

They said you go there and you'll probably be killed! Luther said if there are as many devils in Wormes as there are shingles on the roof tops, I'm going there to witness to the truth. He got to Wormes in the afternoon and they called him before the meeting. Luther was a peasant extraction. In these days most don't know what that means. But even 50 years ago in England there was a tremendous cast division. It was so in most of Europe. A peasant was in awe before a company of Dukes.

Here was the Emperor and the Dukes of different parts of Europe. This poor monk stood up before them. They said, Martin Luther. They had all his books before him on the table. They said, Are these your books? He said yes they are. They said, Will you recant (take back) what's written in these books? Luther looked at the ~~Emper~~ Emperor, Dukes and leaders and he nearly fainted standing before these people. Was a tremendous thing for a person his class to stand before any one of them.

Luther said, Will you give me time to consider and think about it? They said, Luther, you've known for two weeks you were to come here. Why do you want time? Luther said, Will you give me time? Charles said (the new emperor) turned to them and said, That fellow would never make a heretic of me! So they said, Allright you go to your hotel and you come tomorrow morning. That night Luther stood before the King of kings. He stood before the King of kings and the kings and dukes that were there sank into insignificance. before the One before whom Luther now stood.

So the next day Luther with great humility and deference answered their questions without the least bit of fear. They said, Luther are these your books? They said, Luther, will you recant what is in these books? Luther said, There is much in these books that is simply a statement from what is written in the Word of God. I could not recant that. He said, There are probably mistakes in those books, thing contrary to the Word of God. Show me with good and sufficient reason anything that's wrong, that's not in line with the Bible, and I'll gladly recant. Then, there are things inbetween that are not clearly taught in the Bible but which are my guesses and inferences, on those I will gladly be guided by the scholars.

The impression he made was utterly different. Even the strong Romanists and dukes there, some of whom were great opponents of his, the rest of his life, were proud of the way this German peasant stood up and talked to the Emperor. But Frederic the Wise knew that the pressure on the Emperor to condemn him would be very great. So Frederic called before him one of his men and said, I want you to hide Luther. Don't tell me what you are going to do with him, but you hide him ~~where~~ where you can't find him. They put Luther in a wagon and started off. A couple of days later the Emperor passed a decree that Luther was an outlaw, that he should be destroyed, and anyone who gave him protection would be an outlaw against the Emperor. This decree was made. Then they heard Luther had disappeared.

Albrecht Durer, the great painter, wrote in his diary, They've done away with M. Luther. Now who is going to teach us the holy Gospel?