

Conquering Dragons

Centuries ago, when a mapmaker would run out of the known world before he ran out of parchment, he often would sketch a dragon at the edge of the scroll. This was intended to be a sign to the explorer that he was entering unknown territory at his own risk.

Many explorers, however, did not perceive the dragon as a mapmaker's warning sign, but, rather, as a prophecy. They foresaw disaster and doom beyond the "known worlds" they traversed. Their fear kept them from pushing on to discover new lands and peoples.

Other, more adventuresome travelers saw the dragon as a sign of opportunity, the doorway to a new territory worth exploring. Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci, Ferdinand Magellan, Leif Ericson and others wrote their names in the history books and made remarkable contributions leading to the world as we know it today.

Each of us has a mental map that contains the information we use for guidance as we explore each new day. As with the maps of long ago, our mental maps have edges to them, and sometimes those edges seem to be marked by dragons, or fears. Sometimes, our fears may be valid. But at other times, these dragons may keep us from discovering more of our world; or, more about other people – including ourselves.

Don't let your fears keep you from all that God desires for you to explore and to know. A man or woman cannot discover new oceans unless he or she has the courage to lose sight of the shore.

--Beecher Hunter