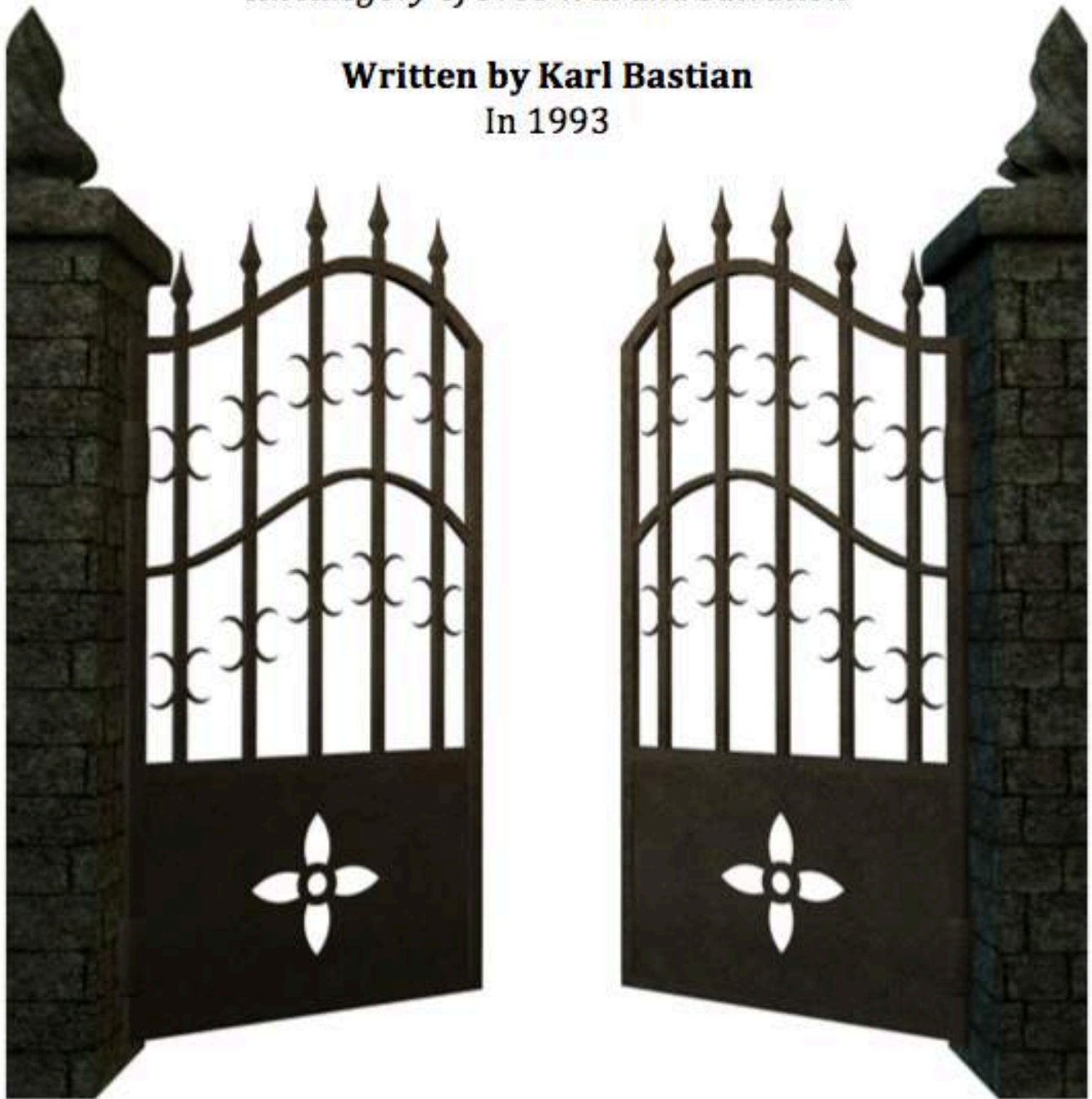


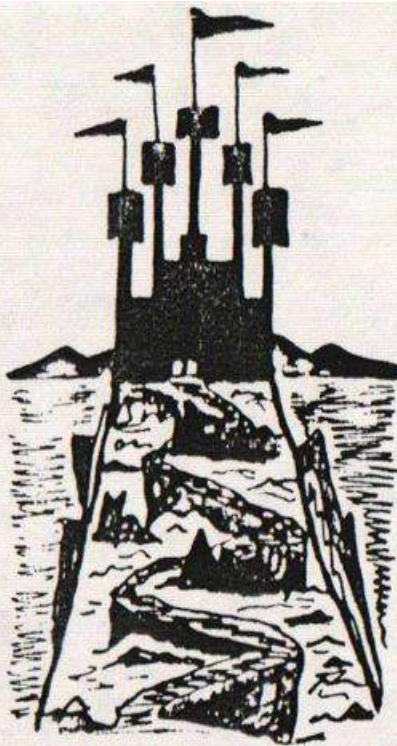
# **The Day The King Unlocked The Gates**

