

Prince Dracula

Anonymous

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In the year of Our Lord 1456 Dracula did many dreadful and curious things.

Item: The old governor had the old Dracula put to death, and Dracula and his brother gave up their faith and promised and vowed to defend the Christian Orthodox faith.

Item: In the same year he was appointed lord in Wallachia. Immediately he had Prince Lasla killed, who was lord of this country. Soon after this he had villages in Transylvania, also a town by the name of Beckendorf in Wurtzland, burned. Both women and men, young and old perished. Some he brought home with him to Wallachia and impaled them all there.

Item: He commanded that all young boys who were sent to his land to learn the language be confined in a chamber, and he had them burned; there were four hundred.

Item: He declared a peace, and during the same he had many merchants and waggoners from Wurtzland impaled. He also had a large family extinguished and impaled, from the smallest to the largest, young and old.

He had some of his people buried naked up to the navel and had them shot at. He also had some roasted and flayed.

Item: He captured the young Dan and had a grave for him and had a funeral service held according to Christian custom and beheaded him beside the grave.

Item: Ambassadors numbering fifty-five were sent from the Kingdom of Hungary and Saxony and Transylvania into Wallachia. Dracula kept them waiting for five weeks and had stakes made for their lodgings (for their impalement.) Therefore they were in great distress. He did this because he feared treachery. Meanwhile he went to Wurtzland and destroyed the grain and had all the crops burned and he had the populace led in captivity out from the city called Kronstatt. Then Dracula rested near St. Jacob's Chapel. He had the outskirts burned. Also when day came, early in the morning, he had women and men, young and old, impaled around the hill by the chapel and sat down among them and ate his breakfast with enjoyment.

Item: He also had St. Bartholomew's Church burned and all vestments and chalices taken from there. Moreover he sent one of his captains into a large village named Zeinding to burn it. But this same captain did not want to burn the village because of the resistance of the villagers, and he came back home to Dracula, and said, "I could not do what you commanded me." He immediately had the captain impaled.

Item: Merchants and other people numbering six hundred came with their goods from Wurtzland toward Tunau to Pregel. Dracula had them all impaled and their properties seized.

Item: He had a large pot made and boards with holes fastened over it and had people's heads shoved through there and imprisoned them thus. And he had the pot filled with water and a big fire made under the pot and thus let the people cry out pitifully until they were boiled quite to death.

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He devised dreadful, frightful, unspeakable torments, such as impaling together mothers and children nursing at their breasts so that the children kicked convulsively at their mothers' breasts until dead. In like manner he cut open mothers' breasts and stuffed their children's heads through and thus impaled both.

Item: He had all kinds of peoples impaled sideways: Christians, Jews, heathens, so that they moved and twitched and whimpered in confusion a long time like frogs. Afterwards he had their hands and feet also impaled and often he spoke in his language, "Oh, with what great skill they move." He had his amusement in this way.

Item: He had captured a gypsy who had stolen. Then the other gypsies came and begged Dracula to release him. Then he said, "He must hang, and you must execute him yourselves." They said it was not their custom. So Dracula had the gypsy boiled in a pot. Then the other gypsies were made to eat his flesh and bones.

There also was a nobleman sent to him who came to him among the people he had just impaled. Then Dracula walked around beneath them and looked at them; they were like a mighty forest. Then the man sent to Dracula asked why then he walked around under the stench. Dracula asked if it smelled bad to him. He said, "Yes." Then he immediately had him impaled high up so that the smell of the others would not bother him.

Item: A cleric preached how sins would not be forgiven unless one return injustice with justice. Then Dracula invited him to his home and sat him at his table. Dracula broke up a loaf of wheatbread that he intended to eat himself. After a while the cleric took one of the pieces and ate it. Dracula said, "How did you preach today? That sin will not be forgiven unless one return injustice with justice?" The priest said, "Yes." Dracula said, "Why did you eat my bread which I broke for myself?" He impaled the priest immediately.

Item: Moreover Dracula came to Kalmotz in Transylvania. There he himself had the people cut down like weeds; he led home and impaled the rest.

