

ISSN 0976-8165

*The Criterion*



# *The Criterion*

An International Journal in English

Bi - Monthly Refereed & Indexed Open Access eJournal

August 2014 Vol. 5, Issue-4

5<sup>th</sup> Year of Open Access

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Vishwanath Bite

Managing Editor

Madhuri Bite

[www.the-criterion.com](http://www.the-criterion.com)

[criterionejournal@gmail.com](mailto:criterionejournal@gmail.com)

About Us: <http://www.the-criterion.com/about/>

Archive: <http://www.the-criterion.com/archive/>

Contact Us: <http://www.the-criterion.com/contact/>

Editorial Board: <http://www.the-criterion.com/editorial-board/>

Submission: <http://www.the-criterion.com/submission/>

FAQ: <http://www.the-criterion.com/fa/>

## The Fence

**Dr. Riyad Manqoush**

Once upon a time, there was a small green island across the sea. It was called the island of peace. It was awash with flowers and giant trees. In the middle of that island, there was a small village whose inhabitants were very sociable and convivial. The village had a large number of terrace houses, a school, two mosques, and a church. Villagers from both religions, Islam and Christianity, worked together and loved each other.

One Sunday morning, while they were ploughing their land, villagers saw a paddleboat approaching the beach. They officiously paddled towards the sea to have a look at the visitors. A strange tall man got out of the boat and haughtily paddled his feet in the water. Ten men, carrying with them different tools, guns, and grenades, followed that ambiguous man. He ridiculously stared at the villagers who were very frightened. Consequently, the villagers hurriedly fled to the chief of the village so as to inform him of the aliens. As a result, the chief hurried towards the beach riding his wagon. When the wagon arrived at the beach, the chief looked out of its window. "Who are you? What do you want?" asked the chief. "My name is Solon, a famous warrior, and these are my assistants. We sailed from a land across the sea just to assist you in improving your ways of protecting your island." answered the giant man. "Gone are the days when we merely use a sword to protect such green island." said one of Solon's men.

The peasants rejoiced at the visitors. The chief got out of his wagon and welcomed Solon and his assistants. He invited them to stay at his house but Solon refused and convinced the chief that they would put up a small tent at the beach in which they can live. Solon's men who appear giants put the tent up and brought their tools into it. The villagers kept watching till Solon and the giants entered their tent at sunset.

The next day, Solon and his men woke up early. They toured around the village and walked through the island and then went to the chief's house.

"You have a green island and different cattle of animals. So, it is important to build an invincible fence around the village." said Solon.

"A fence! Why?" asked the chief.

"To protect the village from pirates as well as from beasts." answered Solon.

The chief had been silent for a while and then he nodded his head, expressing his agreement. "But the peasants cannot build it."

"Don't worry; we will build it on their behalf."

After Solon had persuaded the chief, he and his giant assistants measured the area on which they would build the fence.

In the evening, Solon went out of the tent towards the sea; he looked carefully at it for some minutes, sat on a flat rock and picked up pebbles with his fingers. He gloomily threw the stones over the water one by one. Just then a boat, sailing quietly, came up to the beach. This boat consisted of other ten giants who looked the same race. Solon waved his hands up and down. When the boat got there, the ten men departed it and sauntered towards Solon. They saluted him and followed him to the tent.

On Tuesday morning, Solon and the twenty giants went to the area they measured on Monday. That area is in fact a hill and it looked over the village. They started performing their mission. Within the same month, the chief of the village went up onto the hill one day to ask Solon about what was going on; "I think the number of your assistants has increased, hasn't it?" asked the chief.

“Yeah, the second group of men is more energetic than the first one. We can build the fence within one year barely.” said Solon smilingly.

“But what are you doing now?!” asked the chief distrustfully.

“Oh! Well! In fact, we are building a small house for us; for it is too difficult for my men to live in that miserable undersized tent.” answered Solon angrily. The chief got into his wagon and went back down home unsatisfied.

A month later...

The giants had finished building a huge castle and started building the fence which took them about one year. A young fervent farmer, called Ahmad, had suspected Solon’s intentions. He went to the chief one day while he was having his lunch at home. The chief asked him to sit on the front chair to discuss the matter.

“Excuse me sir, we are in a soup.”

“What do you mean?”

“Let’s talk frankly, sir. I came to tell you that we must put a plan to get rid of Solon and his awful giants; for they came to occupy our island. I have read in some books that they had used the same way to occupy many islands around the world.”

“You are right; Solon’s behavior disturbs me too. Anyway, we will wait till they finish the fence; then we can remove them from our island.”

Ahmad went back to his farm.