*An Allegory of Free Will and Salvation*

**Written by Karl Bastian**  
In 1993







## *Once Upon A Time.....*

*in a faraway land there was a Great Castle on the top of a Great Mountain. It had twenty tall towers stretching up into the sky, topped off with twenty tall flags all bearing the King's Symbol. A wall surrounded the entire castle that was one hundred feet high. Not only was it tall, but it was so thick that the top of the wall was a road, wide enough for twenty people to stand side by side. The road traveled all around the great Castle. You could walk around the Castle on this road, but if you did so, it would take you nearly all day for the wall was over twenty miles around. There were no windows in the Castle wall, but the citizen's were free to go up onto the wall anytime they wanted....they could even go up into the towering towers where they could see for miles and miles in every direction.*

*The people in the Castle were very happy. They all had wonderful rooms to live in, there were plenty of fun things to do, and the food from the King's Royal Table was simply fabulous. They had everything they could possibly want or need. Things went fine for a long time, but little by little something began to happen.*

*The citizens of the Great Castle began to look outside, to the land outside the Castle. Not that*



*they hadn't looked out over the great walls before when they went for long walks on the Castle wall. They had long enjoyed the vast beauty of the valley below, the wonder of the mountains far off in the distance, and marveled at the country side that the King ruled over. Yes, they had always known it was out there, but something was new. They began to want to leave the Castle and go exploring the world they saw stretching out in every direction.*



*Rumors of this new desire soon reached the King. He always gave them everything they wanted and needed, so they were sure He would let them venture out. But the King had the trumpets blown and a sent out a Royal Decree that said,*



**HERE YE, HERE YE. IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT MANY OF YOU, MY FAITHFUL CITIZENS, HAVE YOUR EYES OUTSIDE THE SAFETY OF THE CASTLE WALLS, AND DESIRE TO LEAVE AND GO ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF MY LAND. I COULD LET YOU, BUT MY DEAR SUBJECTS, YOU ARE BETTER OFF INSIDE THE CASTLE WALLS. IN HERE YOU ARE SAFE, AND I WILL NOT LET ANYTHING HARM YOU. BUT OUTSIDE**



**THERE ARE MANY TRAPS AND PITFALLS. PLEASE ENJOY THE VIEW FROM THE CASTLE, BUT ENJOY IT FROM WITHIN. I KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU.**

**THE KING.**



*The King's notice silenced the citizens for awhile, but the more they looked out over the wall and from the tops of the twenty towers, the more they longed to leave and explore the land they saw below. Their curiosity made them restless.*

*Although no one complained to the King, He knew what they were thinking. He saw it in their faces, and understood the look in their eyes when they gazed out over the wall. How surprised the people were when the trumpets sounded and the next Royal Decree was read:*



**MY DEAR CITIZENS. BECAUSE YOU ARE FREE CITIZENS, AND NOT MY SLAVES, I AM GOING TO DO SOMETHING NEW. ALTHOUGH IT IS MY DESIRE THAT YOU STAY HERE INSIDE THE CASTLE WHERE I CAN CARE FOR YOU AND PROTECT YOU, BEGINNING TOMORROW THE CASTLE GATE WILL BE UNLOCKED. ANYONE WHO WISHES MAY LEAVE THE CASTLE AND GO OUT INTO**



**THE LAND THAT STRETCHES AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE. BUT PLEASE HEAR MY WARNING BEFORE YOU GO. IF YOU LEAVE, REMEMBER YOU MAY ALWAYS COME BACK. THERE ARE MANY WONDERFUL AND BEAUTIFUL THINGS IN THE VALLEY AND BEYOND. THERE ARE RIVERS TO CROSS, MOUNTAINS TO CLIMB, AND FORESTS TO EXPLORE, BUT THE FARTHER YOU GO, THE LESS I CAN PROTECT YOU AND**



