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 كنيسة السيدة العذراء مريم
 القبطية الأرثوذكسية بشيكاغو
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كنيسة السيدة العذراء القبطية الأرثوذكسية بشيكاغو



تدعوكم الكنيسة لحضور صلوات القديس الألهي

يوم الأحد من كل اسبوع من الساعة صباحاً

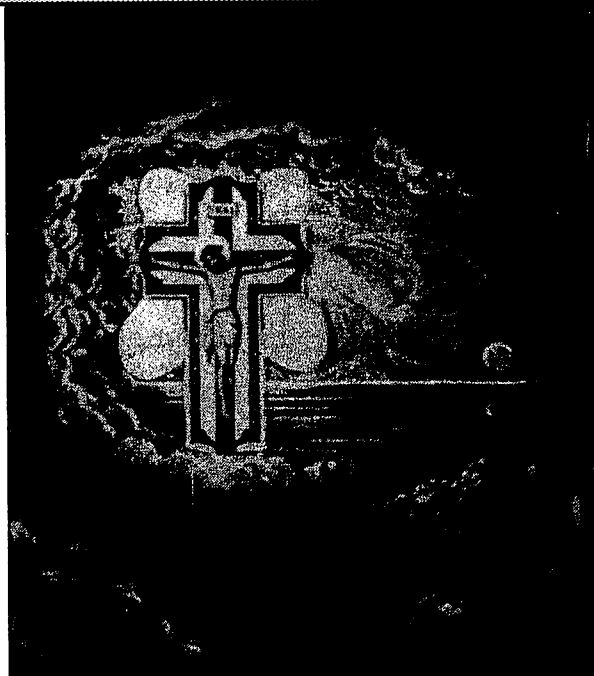
THE NATURE PROTESTS

الطبيعة تحتج



“And it was about the sixth hour and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened and the vail of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said : Father, in Thy hands, I commend my spirit : and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, certainly this was a righteous man.” (Luke 23:44-47)



” وكان نحو الساعة السادسة فكانت ظلمة على الارض كلها الى الساعة التاسعة. وأظلمت الشمس وانشق حجاب الهيكل من وسطه، ونادى يسوع بصوت عظيم وقال: يا ابتاه في يديك استودع روحي. فلما رأى قائد المئة ما كان مجد الله قائلاً: بالحقيقة كان هذا الانسان باراً “ (لو ٢٣: ٤٤-٤٧)



“ If the crucified were not God Incarnate, the sun would not hide its rays and the earth would not tremble and quake.”(The 9th hour prayer)



OUR VALUES AND BELIEFS AS ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS

From the words of:

H.H. Pope Shenouda III
On the
Spirituality of Fasting

Fasting is not just a bodily virtue... It is not just abstaining from food a period of time then eating food not with animal fat. There is a spiritual element in it. Fasting is exclusively spiritual, it helps to strengthen the spirit. It is a spiritual opportunity to mortify the body in order to elevate the spirit.



had said He would do unto them, and He did it not.”(Jonah 3:8-10)
Without repentance, God will reject your fasting.

Fasting the Wrong Way

† Those who fast without feeling its benefits, must have fasted the wrong way. So, the problem lies not in fasting itself, but in in

Virtues Related to Fasting

† **Praying:** Praying is very essential, otherwise fasting will lose its spiritual aspect. That is why the Church always emphasizes that fasting and prayer are inseparable.

† **Offerings:** He who fasts feels for those who suffer from hunger. In the old ages of martyrs, the Church used to teach, “If you do not have enough to feed the poor, then fast and give your food to the less fortunate.” We also sing in the Church during the Lent, “Blessed are those who are kind to the poor.”

† **Repentance:** In the fasting of "Ninevh", we notice that the people did not only abstain from food, but: “Every one turned from his evil way and from the violence that was in his hands.” God looked to their fasting, as "Jonah" puts it, “And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way, and God repented from the evil that He

the way they fasted.

