started walking toward the women's cell block, I saw police officers, newspapermen representing the local and foreign press, photographers, and others.

The devil said, "Just as I told you! Now, you have made a fool of yourself!"

As Dr. Lara and I led the way down the dusty prison road through the barbed wire gates by the sentries on duty, I almost felt as if it was the end of all things.

Following behind me was a motley crowd without the slightest idea of what they were going to see. I was the only Protestant in the entire group. By the time we had assembled in a small chapel for women prisoners, there must have been about one hundred spectators. However, I found that they were friendly and even sympathetic. Most of them had already seen the teeth bites on the girl. They already saw and observed the failure of the doctors, the

psychiatrists, and the spiritualists. But they had never heard prayer for the diseased and demon-possessed. They were of no spiritual assistance to me.

THE PRISON CHAPEL

The small chapel had steel-barred windows. It had a very primitive Roman Catholic altar at one end of the room. It had a wooden bunk and a couple of small hand-made chairs. Otherwise, it was a dreary and barren place.

I SAW CLARITA

After we all gathered in the chapel, Dr. Lara commanded that Clarita be brought in. As the girl entered the door, she observed each person slowly and closely.

I supposed she was looking for the doctors who urged her to have the devils bite her again and again. When she came to me at the end of the line, her eyes widened and she glared at me saying, "I don't like you!" These were the first words the devil spoke through her lips to me. They used her lips constantly to curse me, to curse God, to curse the blood of Christ. She did this in English and yet after she was delivered, I had to converse with her through an interpreter, as she could not speak English.

After she spoke, I had her sit on a wooden bench and I drew a chair up in front of her and

began saying, "Clarita, I have come to deliver you from the power of these devils in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Suddenly, the girl went into a fit of rage. She screamed, "No! No! They will kill me!" Her body became rigid and she became unconscious. This had baffled the doctors when they tried to analyze her case, but I had dealt with devils before and understood some of their antics. So taking hold of her head with both hands I cried, "Come out of her you evil and wicked spirit of hell. Come out of her in Jesus' name!"

She immediately began to rage again. This was the first time she had instantly come back from one of the trances. With tears flowing down her cheeks, she begged me to leave her alone; and she showed me terrible marks on her arms and neck where she had been bitten that moment. I was shocked. There were the terrible teeth marks so severe that some of the small blood vessels underneath the skin were broken. Rather than feeling like quitting, I simply forgot that I was surrounded with unbelievers and went into the greatest battle of my life. I have never known anything like it. The devils would curse God and I would demand them to quit and tell them God is holy. Then they would curse the blood of Jesus, and I rebuked them, reminding them that He is the Master over every evil power; and that His blood is holy. They cursed me in the vilest

language. They declared they would never leave. It seemed that the powers of darkness and the powers of righteousness were in deadly conflict. I was only the mouthpiece for righteousness. Clarita was the mouthpiece of the devil. No doubt, the noise could be heard for some distance in the prison.

Finally, it seemed that the girl was relieved. The devils refused to talk to me or to bite her. Some of those present thought she was delivered, but I told them that she was not. But it was nearly noon and I was soaked with perspiration and nearly exhausted. When I looked around, I saw several of the people with tears in their eyes. They had been moved by the great battle.

THE SECOND DAY

I told Dr. Lara that I desired to go home and fast and pray for another day, and then return the following morning. But I would be glad for the audience to be limited to three or four—just doctors and police officers. He agreed.

That day was spent in communion with God. It was precious. By the hour, I could feel God's presence hovering over me, urging me not to be afraid.

However, I was almost defeated because the evening newspapers had my picture on the front page, three columns wide and a headline

saying, "THE THING" DEFIES PASTOR. But God kept on urging me to return.

That night, Rev. Arthur Ahlberg and Rev. Robert McAlister visited us at home, and they offered to come with me the following day and stand between me and the crowd to keep them from getting too close during prayer.

Upon our arrival at Bilibid, the captain of the prison said that Clarita had not been bitten since the prayer. But I knew she was not delivered as yet.

This became evident as soon as the devils saw me. Through her lips they cried, "Go away! Go away!"

I sat on the same small chair in front of her as the previous day and spoke back with a thrilling feeling of authority, "No, I am not going away, but you are going away! This girl will be delivered today!"

Then I requested every person present to kneel—there were as many present as the day before, or more. I warned them not to mock or laugh for when the devils came out of Clarita, they would surely attack another victim. Doctors, newspapermen, police officers, and professors humbly knelt as I prayed. However, in the next cell, there was a woman prisoner jesting about the affair and when Clarita was delivered, she was bitten and immediately went unconscious. Her story came

out in the newspapers that day.