**CARE FOR YOU, AND THERE ARE MANY PERILOUS DANGERS IN THE LAND BELOW AS WELL. BEWARE OF MY ENEMIES, CREATURES WHO TURNED AGAINST ME AND LEFT MY CASTLE YEARS AND YEARS AGO. THEY WILL SEEK TO DECEIVE YOU INTO BECOMING A CITIZEN OF THEIR LITTLE VILLAGES. DO NOT BE DECEIVED, THEY ONLY WANT TO DESTROY YOU. BUT WITH THAT WARNING, GO IF YOU MUST, ENJOY THE LAND I RULE OVER, BUT COME BACK OFTEN AND VISIT WITH ME. EVERY LAST DAY OF THE WEEK WILL BE A SPECIAL DAY IN THE CASTLE WHEN ALL MY CITIZENS ARE WELCOME TO COME HOME, RELAX, BE REFRESHED, AND PICK UP NEW SUPPLIES**

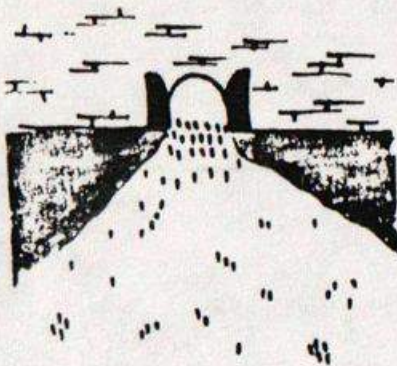


**AND RESOURCES FOR THEIR LIFE OUTSIDE THE WALLS. I'LL CALL IT CELEBRATION DAY. I WILL BE GENEROUS AND GIVING TO THOSE WHO REMEMBER ME. THOSE WHO FORGET ME OR JOIN MY ENEMIES I WILL DESTROY WHEN I TRAVEL THROUGHOUT MY LAND IN JUDGEMENT.....AND THAT DAY WILL COME. MY BEST TO YOU.**

**THE KING.**



*Well, the next day was an exciting day! Some people did leave the Castle. A few just went for a short walk and came right back. Others stayed inside, content with all the King had already given them. But some continued to walk until finally they disappeared from sight, even from the Castle Towers. The King watched them disappear in the distance and hoped they would all come back.*



*The first Celebration Day soon came and from the walls a chorus of cheering erupted from the people. The citizens could see people walking from every direction coming home to the Castle to see the King, to get refreshed, and to tell the tales of their adventures. There were many great and exciting things in the King's Land and those who had not left, listened intently to the stories the travelers had to tell.*



*But as the King looked around, He noticed that some of the people were missing. A few did not come back. The King was very sad, for it was His desire that all should come home and receive all the good He had for them, but they were free citizens, and when He unlocked the Castle Gate, He knew this would be the result. Perhaps some would come back later, and that would be o.k., for He told them to remember that they were always welcome home. Perhaps others had been deceived and joined His enemies. He would meet them again too. But under different circumstances.*

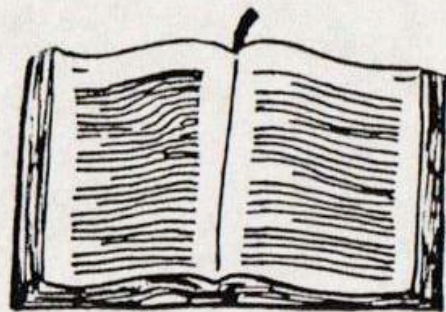
*Well, despite the missing citizens, the celebration went on. The King visited with the people, and gave them great and valuable gifts. The greatest of these gifts was a Book, a Guide to the Land Outside the Castle.*

*It had instructions inside on the things that were out there for them to enjoy.*

*It also told them about the places they should avoid,*

*where the enemies traps were, and how to call for help from the King whenever they were in trouble.*

*Then the King made an announcement. He said that there were many great and wonderful things the people could do outside the Walls and that they were all fine, and good, but that there was one job He wanted some to consider:*





**I NEED SOME ROYAL KNIGHTS. MANY OF MY CITIZENS HAVE BECOME LOST AND DO NOT KNOW THE WAY BACK TO THE CASTLE. I NEED SOME KNIGHTS TO GO FIND THEM AND LEAD THEM BACK. OTHERS OF MY CITIZENS HAVE BEEN DECEIVED BY MY ENEMIES. I NEED SOME KNIGHTS TO GO AMONGST THE ENEMY AND WIN THEM BACK TO ME. THIS WILL NOT BE EASY. THE ENEMY IS POWERFUL, BUT I WILL BE WITH YOU AND MY POWER WILL BE ON YOUR SIDE. YOU WILL BE GREATER THAN THEM, FOR YOU WILL HAVE MY POWER WITH YOU. ALTHOUGH ALL OF YOU SHOULD HELP BRING THE LOST BACK WHENEVER YOU SEE AN OPPORTUNITY, I NEED SOME OF YOU TO MAKE THIS YOUR MISSION IN LIFE. DO I HAVE ANY VOLUNTEERS? I WILL EQUIP YOU WITH EVERYTHING YOU NEED.**

