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كنيسة السيدة العذراء القبطية الأرثوذكسية بشيكاغو

† “ All those who follow what is right suffer for its sake. All those who remained in faith, paid a price for their faith. The history of martyrs has many stories of those whose blood was shed for the sake of their faith.”

H.H. Pope Shenouda III.



And they cast him out of the city... and they stoned him.

St. Stephen

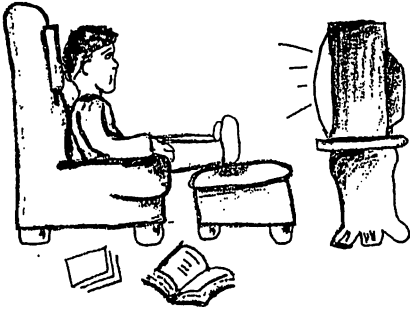
† “And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people... Then there arose some from what is called the synagogue of the Freedmen disputing with Stephen. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke.” (Act 6:8-10)

† “...When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they grashed at him with their teeth... and they cast him out of the city... and they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus receive my spirit?" Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice: Lord do not charge them with this sin.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” (Acts 7:54 -60)

القديس استفانوس

† وأما استفانوس فكان مملواً إيماناً وقوة وكان يمنع عجائب وآيات عظيمة في الشعب. فنهض قوم من المجمع الذي يقال له مجمع الليبرتيين يحاورونه، إلا أنهم لم يقدرُوا أن يقاوموا الحكمة والروح الذي كان يتكلم به. (ع ٨:٦ - ١٠)

† لذلك «حنقوا بقلوبهم وصروا باستأنهم عليه... وهجموا عليه بنفس واحدة وأخرجوه خارج المدينة ورجموه. وبينما كانوا يرمونه كان يدعو ويقول «يا رب يسوع اقبل روحي». ثم جثا على ركبتيه وصرخ بصوت عظيم «يا رب لا تقم لهم هذه الخطية». واذ قال هذا رقد. (ع ٧:٥٤ - ٦٠)



Back to School



WHICH ONE OF THE TWO ARE YOU?

A Lazy Person

Or

A Hard Working Person

✦ “Lazy people should learn a lesson from the way ants live. They have no leader, chief or ruler but they store up their food during the summer, getting ready for winter.

✦ “He who deals with a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes one rich.

He who gathers in summer is a wise son. But he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame. Blessings are on the head of righteous.”

How long is the lazy man going to be in bed. When is he going to get up?”
(Proverbs 6:6,9)

(Proverbs 10:4-6)

A REWARD OF HARD LABOUR

† George III, King of England, was walking one day in the country side. He came across a field in which there was a woman cutting grass. He approached her and asked about the rest of the workers. Not knowing that he was the King she said: “They all went to see the king.” Then he asked her: “Why didn't you go with them?” She answered: “Although I wanted so much to go with them, yet I could not because I have five children and I need to use every minute to provide them with all their needs.”



his pocket and gave it to her saying: “Tell the others who left their work and went to see the King, that the King himself came to see the hard workers, and that he gave you his picture engraved on gold to commemorate his visit to you and to show his appreciation for your hard work.”

† The King was pleased with her for being honest in her work, and for taking good care of her children. He took a gold pound out of

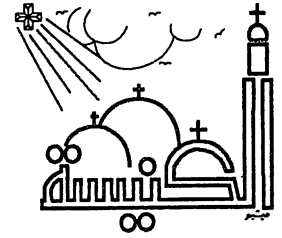
Abouna said to me:

“ Son, be studious and do your work on time. Organize your time to increase your production. Respect your teachers to win their appreciation and cooperate with your colleges so God will bless your efforts and help you to be successful.”



THE NAYROUZ FEAST

On the Nayrouz Feast our Church celebrates the memorial of those who made the supreme sacrifice — our Sainly *MARTYRS*.



Why was the year 284 (A.D.) taken to be the year number one in the Coptic Calendar. ?

✦ Because during that year 284 martyrdom reached its peak. The wicked Emperor Diocletian decided to kill the Christians till their blood reaches the knee of his horse. It happened that the horse fell and he stopped killing the Christians, after their blood reached the knee of the horse he was riding. You can imagine how many Christians were killed during that year!

✦ The Christians did not fear the persecution, but rather they considered themselves very happy as if going to a wedding to meet the heavenly Bridegroom Jesus Christ... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? (Romans 8:35-39)

✦ Nayrouz is a Persian word meaning "New Year". Hence, the Nayrouz Feast means the New Year of the Copts.

On September 11th (Tut 1st) of every year we celebrate the feast of Nayrouz.

Why is the Coptic Year (A.M.) different from the regular New Year (A.D.)?

✦ Because the year 284 (A.D.) is taken to be the first year in the Coptic Calendar. Therefore, if you subtract 284 from any regular year, you will find out the corresponding Coptic Year. As for example, to find out what Coptic Year we are in, subtract 284 from the current year, i.e., 1990 - 284 = 1706 (A.M.)

THE PALM TREE

“The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,... Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age. They shall be fresh and flourishing.”
(Psalm 92:12-14)



✦ In Egypt, where our mother Church was founded and where there are many palm trees, the Christians favour dates as the best fruit. They like to eat it, and to give it to the poor when they celebrate the Nayrouz Feast. Its red color reminds them of the blood of their martyrs which was shed for believing in Christianity and for their love for their sacred Church.