Ahmad’s family was the only one in the village whose members were literate. Ahmad and his wife were fond of reading. His wife was in charge of the village’s school where she teaches the children of the village.

Once, Solon passed close to Ahmad when he was going around the village. He elbowed Ahmad’s shoulder aggressively, shot a glance at him, and ridiculously laughed aloud. Ahmad had flown into a rage and tried to defend himself but retreated when Solon pointed the gun-muzzle at his head. Solon slowly paced back putting his finger on the trigger and pointing it at Ahmad till he entirely disappeared. Ahmad went back home carrying his little plough.

Day by day, peasants felt so humiliated; the giants were treating them as slaves.

One morning, a muscled farmer visited Ahmad in his house. The two farmers sat on two wooden chairs and drank olive juice;

“I can’t bear, Ahmad. The giants always humiliate us.” said the muscled farmer.

“You’re right; henceforth we must put an end to this miserable situation. We can discuss this with the peasants tomorrow.” said Ahmad.

“OK, see you tomorrow, Ahmad.” said the muscled farmer.

The muscled farmer, Joseph, went out of Ahmad’s house. He walked towards the fence, which the giants had built. But he was shocked when he had seen an invincible fence around Solon’s castle. Solon did not build the fence around the village as he promised the chief but he built it around his castle. It was a strong fence. Joseph put his hand on its wall and raised his eyes towards the horizon. He looked at the fence’s towers. There were four towers on the four high corners of the fence. There was a big gate under the fence facing the village. Joseph hurried up to the peasants, who were tilling the fields, to tell them about the fence. The peasants, led by Ahmad and Joseph, walked up towards the fence. They were extremely excited when they saw it.

In the mean time, Solon and the other giants were not there. They were at the beach, standing in a row behind Solon who put his hand over his eyes while gazing at the sea. Suddenly, he and the giants smiled when a blue boat appeared. It approached the beach and stopped. That boat carried a beautiful lady with her maidservant, four cannons, and ten muscled giants as well. Solon paced towards the lady. She stared at him and they hugged and embraced each other for some minutes.

That lady was Solon's wife, Mary. The giants carried the cannons towards the fence. They had to fix each one in each tower. But they needed approximately two days to achieve this mission.

Two days later...

It was night when John, an active assistant of Solon's, got into the castle and told Solon that the cannons were successfully fixed in their planned places.

In the morning, at five o'clock, the giants kept the flag of their country flying over the castle. They stood together in the yard of the castle surrounded by the fence with two giants guarding its gate. A giant accompanied each cannon. Solon and Mary got out of the castle. The giants clapped their hands. Solon went towards the platform. He got onto it and faced his men. He addressed them:

"Good morning, gentlemen. You have brought a great honor to your own country. Your country is so proud of you for what you performed. I know that you are extremely exhausted; therefore it's the time to reward you. I will give each one of you a permission to bring his family to the island."

"Long live, Solon. Long live. Long live." shouted the giants.

Solon raised his left hand and pointed at the cannon fodders. Consequently, they shot different cannonballs over the island.

When the chief and peasants heard the cannonade, they immediately went to the fence and entered the gate. But they stopped when they found the four cannons and the giants' guns pointed at them.

All the giants were dressed in military uniforms. It seemed that they were soldiers.

"M-m-m-m. It's good that you have come; for I want to inform you of the new exciting news. From now onwards, I am the ruler of the island. You all must give half of your harvest to me and my men." said Solon. "Besides, I will never forgive the farmers who disobey my orders."

"But this is not our agreement." shouted the chief angrily.

"What! Agreement! How dare you talk to me like that! I am your lord, stupid. Get out of here now before I cut your throat." shouted Solon haughtily.

The chief and the peasants went back home bitterly disappointed.

"It serves us right. We should have got rid of them before they became strong." said Ahmad.

"But! But!" uttered the chief.

"This is not the end. We will not let those base giants occupy our island." said Joseph.

"You're right, Joseph. We must defend our land. We must resist Solon and his giants." said Ahmad, facing the peasants.

"Yes, we will do our best to remove them from our island." added one of the peasants.

"Resistance... Resistance... Resistance." shouted the peasants aloud.

People suffered very much of Solon's men. Ahmad and Joseph persuaded some farmers to establish a group in order to resist Solon and his soldiers. Despite the fact that they did not have modern weapons, they did their best and fought bravely.

One night, Ahmad and four other farmers stealthily followed a soldier of Solon's, while he was walking towards the beach. They hid behind a gigantic tree until he took off his clothes, carried them with his left hand, and put them on a big rock near his gun. Whereas the man was paddling in the water, they attacked him. Ahmad fought the soldier and the other farmers hastened towards the gun. After a short fight Ahmad could twist the soldier's arm and stab him viciously with his knife in the abdomen. The soldier fell dead.

