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R.E.S.K. Daniel Laurențiu Deac
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Iancu Hunyadi The defender of Christianity

Part 4

Hunyadi's victory over the conqueror of Constantinople brought great enthusiasm throughout Europe. Processions to celebrate Huniade's triumph were held in Venice and even in England at Oxford, and Pope Calixtus III (1455-1458) praised the victory of Iancu de Hunyadi, **stating that it was "the happiest moment of his life. "Ordering** that all the bells of the Catholic churches in Europe be rung, every day, at noon to remind Christian believers that this victory had blurred the sultan's idea of turning Europe into an eminently Muslim continent. The custom still exists today and the ringing of the bells at noon expressly symbolizes victory against the persecutors of Christianity. At the same time, the pope called Hunyadi "the most powerful and unique athlete of Christ" (Muresanu 2001, 199)

Also, after the victory of the Christians in Belgrade, a period of 70 years of peace was established relative to the southeastern border of the Hungarian kingdom.

Immediately after this grandiose victory, a plague epidemic broke out in the crusader camp that killed thousands of people. Unfortunately, Iancu also fell ill, giving his public spirit on August 11, 1556 in Zemun, Serbia, being buried in the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Michael in Alba Iulia. (*Ibidem*) Maybe this was the price Iancu paid for the defense of Christians, a price that turned him into a hero of Christendom.

About the death Hunyadi, Pope Pius II (1458 -1464) would write: "*<Huniade> ruled the country with an iron fist, he was the equal of the king who, while he was gone (correctly Iancu defeated the Turks in Belgrade (...), he survived for a short time before dying of the disease. When he was ill, he ordered that his body not be brought to him. Our Lord, declaring that it is not worthy for a king (as Jesus was) to enter the house of a servant (as he considered himself humble with him.) Finally, powerless, he commanded to be taken to the church, where he made his confession in a Christian way, received <finally> the divine Eucharist (communion) and surrendered his soul to God (...).* Heaven both as a herald and as the author of the heroic action in Belgrade (Piccolomin 2008, 60).

Notes with explanations:

Note 1: The watchmen are the angels foretelling death in Revelation.

Note 2: Mihena's kinship with Iancu was a distant one and the result of his marriage to the daughter of a Transylvanian nobleman who was closely related to the Huniazilor family.

Note 3: Name given with the meaning of fighter and defender counted the pagan religion. Judas Maccabeus was a Jewish priest (kohen) and a son of the priest Mattathias. He led the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire (167-160 BC). The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah ("Dedication") commemorates the restoration of the Mosaic cult at the second temple in Jerusalem in 164 BC, after Judas Maccabeus removed all the statues depicting Greek gods and goddesses and purified it.

R.E.S.K. Petre Buneci

Grand Commander in the Near Past