The battle began again. The devils realized it was their last struggle. They cursed and cuddled their victim, but it was different on this day. The extra day of fasting and prayer had made a difference.

I felt the release that they had departed. Clarita relaxed. The demon look departed from her eyes. She smiled.

I looked around and saw newspaper men had been weeping; there were tears in the eyes of doctors; otherwise hard-boiled jailers were weeping. I could now see how terrific the battle had actually been!

I began to sing softly with Brothers Ahlberg and McAlister joining me, and on the second time, the others joined in singing also:

Oh, the blood of Jesus
Oh, the blood of Jesus
Oh, the blood of Jesus
That washes white as snow!

The atmosphere really seemed clean inside that prison.

I asked Clarita if they were gone and she said, "Yes."

"Where did they go?"

Out of that window," pointing toward the steel-barred window.

A SECOND DELIVERANCE

We were ready to depart when suddenly, like of flash of lightning, the devils re-appeared. The girl screamed; her eyes became demon-inspired.

I cried to them, "Why have you returned? You know you must go and not return."

Speaking in English through her lips, they replied, "But, she is unclean and we have a right to live with her."

I answered them in a determined voice, "But Mary Magdalene was unclean with seven like you and Jesus came into her life and she became clean by His mighty power. Therefore, I demand you now to depart and Jesus will make her clean."

They had no power to resist. They left and she became normal again. I explained to her what had happened, and got her to pray with me for the forgiveness of her sins. Again she seemed alright.

THE THIRD DELIVERANCE

As we were preparing to leave, the same thing was repeated.

This time, I was very upset, and the unconverted newspapermen could not understand what was happening.

I questioned the demons why they had

returned and they spoke in English through her lips, "But she has not asked us to go. She wants us. It is only you who desires for us to leave."

Again we demanded that they leave her. Again they immediately left. She once more said they had gone through the window. I explained to her now why they returned, and demanded her to tell them to leave and not return. This she did. Then I taught her to pray and plead the blood of Jesus against them.

It was now about noon again. Clarita was weak from the ordeal. I told them to give her rest and after that, food.

As I was leaving I said, "Clarita, I am sure these devils will return once more. After I am gone, they will come. Then you must demand them to leave without my being present to help you. You must say, 'Go, in Jesus' name,' and they will obey." With this I left the compound.

THE NEWS REPORTERS

I am sorry about one thing and that is that I did not offer assistance to the newspapermen. We asked them not to write about the affair. Rev. McAlister went to them for me and requested them not to write. Their reply was that they were obliged to. The story had run for two weeks, and it had to be continued to a finish.

As the Methodist is the oldest Protestant church in the Islands, they presumed that I am a Methodist, so put it in the papers that way. They did not know how to write about such an experience, therefore, what they said was not necessarily correct. I feel responsible for this as I gave them no interview, and left the city the next day for the country to get away from the publicity.

THE FINAL STRUGGLE

From the battle we had experienced with the two devils—in that they returned three times to claim their victim—I knew they would try to return after we were gone. I told Clarita clearly what to do if they returned and assured her that she had the power to resist them now.

That same evening at eight o'clock, Clarita called to the guard on duty, "Mr. Pangan, my fingernails are very long, may I borrow your pocket knife to cut them?"

The guard replied, "I would like to, but prison regulations are that no prisoner shall be permitted to have a sharp instrument." The guard, who had watched the terrible deliverance, continued, "But I will cut them for you; come here."

DEVIL RE-APPEARS

Before he could cut two nails, Clarita let a

blood-curdling scream, "Help, they are back to get me! They are standing behind you!" The scared guard jumped up on his desk to try to escape from the devils, and he watched what he calls the greatest struggle he had ever seen. He could not see the aggressors, but he could see the girl in mortal combat screaming hysterically. As she seemed captured, with her hands bound, she cried to the guard, "Oh, what did the American Father (minister) tell me to do? Tell me quickly!"

The guard still on the table cried back, "Say, Oh God, deliver me in Jesus' name and in Jesus' blood."

TANGIBLE FROM THE INTANGIBLE

Clarita screamed these words at her invisible enemies and as she did, she lurched forward and grabbed with her hands which seemed to have been instantly freed. She went into a coma. The prison authorities who were in the compound and many prisoners had gathered. They laid her on a table, but her hands would not open. The doctor pried her hands open and to his uttermost astonishment, there was some long, black, coarse hair. It was in the palm of her hand and under the fingernails. Dr. Lara placed this hair in an envelope and put it in a guarded place. Under the microscope, Dr. Lara found that the hair was

not from the head, nor from any part of the human body. I personally saw this hair under the magnifying glass. It was about two inches long, coarse, had no root and showed no signs of having been cut.