He invited all his principal vassals and the noblemen in his land to a banquet. When the meal was done he turned to the oldest and asked how many princes he remembered who had been rulers in that land. Thus he asked one after the other. They all said as many as each knew. One said fifty, one thirty. So that there were none among them who spoke of seven. Then he had them all impaled. There were five hundred in number.

Item: He had people ground to death on grindstones and did many more inhumane deeds which people tell of him.

Item: He had a mistress who pretended she was pregnant. Then Dracula had the woman examined by midwives, who said she was not pregnant. Then he cut this same mistress open right up to her breasts. And he said he wanted to see where his seed was, or where it had been.

Messengers were sent out from Hermannstadt into Wallachia. At home they told of such misery, that they saw dead and impaled people like a mighty forest.

In the year of Our Lord 1462 Dracula came to the great city of Schiltau. Dracula had more than twenty-five thousand people killed then, all kinds of people: Christians, Jews, heathens. Among them were the most beautiful women and maidens who were retained by his court servants, and they petitioned Dracula that he give them to them as lawful wives. Then Dracula had the men, together with the women and maidens, cut to pieces with sabres and swords like weeds. He did this because the land was subject to tax by the Turkish sultan, and

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the Turk often demanded this tribute of him. He therefore told the messenger that he wanted to pay it himself. He rode into the country; then people rode toward him because of the tribute, intending to bring it to the emperor.

One group of men followed the other. When Dracula saw it was time, he struck all those dead who had ridden toward him, because they had not been expecting it, and Dracula burned all of Wulgerey and had all the men that he had let ride with him impaled. There were twenty-five thousand in number, besides those who perished in the fires.

He saw a man working in a short shirt. Then he asked him if he had a wife. He said, "Yes." Dracula ordered her brought before him and asked her what work she did. She said, "I wash, bake, and spin." He had her impaled immediately, because she had not made her husband a long shirt; and he gave him another wife and said she should make him a long shirt or else he would impale her, too.

Item: About three hundred gypsies came into his country. Then he selected the best three of them and had them roasted; these the others had to eat. And he said to them, "You all must eat of one another so, or else go against the Turks." The gypsies were happy to battle the Turks. Therefore Dracula had horses and men clothed in cowhides.

Now when the gypsies came to the Turks, then the Turks' horses were frightened by the swishing of the, cowhide and fled to a body of water. Very many Turks drowned there then. Thus the gypsies withdrew.

En route he met a monk of a barefoot order riding on a donkey. Then Dracula had the donkey and the monk impaled, one on top of the other.

Item: Some Italian ambassadors were sent to him. When they came to him they bowed and removed their hats, and they kept on the berets beneath them. Then he asked them why they did not take their caps off, too. They said it was their custom, and they did not even remove them for the Emperor. Dracula said, "I wish to reinforce this for you." He immediately had their caps nailed firmly on their heads so that their caps would not fall off and their custom would remain. Thus he reinforced it.

Item: There were two monks who came into his country; he summoned them to come to him. This they did. Then he took the one monk and asked him what good people told of him. This monk was very frightened and said, "People say everything good about you and that you are a very pious ruler; this I, too, say of you." He commanded that this monk be held. And they brought the other monk to him, who was questioned by him like the first. Then the second monk thought, "I must die in any case. I will tell him the truth." And he said, "You are the greatest tyrant that one may find in the world. I have seen no man who ever reports good of you, and this you have no doubt proven." Then. Dracula said, "You have told me the truth, therefore I will let you live." And he let him alone, and sent again for the first monk. Then he spoke as before. Dracula said, "Take him away and impale him for truth's sake."

Item: He had children roasted; these their mothers had to eat. And he cut the women's breasts off; these their husbands had to eat. Afterward he had them all impaled.

Item: He had a good meal prepared for all the beggars in his land. After the meal he had them locked up in the sheds in which they had eaten, and burned them all. He felt they were eating the people's food for nothing and could not repay it.

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Soon after this the king of Hungary captured him and kept him for a long time in severe captivity. Afterwards he let himself be baptized publicly as a Roman Catholic and did great penance. After this the king made Prince Dracula a ruler again as before. And people say he did many good deeds afterwards.