

The Medicine of Life

It is said to be that some of the snake-eating birds are able to metabolize the snake's venom. And consequently, its blood becomes an amazing antidote against poison. This way, the bird could heal their young when they are bitten by the serpents.

When the bird realizes that the lives of her young are threatened due to a snake bite, for instance, she rushes to do an amazing thing which shows her love and care for her chicks... So, what does she do?

She stands over her vulnerable young, and picks her side with her beak until she starts bleeding from the wound she inflicted on herself and the blood drips down to the mouths of the young. When taking the blood that contains the poison antidote, they survive and live and they become thankful to their mother for her great work. She gave birth to them before and has not abandoned them, but rather gave them life all over again.

Perhaps this scene is a flashback to a story that took place long time ago in paradise.

An evil serpent had bitten man and poisoned him, her venom may not be physical but spiritual, and it's deadly poison of sin. With this venom, we were subjected to spiritual death before the death of the flesh.

We, the dead, needed a cure to save us from this venom. This cure is the blood of Christ which was shed on the cross. He who carried our sins in His body, and defeated the sin and tramples over death so His blood became to us a curing medicine.

Like the mother bird, driven by her great love for her children, injured her side at her own will to cure her children with the medicine of life, the panacea, so the Lord Jesus. He offered himself to death willingly, and shed His own blood for us, and gave it to us in the cup, saying: "*Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*" (Matthew 26:27-28)

And we need to regularly take this divine medicine through our lives so we take strength from it and for eternal life to flow in us. Therefore we proclaim with St Paul saying: "*O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (1Cor 15:55-57).

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From the Sayings of the Fathers:

+ "*As much as we become participants of Christ in a spiritual and tangible way, during our stay in this world, through partaking of the holy body and precious blood, as much as we reach to day of his power 'as is written in (Ps. 110: 3)', and as much as we ascend to the glory of the saints.*"

(Saint Cyril of Alexandria)

+ "*Christ the word of God Himself, at the beginning made all things out of nought; and none other than Him could render the mortal immortal, for He is the Very Life*"

Saint Athanasius - (The incarnation of the Logos)

+ "*The body and blood of Christ are the "medicine of immortality" and the antidote to prevent us from dying.*"

(Saint Ignatius of Antioch - Epistle to the Ephesians 20)