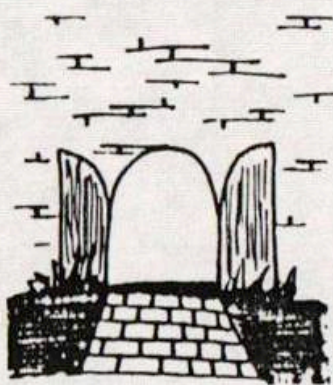
**THE KING.**



*Many of the citizens answered the King's Call and became Royal Knights. He trained and equipped them, and then sent them out in every direction to seek and save the lost citizens of the Kingdom. But every last day of the week, citizens from all parts of the land, and all the Royal Knights returned to the*



Castle to visit with the King, to bow down before Him, and to receive His gifts and refreshment. Often shouts of joy spread throughout the Castle whenever a citizen returned that had been long missing outside the Castle Walls. Many young boys and girls became Jr. Knights, preparing for a life of serving the King as Royal Knights.



Years and years went by. Generation, after generation, until finally there was no one alive who remembered when the Castle Gate was locked. It had been unlocked for so long that there was not one person who did not go outside the Castle Walls. There were little villages in the valley, on the mountains, and in the forests, but every last day of the week, the Castle was filled. Knights returned with the lost citizens they had found, and with enemies who had come back to their King, and all were refreshed and received gifts from the King who loved for them to come to visit Him.

Not everyone came though. Many had never even been in the Castle since their parents' parents' had left years ago and never returned. In the lands far beyond the mountains where the first to leave went, there were now people who didn't even know that there even was a King or a Castle, and that the King wanted them to return and enjoy all the good He had for them. But the more people there were



to reach, the more the Royal Knights had to do. Someday, after the Age of the Royal Knights is over, the King will Himself travel throughout the Land and judge those who forgot Him and those who turned against Him, those who fought the Royal Knights and did not heed their message of Welcome from the King.

Until that day, the people continue to remember Celebration Day, when they put aside their many tasks and chores and go to visit the King, to bow down and worship Him, to thank Him for all the mighty things He has done, and to receive from Him valuable gifts and much needed refreshment that only He can give. For although

the Castle is  
out of mind  
vast Land,  
over it, and  
there, a  
strength  
believe it



Sometimes  
what it would  
never unlocked

now out of sight or  
to many people in the  
the King still rules  
the Castle stands  
mighty fortress of  
whether or not some  
exists or not.

the King wonders  
be like if He had  
the Castle Gate.  
Surely there would be no lost citizens or those who  
joined the enemy if He had kept the Gate locked.  
But nevertheless, He never regrets His decision.  
For nothing can compare to the Joy He feels now  
whenever one of His subjects freely returns to show  
their loyalty to Him, to thank Him, and to receive



*the gifts He loves to give them. Celebration Day would not be so much to Celebrate if the Castle Gate was locked. To this day, the King's decree is posted throughout the Land, "Come to me, all ye who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*

## *The End.*

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth. Then He created man and placed Him in the world. Since then much evil has resulted as a result of the freedom He gave to mankind. However, God is just, and no one is getting away with anything. As the Scripture says, "It is appointed men once to die, and then the judgement." Each man will be judged according to how he used his God-given freedom. It is "God's desire that all should be saved." That is why "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." As the Scriptures declares "whosoever believes in Him, will not perish, but have ever lasting life." Indeed, "though he be dead, yet he will live." For it will "not be he who lives, but Christ who lives in him." The KING of Creation is not delaying "as some may think, but waiting so that more may come to Him." God is allowing more time for lost citizens to return to the Castle, to worship Him, to thank Him, and to receive the gifts He loves to give to them. But the day will come when He will travel throughout the Land in judgement.

Who are you in this story? Are you a lost citizen, who needs to return and regive your life to the King? Have you joined the enemy? For Jesus said, "If you are not for me, you are against me." And the Scripture says elsewhere, "If you have not believed on the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ you stand condemned already." Or are you a faithful citizen who remembers the last day of the week, and is part of the fellowship of the King's subjects. Perhaps you are a Royal Knight, and have given your life to the task of helping to seek and save the lost. The Gate will someday be locked again, and locked for good. Will you be inside, or outside? Only the faithful will be allowed in at that time. Take heed to the King's Decree, while you still can.

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY  
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