They might have deprived them-selves from certain kinds of food, but they overlooked the *Virtues Related to Fasting*.

What does repentance mean ?

✦ The word repentance originally meant “after thought”. Often a second thought shows that the first was wrong, and so the word came to mean a change of mind. A change of mind demands a change of action. Repentance must involve change of mind and action.

✦ One may change his mind and come to see that his actions were wrong, but he is in so much love with his old ways that he will not change them.

✦ One may change his ways, but his mind remains the same, changing only because of fear or prudence. True repentance includes: ***A change of both the mind and action.***

Abouna said to me:

“Son, when we repent, we can, in the power of the holy spirit, win battles we never thought to win, and resist temptations which we would have been powerless to resist.”



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هذه النشرة ترسل مجاناً لمن يطلبها
بعنوان الكنيسة المذكور بعاليه .

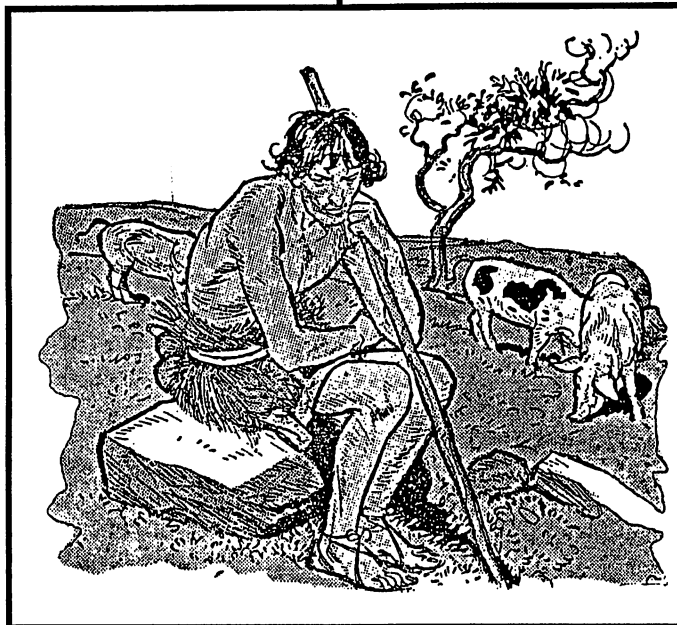


FOOTSTEPS

A YOUNG MAN'S STORY

✦ Tracing people's footsteps is a rather interesting thing, perhaps you haven't tried to do it before. Let us try to follow a young man's footsteps and find out how interesting it is. His footsteps are clearly marked in the story that tells all about him. (Read Luke 15:11-31)

✦ His story says that he has grown dissatisfied with his comfortable home and his kind father, and said to him, "Father, give me the share of property that falls to me." On his earnest persuasion, his father gave way to him and handed over his share. Then as so often happens when young fellows come to money, he went all way wrong. Now let us notice his:



I- STEP DOWN - IN SIN.

i) **Departure:** One day he left the old place of his boyhood and went off. Sin is always like a "far country" away from God. Even one sin is a great, big step, which takes us afar from Him. One sin took Adam and Eve out of Eden. Never forget that one sin would keep you out of heaven... How dangerous sin is!

ii) **Distitution:** In that far country this prodigal wasted all his money, and he began to be in need, so he went and joined one of the citizens, who sent him in his fields to feed swine. What a degraded thing that this reputable young man would sink so low as to be willing to take a job at minding pigs, and even wishing some of their food?

iii) **Desertion:** While his money lasted, he would have plenty of friends, but now those had left him. Only one had stuck to him, and

that, wonderfully enough, was his old father against whom he had greatly sinned.

2- STEPS BACK - IN REPENTANCE

i) He came to himself:

He began to realize how foolish he had been. That is always a sinner's first step *back to God...*

ii) He came to a **decision:**

What a splendid thing when a sinner, having seen his folly, decided to return *to GOD..... to repent.*

iii) He came to his **father:**

He said he would, and he did, and what a welcome he got!.... His loving father ran to meet him.

