

**Letter written to Count Albrecht of Mansfeld,
Frankenhausen, 12 May 1525**

On arriving at Frankenhausen, Müntzer discovered that Count Albrecht of Mansfeld had been trying to lure the peasant army into negotiations. This letter from Müntzer – along with the one he wrote on the same day to Albrecht's brother Ernst – was designed to prevent any such plans. The original of this letter has not been preserved; it was reproduced in Martin Luther's "Shocking History ... of Thomas Müntzer", printed in May or June 1525.

A letter to brother Albrecht at Heldrungen, written that he might change his ways.

Fear and trembling be with those who do evil, Romans 2. I am sorry that you have so evilly misused the epistle of Paul. You wish to excuse the wicked lords in anything they do, just as the Pope used both Peter and Paul as jailers. Do you think that the Lord God cannot stir up the uncomprehending people to overthrow the tyrants in his wrath, Hosea 13 and 8? Did not the mother of Christ speak about you and your like through the holy spirit, prophesying in Luke 1: "He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and raised up the lowly (whom you despised)?" Have you not been able to spoon up from your Lutheran gruel, your Wittenberg soup, that which Ezekiel prophesied in his 37th chapter? And have you not been able to taste in your Martin's peasant gruel what the same prophet further said in the 39th chapter, that God would command all the birds of the air to feast on the flesh of the princes and commanded the unthinking beasts to lap up the blood of the bigwigs, as is described in the secret book of revelations 18 and 19? Do you really think that God has less interest in his people than in you tyrants? You wish to remain a heathen, although you call on the name of Christ and cover yourself with the words of Paul. But you can be sure that your way will be blocked. If you will admit, Daniel 7, that God has given power to the common people, and if you will appear before us and give an account of your faith, then we will be glad to allow this and to accept you as a common brother. But if you refuse, then we will not pay any attention to your lame, insipid mug: we will fight against you as against an arch-enemy of the Christian faith: you know what to expect now.

Written at Frankenhausen, Friday after Jubilate, Anno Domini 1525.

Thomas Müntzer with the Sword of Gideon.

*(Translated by Andy Drummond,
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