The doctor has no answer to this mystery. How an invisible being, presumably a devil, could have lost hair from his chest by a visible being pulling it out is one of the strangest facts of history!

This phenomenon we must leave unanswered at the present.

VISITING CLARITA

Upon my return to the city the following week, Clarita had been before Judge Natividad Almeda-Lopez in the Court of First Instance in Manila to answer to the charge of vagrancy and explain her unusual conduct. In a calm and collected way, she testified, "Since last Friday, when the American missionary prayed for me, the devils have not returned!"

The victory was sure. Christ again proved Himself to be the Answer!

Judge Almeda-Lopez placed Clarita in Welfareville, an institution for wayward girls, for observation.

With Dr. Lara, I went to visit her twice. She was simply overjoyed at our coming. She

rushed to us saying that she feared she would never see us again. She hurried to get us chairs to sit on. She sat and talked at length with us.

While at Welfareville, we asked permission to conduct a religious service for all the girls. This was granted and several days later, a group of our musicians and singers went out for a service. It was grand to minister to about 200 girls. Clarita was the center of attraction. She could not do enough to make us feel welcome.

Those in charge of the institution said she was a normal girl.

We gave her a Bible to read, which she began reading daily.

This did not seem like the same girl we had known in Bilibid Prison tormented by devils, with her face distorted, screaming at the top of her voice. This was a perfectly normal Filipina who had recovered from the nightmare of demon possession.

Let the enemies of the Cross say what they will; Christ had conquered and she who was bound was now set free!

I went through court proceedings with my lawyer, Atty. Pedro Jacinto, and petitioned for the release of Clarita from Welfareville, a house of correction.

We were granted the parole for Clarita and placed her in the home of one of our best

Christian families, the Sadorras. At that time, Mr. Sadorra was an intern and is now a medical doctor. Here she became very unhappy because every time she appeared in public, she was known and people wanted to see her and talk to her. One day she left and went to the north of Luzon to live in a small town there.

This was the miracle that opened the hearts of the people of Manila to the full gospel and prepared the way for the great revivals which followed.

4

THE AFTERMATH

There were several uncanny incidents which occurred as a result of the exorcising of these devils. These evil spirits were vindictive to the extent of threats made through the girl. Naturally, many people were afraid of them. The mayor of the city of Manila, a very strong-minded man, was visibly shaken as he witnessed the malicious nature of these devils. Dr. Lara states that he was always afraid of them until the moment he stood in their presence with me beside him. He suddenly became conscious that the demons were unable to harm if a stronger power was present. It was the power of the Lord Jesus Christ which indwells His servants, that caused the demons to cease their aggression.

A DOCTOR'S DEATH

One of the amazing things that happened in the wake of this horrible episode was the death of Dr. Manuel Ramos. On May 16th, he came to Bilibid Prison desiring to interview Clarita. He was outspoken in his unbelief in the supernatural nature of the phenomenon. He made sport of the entire idea before others, and stated that the entire thing was some kind of hoax. That same hour the next day, the doctor was dead from some unknown cause. The coroner pronounced him dead because of a heart attack. One has to make his own deductions about the cause of his death.

DEVIL STRIKES A SECOND VICTIM

Another strange phenomenon took place while I was present in Bilibid. I told the inmates of the jail, who were watching the prayer of deliverance, to bow their heads and be respectful. I warned them that it was possible for these same devils to attack them after being cast out of Clarita. Most of the inmates were very respectful and knelt down during the prayer, but we understand that a woman in the next cell was making fun. As the demons came out of Clarita, we heard a terrible scream in the adjoining cell. This woman became unconscious and there were horrible teeth marks found on her body.

This story was also recorded in the daily newspapers by reporters who were present.

CAPTAIN OF BILIBID DIES

The most sensational aftermath was that of the death of Captain Antonio Ganibi, the chief officer of Bilibid. The captain of the jail was the custodian of this girl, and usually responsible to show her to the various medical groups who had her under observation. No doubt, at times, he was a little irritated at the unresponsiveness of the girl. On the day that he showed Clarita to Dr. Ramos, who died the next day, Clarita had crawled under his desk; and there, it seemed that the demons were tickling her. She would laugh boisterously and move her body as if someone's fingers were moving lightly over her body. After she came out from under the desk, she asked the captain for a small metal crucifix which she normally wore on her dress. (This crucifix I ultimately had to literally grasp from her neck with a rosary and throw away before she could get deliverance from the devils. There seemed to be an association between those spirits and the crucifix. She would kiss it and caress it in a strange way when I was praying for her.)