3- STEPS UP - IN GRACE.

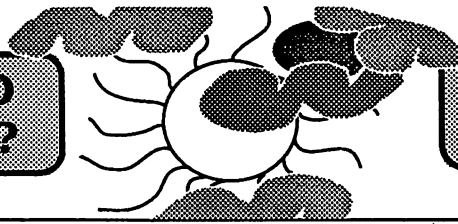
i) **Reinstatement:** The most this prodigal hoped for was to be taken as a servant, but his loving father took him back into his sonship.

ii) **Robing:** He returned in rags, but these were soon changed. So does *God*, cloth the repentant in a spotless robe of righteousness.

† Isn't that a beautiful picture of *God*, who though sinners have greatly sinned against him, yet He longs for them to return to him that He may forgive and save them. If anyone is still in the far country, let him follow these steps back in real repentance from sin and see how *God* will lead his steps up into blessings of grace.

O SUN...WHY DID YOUR LIGHT FAIL?

آيتها الشمس لماذا تواريت؟



✦ In those horrifying hours a pagan astrologist "Dionysius the Aeropagite" by name, was watching the stars. He was shocked to see the sun in untimely eclipse, in the middle of the day. The eclipse lasted for three hours. So he said, "This is caused by one of two reasons; either the God of the universe is in pain, or this is the end of the world." His first notice was right, because that was the time when man was crucifying the Creator.

✦ They said that Jesus was a criminal while they were innocent. So the dumb nature had to bear witness that he was innocent and that they were the real criminals. When they put him on the cross, the earth shook and the sunlight failed. The creator was being crucified by those whom he had created, those whose spirits were weakened and their hearts were hardened.

✦ You, the sun, had to hide your light when you saw the Lord on the cross deserted by all, even these to whom he was kind. How kind were you to him? You had to hide your light so that the people's ill doing and ungratefulness would be concealed in the darkness.

✦ How great the lesson which you, the sun, taught us when you hid your light in the middle of the day, in the hope that our stony hearts may soften, and we might come back to our God and savior remorseful and repentant.

✦ في تلك الساعات الرهيبة كان عالم وثني، اسمه "ديوناسيوس الاريوباغي" جالساً الى منظاره يرصد كواكب السماء، فإذا به يرى الشمس تتوارى وتكسف في غير موعد كسوفها، في منتصف النهار، ويستمر اختفاؤها ثلاث ساعات، فصرخ الرجل قائلاً: "ان علة هذا الظلام احد امرين؛ اما ان اله هذا الكون يتالم، وأمان العالم

قد أوشك ان ينتهي." وقد صدق الرجل، فقد كان ظنه الاول هو الذي يحدث بالفعل. فقد كان البشر يصلبون خالقهم.....

✦ قالوا عن رب المجد انه مجرم وأنهم ابرياء، فقامت الخليقة غير الناطقة محتجة وشاهدة بأنه بريء وهم المجرمون، فتزلزلت الارض، واحتجبت الشمس عندما تالم ابن الله بيد خليقة له ضعفت نفوسهم لتحجرت قلوبهم.

✦ لقد تواريت ايتها الشمس عندما رأيت خالق الكل معلقاً على الصليب وقد انصرف عنه كل من احسن

اليهم، شفى مرضاهم وأقام موتاهم، فلم يبق غيرك لتشفق عليه ولتخفي تحت أجنحة الظلام فعلة البشر المنكرة وجحودهم المخجل ونكرانهم للجميل.

ما أبلغ ما القيت علينا ايتها الشمس من موعظة، عندما تواريت في منتصف النهار، لعل قلوبنا الحجرية تلين، فنعود لالهنا ومخلصنا نادمين وتائبين.



Dionysius the Aeropagite:

- † This man was one of those who were converted by St. Paul the apostle in Athens.
- † He was called Aeropagite because he was a judge in Athens' Supreme court which was called "Areopagus."
- † The church historians said that he became a famous preacher of the bible and he died as a martyr in the year 95 A.D.