✦ It is amazing to see how those martyrs in many ways are like the fruitful palm tree,... if a person throws a stone at it, it showers him with delicious dates and so were they, the more the stones which were thrown at them, the more they prayed asking God to forgive their persecutors. The heart of the palm tree is bright white and evergreen, so were the hearts of the martyrs pure and sublime free from hatred.

بلح النيروز

دم سال زمان	البلحة لونها احمر
دى حلاوة الايمان	طعمها حلو مسكر
زى قلب الانسان	داخلها ابيض منور

النيروز... عيد الشهداء

نيروز نور منور	على مر السنين
واحنافيه نتذكر	أبائنا القديسين
أكاليل المجد خدوها	من يد ربنا لبسوها
وعاشوا مبسوطين	

THE CHURCH'S FIRST MARTYR

A **MARTYR** is a person who is willing to give up his **LIFE** rather than his **FAITH**.

THE HEAVENS OPEN

His Preaching and Accusation

† The hatred of the Jews reached its climax in the controversy aroused by St Stephen preaching. The fact that he beat all his opponents in argument led to the desire to get rid of him.

† They falsely accused him, their accusation was threefold: he has spoken blasphemy against the holy place, against the law and against God. They stirred up the people and then they seized him and brought him to the council. All who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.

His Martyrdom

† Stephen, being filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

† On hearing this, the Jews cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears and ran upon him with one accord. They cast him out of the city, where: "they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, 'Lord do not charge them with this sin' and when he had said this he fell asleep."

(Acts 7:59,60)

His Teaching

† How savage and disorderly his condemnation was, yet he accepted it with a pure soul, forgiving prayers and utter obscure of hatred and malice. How like it was to the death of his Master, Jesus Christ, as well as the accusation against him. That is why, as he looked, he saw the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.



How great is the lesson which you, **St. Stephen**, Taught us when you gave up your **LIFE** to preserve your **FAITH**.

اللهوات مفتوحة

شهادته والتهم المنسوبة اليه

† كان استفانوس مملوًا قوة وإيمانًا، تصدى له اليهود وقاموا يحاورونه ولكنهم لم يستطيعوا ان يقارموا الحكمة والروح الذي كان يتكلم به. حينئذ اتاموا ضده شهودًا كذبية اتهموه بالتعدى على الهيكل وعلى الناموس، وعلى الله. اثارته هذه الاتهامات الباطلة الجسوم، وفي وسط تلك الثورة الجامحة كان استفانوس يرفع قلبه بالصلاة والدعاء واذا كان الجميع يشخصون اليه بغيظ كانوا يرون وجهه كوجه ملاك، ومع هذا لم يتاثروا بل بالحري حنقوا بقلوبهم واصروا باستنابهم عليه.

استشهاده

† وبينما كان استفانوس يواجه تلك المحاكمة الظالمة، كان يرى السماء مفتوحة ومجد الله ويسوع قائم عن يمين الله. ولما صرح لهم برؤياه هجموا عليه بنفوس واحدة واخرجوه خارج المدينة ورجموه بالحجارة. واحتمل استفانوس الحجارة الهاوية على رأسه دون ان تنفرج شفاته بغير ذلك الدعاء لراجيه - "يارب لا تقم لهم هذه الخطية، واذا قال هذا رقد." (ع ٧:٦٠)

درس من حياته

† لم يهجع استفانوس باطفاء جذوة حياته، ولم تنتهي قصته عن ذلك الجسد الهامد الفارق في دمانه تحت كومة من الحجارة... فقد وجد - فيما بعد - كل شهيد مما القوا في غياهب السجون أو طوح بهم في آتون النار أو سقطت رقابهم بحد السيف... وجد كل هؤلاء في شجاعته النادرة وحيا وقوة، واستلهموا منه كتابا وصبرا يهما امكتهم مواجهة مضطهديهم وعن طريقها نالوا اكليل المجد وشرف الشهادة.

جرب ياأخى ان تقبل راضيا كل امانة أو اساءة توجه اليك، لتسلك بايمانك والشهادة له، وان تنفر لكل من يسئ اليك، وعندئذ يمكنك ان ترى - بين الايمان - مارآه استفانوس... ترى مثله السموات مفتوحة وابن الانسان قائم عن يمين الله.

اجتماعيات

† تمت بنعمة الله خطوبة الأتسة فيفيان كريمة الاستاذ صلاح شنودة وزوجته السيدة آمال على الدكتور فهمي جرجس. والكنيسة تتقدم بأحر التهاني للخطيبين ولاسرتيهما.

† رقدت على رجاء القيامة المرحومة السيدة فوزية منياس والدة السادة عادل وعاطف وعزت وعماد وعصمت وعفت والسيدة عفاف حرم الدكتور انسى والسيدة عواطف حرم الدكتور مدوح.

† وردد على رجاء القيامة المرحوم هاجور ديكرمينجيان

Hagob Dekermenjian

زوج السيدة شاكيه ووالد السيدة مادلين حرم المهندس الفونس ميخائيل، ووالد السيد أرتين والسيدة كاناريك.

والكنيسة تسأل الرب ان ينيح أنفس أحبائنا الراحلين وتطلب العزاء لأسرهم.