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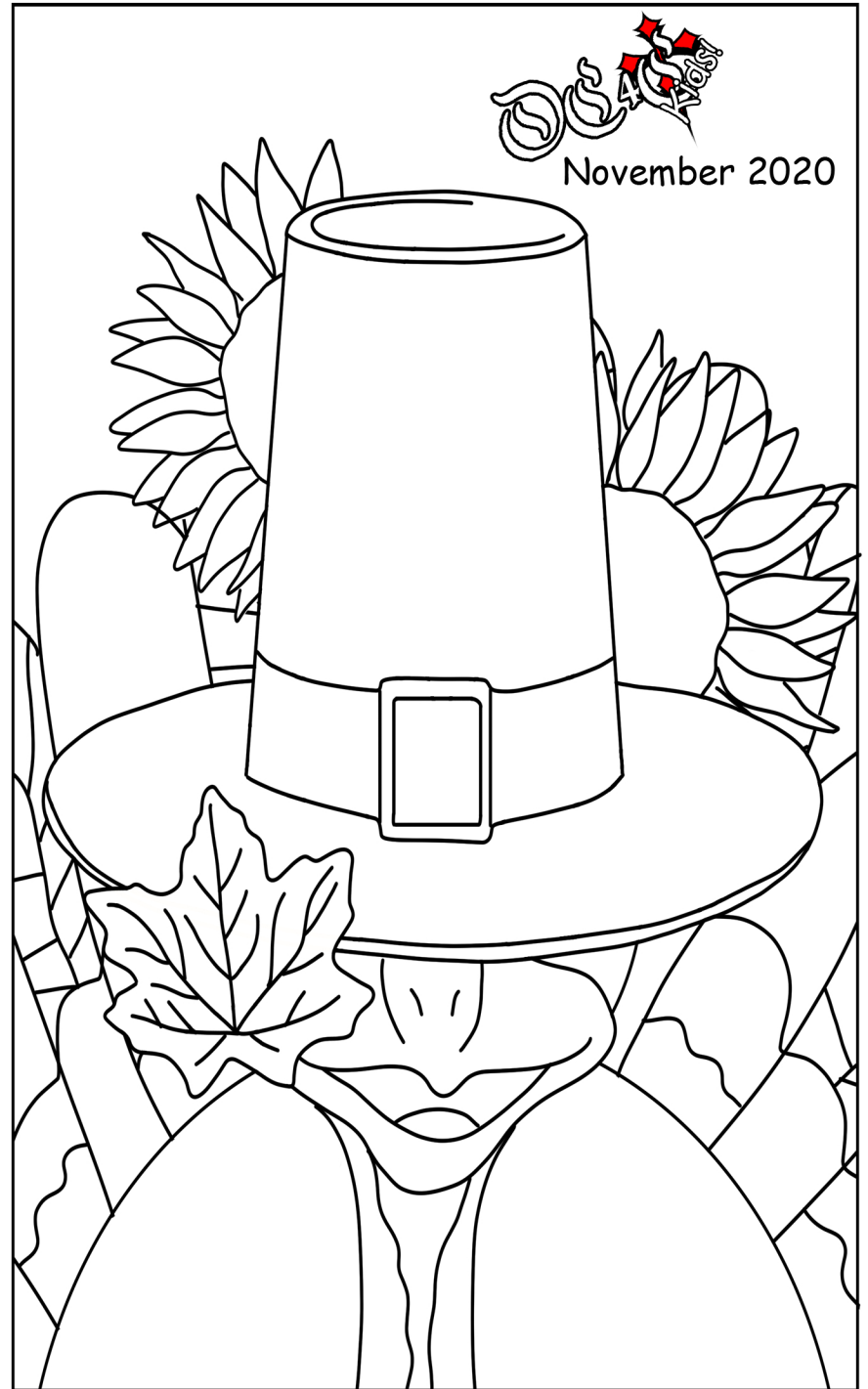
BELIEVED
 DANIEL
 DELIVER
 DEN

FAITHFUL
 KING
 LIONS
 LIVING GOD

MOUTHS
 PETITION
 PRAYED
 SPIRIT



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Daniel & The LIONS' DEN

By Paul Dallgas-Frey

Some people don't like it ...

... when you always do what is good and right. I guess it's because it makes THEM look bad. That's what happened with Daniel.

The King of Babylon, King Belshazzar, died, and Darius the Mede became the new king.

King Darius decided to appoint a hundred and twenty supervisors and governors to help rule over his kingdom. And he made Daniel and two others their boss. The other supervisors and governors didn't like it. Daniel worked harder, and did much better work than any of them. The King was so impressed he was going to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom.

"We have to do something about this Daniel," the supervisors, the governors, the lieutenant governors, and all the other officials said to themselves. But no matter how hard they looked, they couldn't find anything wrong with Daniel because Daniel was completely faithful and honest in everything he did.

"Maybe we can use his religion against him," they said.

And so they came up with a devious plan.

They came before King Darius one day and said, "King Darius! May you live forever! (although each one of them was probably really thinking, 'May you die tomorrow - so I can become King!'). All of us who help to rule your kingdom; the supervisors, the governors, the lieutenant governors, and all the other officials, think that it would be very wise of you to issue a command that for thirty days no one should be able to ask for anything from any god or man except you, O Great and Mighty King. And if anyone should ask for anything from any god or man besides you, they should be thrown into the lions' den."

King Darius accepted the idea of the supervisors, the governors, the lieutenant governors, and all the other officials, and signed the decree.

It became a law of the Medes and Persians that could not be changed.

Daniel heard the King's decree, but still, the next morning he went to his window to pray, just as he did every morning, noon and night.

This was exactly what the supervisors, the governors, the lieutenant governors, and all the other officials were looking for.

They went straight to the king.

"Your Majesty, may you live forever!" they said. "Didn't you sign a decree that said for thirty days no one should ask for anything from any god or man except you, O Great and Mighty King. And if anyone should ask for anything from any god or man besides you, they should be thrown into the lions' den?"

"Yes," said the king. "It is a law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be changed."

Then the supervisors, the governors, the lieutenant governors, and all the other officials said, "We saw Daniel praying to his God this very morning! He does not respect you or your order."

When King Darius heard this news he was very sad. He knew that Daniel was a good and honest man, who served him faithfully. And so he worked into the night, trying to find some way to rescue Daniel. But he couldn't.

The supervisors, the governors, the lieutenant governors, and all the other officials came back the next morning and demanded, "Your Majesty, you know a law of the Medes and Persians can never be changed. Daniel must be thrown into the lions' den!" Which was just what they wanted all along.

And so, the king had no choice but to have Daniel thrown into the lions' den. The King said to Daniel, "May the God whom you serve so faithfully save you!"

And then the king's men grabbed Daniel and threw him into a pit filled with pacing, roaring, hot-breathed lions.

They rolled a stone over the mouth of the den, and the King sealed it with his royal seal, so that no one could move the stone and rescue Daniel.

That night, the king could not sleep at all.

Continued next time ...