

DAY OF THE FIENDS

By Richard Paul

A force of fiends to the Dark Prince beholden,
--*--- *--- --*_ --*_
The flesh-hungry monsters of Ythalren
*_-- *_-- *_--
Caught a host of Queen's men unaware at night,
---*--- --*_ ---*--- *_---*--- --*_---
Sent to garrison the city nearby,
---*--- --*_--- *_--- *_---
Those who lived there would hear every last bite
---*--- --*_--- *_--- *_---*---
As 'twixt red teeth their so-called saviours died.
*_--- --*_--- *_--- *_--- --*_---

Soon they were through the gate,
---*--- ---*--- *_---
And round the streets they charged,
---*--- ---*--- ---*---
The soldiers found their fate,
*_--- --*_--- *_---
In maws stretched far too large.
---*--- *_--- --*_---

No fighting Queen's man deigned to beg for mercy,
--- ------ ---*--- *--- --*_---
They fought without a hope of victory.
---*--- *_--- --*_--- *_---
The Prince's fiends did brush aside their swords,
---*--- ---*--- *_--- *_--- ---*---
The arrows and bolts could not pierce their hides,
*_--- --*_--- ---*--- --*_---
Everywhere was the stench from bodies torn,
*_--- --*_--- ---*--- *_--- --*_---
Soon, with a snap, the last defender died.
---*--- --*_--- *_--- *_--- --*_---

And then the town was theirs,
*_--- *_--- --*_---
And all who fought were slain,
*_--- --*_--- --*_---
And to their tender care,
*_--- *_--- *_---
The innocent remained.
*_--- --*_--- ---*---

A brother and sister escaped their house,
*_--- *_--- *_--- --*_---
Their foolish curiosity driving them out,
*_--- *_--- *_--- --*_--- --*_---
But when they heard a snarl and anguished shriek,
---*--- --*_--- --*_--- *_--- ---*---
Sense came to these children far too late.
---*--- --*_--- *_--- *_---
Back home they sprinted, their parents to seek,
---*--- --*_--- *_--- --*_---
But in their path a monster lay in wait.
*_--- --*_--- --*_--- *_--- --*_---

Its nose had smelt the meat,
*_--- *_--- --*_---
Its eyes now spied it too.
*_--- --*_--- *_---
It walked over to greet
---*--- *_--- --*_---
These less than careful two.
*_--- --*_--- *_---

Some minutes later came a knock at the door
*_--- *_--- --*_--- --*_---
Of a house whose residents hid 'neath the floor.
---*--- *_--- *_--- --*_---
'Sir and/or madam, what were you thinking?
*_--- --*_--- ---*--- --*_---
A battle rages throughout your city
*_--- *_--- *_--- *_---
And you let your offspring go out a-slinking?
*_--- *_--- *_--- --*_---
Lucky for them that they ran into me.
---*--- --*_--- *_--- --*_---

'I'll now be on my way,
*_--- *_--- --*_---
So get them swift-inside,
*_--- --*_--- *_---
And see that there they stay!'
*_--- --*_--- *_---
Thus did the monster chide.
*_--- --*_--- --*_---

One day the Prince and his armies remained,
*_--- --*_--- *_--- --*_---
Restoring order once their foes were slain.
*_--- *_--- --*_--- --*_---
The Queen's occupying forces were spent,
---*--- *_--- *_--- --*_---
And free were the people they'd long oppressed.
*_--- *_--- --*_--- ---*---
The streets were swept of bodies chewed and rent,
---*--- --*_--- *_--- ---*--- --*_---
And the people rejoiced, though by nightmares distressed.
*_--- --*_--- --*_--- --*_---

On that day, every year,
---*--- *_--- --*_---
A holiday was held,
*_--- *_--- --*_---
A time of joy and fear,
---*--- *_--- --*_---
Such as those sights impelled.
*_--- --*_--- --*_---

-* = Suggested Stressed Syllables www.rmepaul.com
Copyright © 2020 Richard Paul rmepaul@googlemail.com