Mingled with blood, the water changed into red. Ahmad and his comrades hastily left the beach carrying with them the gun.

In the morning, the villagers got up when they heard the echo of the cannonade. The sound echoed through the silent houses of the village. Fierce oversized patrolmen sought the fighters, who killed Solon's man, in the villagers' houses. However, they could not find them; therefore they went to the chief to assist them.

"You must arrest the killers who stabbed our friend." shouted the patrolman threateningly.

"Killers! Our island is known as the island of peace. People here are serene." said the chief wonderingly.

"I don't care. Those killers must be arrested within two days. It is your duty." shouted the patrolman angrily.

The chief was in trouble; he did not want to arrest the fighters because they were defending their land. In contrast, he was afraid of the giants. Suddenly it struck him an idea; he went to Solon and told him that the fighters were from the village but he did not know them.

Two days later...

Another giant was killed the same way. Solon flew into a rage. He ordered the men to torture every young man in the village until they confess their crime. Day by day, villagers became accustomed to be tortured by Solon's giants.

One day morning, Solon found the guards of his fence murdered. He went back to his castle very sad. He despaired of making the peasants confess by torturing them; as a result he thought of something else. He spread a rumor among the peasants. The rumor connoted that some peasants came nightly to Solon and told him about what the conspiracies of the peasants against him and his men. This plan succeeded in separating the villagers. Villagers became scared of each other. They did not speak to their friends about Solon for the reason that the listener might be a spy for Solon. As a result, Solon and Mary were very happy. They drank two cups of wine in the castle to celebrate their success.

Ahmad realized that what had happened to his village was because of the rumor which Solon spread amongst the peasants. He also realized that there were no spies among them. In the evening of the same day, Ahmad asked his comrades, the young fighters, to assemble in the yard of his house. He asked them to keep silent and to listen to what he would say.

"Please, comrades, listen... It is a very important matter. We are being plotted!" said Ahmad.

"What! Plotted!" said Joseph.

"Solon spread a rumor among us in order to separate us. Unfortunately, he succeeded because people believed the rumor... We should trust each other." shouted Ahmad.

"Right, we must trust each other." said the fighters together.

After Ahmad had convinced them, they resumed their resistance. At night, they sank a soldier in the sea until he died. When Solon heard of that, he was dreadfully furious. He thought of many other plans. After a long time of thinking, it struck him that he could bring a poor peasant and give him a lot of money in order to tell him the names of the young fighters. For this purpose, he ordered his soldiers to bring Joseph. But when he told Joseph about the money, Joseph spat on Solon's face and said;

"It is correct that I am poor but I am not a traitor. If you torture me, I will feel cheerful; because I tolerate the pain to protect my land. If you execute me, I will be grateful to you; for I will be a martyr."

Solon could not bear Joseph's reply; he took his pistol and shot him. Joseph fell dead in a pool of blood. Solon ordered his soldiers to take the body and put it in the market of the village to be seen by everyone.

When the peasants watched the body, they were extremely depressed. Ahmad, Joseph's close friend, stood in front of the body and cried resentfully. He went to the fighters to establish a bigger group. They called the new group, 'Joseph Group'.

Ahmad and Joseph Group, which consisted of more than thirty men, went up nightly to the fence carrying with them many ploughs and four guns - the guns of the soldiers whom they killed. They killed the two guards of the gate by their ploughs. Some of them climbed the four towers and they easily succeeded in fighting the giants because they were drunk. They took their military uniforms and disguised in them. They also controlled the cannons. Solon's four cannon-fodders were put in one tower. Their mouths were plastered in order not to ask for help. While Solon was sleeping, the fighters shot different cannonballs at the castle especially at his bedroom. Consequently, it was destroyed and Solon was seriously injured.

Ahmad spoke aloud;

"O Solon, you are surrounded by thirty armed fighters. If you surrender, we will let you leave alive. If not, we will shoot again."

"Give me a time to think." answered Solon

Ahmad ordered the fighters to shoot another cannonball at the castle and said;

"I will not give you a time because I know that you are cunning. However, I can give you cannonballs as much as you want."

Solon could not tolerate. He raised a white shirt from the widow to announce his surrender. Six soldiers were killed and two peasants were seriously injured.

Few hours later...

Solon, Mary, the maidservant, and the rest of the giants went down to the beach. They got onto their three boats and left the village without weapons. The villagers gave them food only.

The villagers, thus, celebrated their victory and lived again in peace without Solon and his soldiers.