On this day, she said, "Captain Ganibi, where is my crucifix?" speaking in a low, whining voice which she used to do when under

the influence of demon power.

He said, "I don't know."

She looked back under the desk where she had been lying, and then she looked back at the captain and said, "Look in your pockets. Maybe you have it."

To satisfy her, the captain turned both his pockets wrong side out and said, "You see, there is nothing in my pockets."

He replaced his pockets and as he did, the demon-possessed girl looked at him in a strange way and with her whining voice said, "Captain, look again!"

He felt a cold shiver up his spine, for as he put his hand back into his pocket, he touched the metal crucifix. He handed it to the girl and she said, "Captain, don't worry me anymore or it would be your neck!"

Dr. Lara was standing by and observed all this.

After Clarita was delivered, Captain Ganibi became sick. Dr. Lara could find nothing physically wrong with him. As he kept complaining and losing weight, he was sent to the country to rest. There, the captain simply wilted like a flower before the sun and died. Nothing was ever found organically wrong with him; his spirit died within him.

It was even more strange that on that day I felt

an urge to see Dr. Lara. While driving my car into the Bilibid compound, I met a large funeral procession coming out. After watching the procession leave the prison, I walked into Dr. Lara's office and he told me the strange story of the death of the captain.

These are some of the things that made us realize the magnitude of the battle being waged in heavenly places between the forces of God and forces of hell. It would bring consternation to our minds if we were not sure that we are on the winning side, and that "He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world."

5

RESULTS OF THE DELIVERANCE

The moment Clarita was delivered, Dr. Lara asked me to go with him to the office of the mayor. In company with a university professor, I went with him. We walked directly past the flock of secretaries into the inner office, and there Dr. Lara, with a tone of real triumph, declared to the mayor, "Clarita was delivered. The devils are gone. Rev. Sumrall has just finished praying for her!"

Mayor Lacson shook our hands wholeheartedly and thanked us for helping him in this. He said that anything he could do for us, he would be very happy to do. He proved to be a real friend.

BUILDING PERMIT

When we needed our building permit, he passed a special city ordinance in order to give it to us free. This required the consent of all the members of the official board of the Manila City Council. It also had to be published for three consecutive days in the local newspapers. Provided there was no complaint, we could have the permit free! Bethel Temple was the first Protestant church in the city to receive a free building permit. This act of kindness saved us P/1,500.00 (\$750.00).

THE CITY PARK

The greatest kindness we received from the mayor was when we desired to conduct the great Salvation-Divine Healing Campaign with Rev. Clifton Erickson. We went to him again and he gave us use of the city park for one month free of charge. The city park is called Roxas Park after President Manuel A. Roxas who named that park. This beautiful spot in the Sunken Gardens of the old Intramuros Spanish City is a place for special gatherings. It is the most centrally located spot in the nation.

FAVOR WITH THE PEOPLE

The second result of the deliverance of this

girl was that our work instantly became known all over the Philippines. With my picture on the front page of newspapers and in magazine articles, people would recognize us as we entered places of business or on the streets. It gave us recognition that otherwise would have taken many years to receive.

THE GO FAMILY

Another result of the deliverance of Clarita was that of getting to know Mr. & Mrs. Go who owned the Fookien Times newspaper. They had a daughter who was very ill. They heard of Clarita's deliverance and asked us to come and pray for their daughter. This daughter, who weighed just over 60 pounds, was delivered by the power of God. Mr. & Mrs. Go became our very close friends. Then when some newspapers desired to attack our revival, they called the editors on the telephone and explained our work to them. This was a tremendous advantage to us. Any advertising that the church needed these friends helped us with.

6

SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT DEMON POSSESSION

There is an abysmal difference between suffering from an ordinary physical disability and demon possession.

There are many reasons for physical sickness. Seven of these are as follows:

1. Disease is a direct consequence of Adam's sin.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).

Since the conception of sin in the human

race, there has been the inception of sickness. Until men sin no more, there shall be sickness. In the Kingdom of Christ, there is no sin; there shall be no sickness!

2. Sickness as the direct result of the sins of the parents.

“Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me” (Exodus 20:5).

If parents who are sinners realized their responsibilities, I am sure they would live differently.

