

ruins of a castle. Finally he went to a place three days journey east of the Nile where he spent many years almost alone far from most human beings. Now there were many others ~~like~~ doing the same sort of thing. And Anthony probably would have been completely surrounded if it were not that he were a man of unusual ability and unusual strength of character, and ~~that~~ that Athanasius came in contact with him and was tremendously impressed with him. Anthony took the monastic ideal of absolute separation from the world. But absolute separation from the world is something which is very very difficult to carry out. Because a good part of the world is in sight of us. And not all of the world, what we might call the world, is evil, ~~but~~ by any means. God has given us a good world. And a world used rightly is good. And it is not His desire that we turn away from the good things in the world, but that we use them for His glory. And when you take any natural appetite....(end of record)

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.....assume an importance in your mind far beyond that which it ought to have. And so these monks, in the desert, these hermits, found themselves having wildest dreams and the most terrible imaginings. And they led them on in these dreams and in these imaginations to all sorts of wild images and thoughts and they would think most terrific temptations presented to them which were purely imaginary because the thing or the physical thing or the person with whom the temptation might be connected would be no where near and the temptation would be positive and terrific to them. And Anthony imagined frequently that the Devil came right into his cave and fought against him.

One time the Devil struck him so violently that a friend who brought him bread found him on the ground, apparently dead. Another time he broke through the wall ~~of~~ of his cave and filled the room with roaring lions and ~~and~~ howling wolves, growling bears, fierce ~~and~~ heinous crawling serpents and scorpions. Anthony turned ~~manfully~~ manfully toward the monsters till a supernatural light broke in from the roof and dispersed them. At the request of the hermits, later on, he gave them a sermon, in which he took as his text, fear not Satan and his angels, Christ has broken their power. And he preached