

Giver, they sat down by the fountain, but now the question rose, who should break the bread. One urged the custom of hospitality the other pleaded the right of his friend as the elder. ~~Whitex~~ Paul said to Anthony, you should break the bread you are the guest. Anthony said, you are the older, you should have the honor. And so they spend almost a whole day trying to decide. (laughter)

And finally they settled it by a compromise, that both should seize the loaf at opposite ends and pull and keep what remained in their hands. (laughter) They had a drink from the fountain and thanksgiving unto God for sending the loaf of bread.

The next day Anthony returned to his ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> cell, and he told his two disciples, woe unto me a sinner to have falsely pretended to be a monk. I have seen Elijah and John in the desert, <sup>~</sup> I have seen St. Paul in paradise. Soon afterwards he paid Paul another visit and found him dead in his cave. His head was ~~erect~~ erect and his hands were lifted up to heaven. Anthony wrapped up the corpse singing songs and hymns and buried him without a space for two lions came with their own accord in the interior parts of the desert, lay down at his feet and wagging their tails and ~~moaning~~ moaning distressingly and scratched a grave in the sand, (laughter) large enough for the body.

The stories of these early hermits are filled with these sort of ~~incidents~~ incidents. And they were repeated by subsequent writers, who evidently had heard about them. But it seemed to me to show that there were doubtless unusual and strange things that happened, and they happen to anyone occasionally out alone on the desert, certainly there would be a number in the course of ninety years, and that these stories become magnified with the solitude and with the unnatural situation and the stories exerted a great influence on other people and helped to bring others to follow the same sort of thing. But originally a monast. was strictly an individual thing. Occasionally there might be two or three gathered together, but it was nothing that was organized. Or it was nothing that was regularized or that could be carried on anywhere except out in the wilderness. Or nowhere except in a place with a very moderate climate.

And of ~~course~~ course, this meant too that it was restricted to men. I dont