3. Sickness as a result of an attack by Satan upon the body.

“And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to his crown” (Job 2:4-7).

Job was victorious over the challenge of the devil and by winning the victory became a

greater man than he was before.

“And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses” (Job 42:10-12).

4. Sickness as a direct judgment of God because of some particular sin.

Gehazi's leprosy—He lied to get Naaman's money and Elisha the prophet said, “The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow” (2 Kings 5:27).

Miriam's leprosy—She did not respect God's leader and was cursed for it.

5. Sickness as a result of wrong thinking and wrong eating.

Overwork can cause sickness in the body.

Anxiety and worry can cause sickness in the body.

Tormenting fears can cause real sickness in the body.

Overindulgence in eating and drinking can cause sickness in the body.

6. Demon possession made possible by the devil's power.

The Demoniac of Gadara. (Mark 5)

7. Sickness as a part of the appointment with death.

All men must die! "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

This is a penalty of sin and rebellion against God.

DISEASES CAUSED BY THE DEVIL

Of all these distresses demon possession is the worst. This truth is revealed to us in spiritual types.

In God's Word, *leprosy* is a type of sin in general. This horrible and devastating disease can lie undetected in a person's body for many years—slowly, but surely devouring the life of that body. This is a true picture of sin.

In the Word of God, *palsy* is a type of the

helplessness of sin. Every person caught in the clutches and tentacles of sin becomes a victim and a slave to the power of sin. They are helpless to render salvation to themselves. Unless such a person comes to realize this truth, it is impossible for Christ to deliver him from sin.

In God's Word, *demon possession* is a type of the fury of sin. Demon possession reveals sin to be wild, untamed and uncontrollable. Demon possession shows sin to be vicious. It possesses the poisonous fangs of death. In demon possession, we see the most devastating form of the devil's works upon mankind.

Of all the malicious acts of demons, their greatest achievement is to possess and live in human bodies. Demons are personalities without a body to live in; they are without corporality. Therefore, they seek to live in human bodies. Their chief work is to destroy the entire human personality—body, soul and spirit.

In the story of Clarita, you will observe several important facts about demon possession.

Upon my arrival, the devils in Clarita instantly recognized me as a servant of God.

The devils were afraid of me, though they were not afraid of anyone prior to my coming. Dr. Lara told me that when he came into the presence of Clarita with me, it was the first time

that he was not afraid of her. He did not understand this until he heard me speak with authority to the demons.

These demons had the ability to curse and blaspheme in the English language. Though Clarita was unable to hold a conversation with me in English after she was delivered, while she was demon-possessed she vehemently spoke against God and Christ and the blood of Jesus in English. This was heard by all of those present.

The demons tried to debate with me over her soul. They realized they were powerless to remain when they were rebuked in Jesus' name, yet they tried to give reasons for remaining in her. The newspaper reporters could not understand this conversation.

These demons were jealous of their victim. They would bite her when receiving a gift from a man; but if the man laid the gift on the table, she could pick it up without being bitten.

SEVEN FACTS ABOUT DEMON POSSESSION

1. Christ possesses greater power than devils.

“Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God ” (Mark 1:24).

2. Christ has given His disciples power over devils.

“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name” (Luke 10:17).

Christ's last command to His successors was: “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils...” (Mark 16:17).

3. Demons are afraid of the true disciples of Christ, therefore, we must not be afraid of them.

“And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?” (Acts 19:15).

4. Demons recognize God's true servants and know them by name.

“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters

much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation" (Acts 16:16-17).

5. Demons know their time to work is short.

"...Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Revelation 12:12).

6. Demons know judgment awaits them.

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season" (Revelation 20:1-3).

7. Demons know that the only force in the world able to defeat them is the blood of Jesus.

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death" (Revelation 12:11).

Other books by Lester Sumrall:

- Bitten By Devils
- Conscience—The Scales Of Eternal Justice
- Demons The Answer Book
- Dominion Is Yours
- Ecstasy—Finding Joy In Living
- Faith To Change The World
- Faith Under Siege; The Life of Abraham
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Will America Die At Jerusalem?
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- Making Life Count
- Miracles And The Sumrall Family
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- Miracles Don't Just Happen
- My Story To His Glory
- 101 Questions & Answers On Demon Power
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- Supernatural Principalities & Powers
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- The Marriage Triangle (Leona Sumrall Murphy)
- The Will—The Potent Force Of The Universe
- The Battle Of The Ages
- The Total Man
- The Human Soul
- Unprovoked Murder
- The Human Body
- The Human Spirit