



February/1991

فبراير / ١٩٩١

Volume 6 - No. 2 Tobah 1707 AM

السنة ٦ - العدد ٢ - طرية ١٧٠٧ ش

كنيسة السيدة العذراء القبطية الأرثوذكسية بشيكاغو

My Baptism

“**W**hen cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized from him. But John forbad Him, saying, I have need to be baptized from thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, suffer it to be so now; for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”.

(Matthew 3:13-17)

ابني الحبيب

“حينئذ جاء يسوع من الجليل الى الاردن الى يوحنا ليعتمد منه. ولكن يوحنا منعه قائلاً انا محتاج ان اعتمد منك وانت تأتي الى. فأجاب يسوع وقال له اسمح الآن لأنه هكذا يليق بنا ان يكمل كل بر. حينئذ سمح له. فلما اعتمد يسوع صعد للوقت من الماء. واذا السموات قد انفتحت له فرأى روح الله نازلاً مثل حمامة وآتياً عليه. وصوت من السموات قائلاً هذا هو ابني الحبيب الذي به سررت”

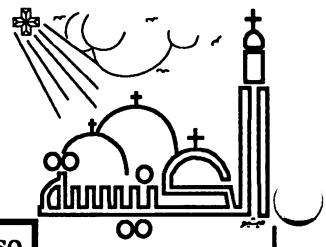
(مت ٣: ١٢-١٧)

الصوم الاربعيني المقدس

† يبدأ الصوم الاربعيني يوم الاثنين ١١ فبراير الموافق ٤ أمشير ١٧٠٧ ش. وهو فترة مباركة يقضيها المؤمنون في نسك وتعبد وجهاد روحي، ويتخذونها فرصة لفحص النفس ومحاسبتها طلباً للتوبة وابتغاء حياة فاضلة مقدسة يرضى عليها الرب. انها فرصة يختزنون فيها زادهم الروحي للعام كله.



“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water and, lo, the heavens were opened”



The purpose of this series is to familiarize the readers with the Divine Liturgy so that they can participate more in it, enjoy it, and spiritually benefit of it.

The Raising Of Incense Service

† It is a service that precedes the Divine Liturgy in which the believers prepare themselves for the Divine Liturgy. It is so called because the priest raises incense as he prays, thus expressing the same feelings as David when he said: "Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense." (Psalm 141:2)

† The incense symbolizes the prayers of the saints as they go up, God accepts them as sweet aroma of incense. St. John referred to this when he said: "And another angle came and stood at the altar, having a golden censor, and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints... and the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand." (Rev. 8:3-4)

† The practice of using incense in worship goes back to the early church, and is mentioned in the teaching of the apostles (the Didache). It is the continuation of the Old Testament practice of incense offering, which God ordered Moses to follow, when He said to him: "Take unto thee sweet spices... make it a perfume... it shall be unto you most holy." (Exodus 30:34-38)

† The raising of incense service has two parts:
1- Evening raising of incense (Vespers)
2- Morning raising of incense (Matins)

† Raising of incense service can be performed without the Divine Liturgy, on the hand it is inappropriate to perform the Divine Liturgy without at least the morning raising of incense (Matins) preceded by the midnight prayer. But as a rule of thumb Vespers and Matins should precede the Divine Liturgy. However, the big lent is an exception, when the evening raising of incense service precedes the Divine Liturgy services held on Sundays only.

(to be continued)

خدمة رفع البخور

† هي خدمة تسبق القداس الإلهي، وهي عبارة عن صلوات استعدادية فيها يتهيأ المؤمنون لحضور القداس الإلهي. وقد سميت بهذا الاسم لان فيها يرفع الكاهن بخوراً اثناء الصلاة مشاركاً داؤد النبي شعوره الذي عبر عنه بقوله: "لتستقم صلاتي كالبخور قدامك." (مز 141:2)

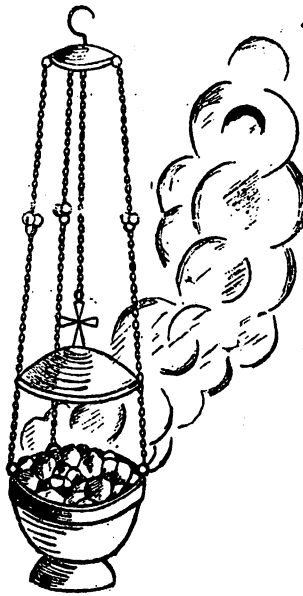
† أن البخور يرمز الى صلوات القديسين عندما ترتفع الى فوق مالئاً المكان برائحته الذكية. وهكذا أيضاً صلوات القديسين ترتفع مثل البخور فيقبلها الرب ويسر بها. وقد اشار الى ذلك القديس يوحنا بقوله: " وجاء ملاك آخر ووقف عند المذبح ومعه مجرة من ذهب واعطى بخوراً كثيراً لكي يقدمه مع صلوات القديسين جميعهم... فصعد دخان البخور مع صلوات القديسين من يد الملاك الى الله (رؤ 8:3-4)

† ويرجع استخدام البخور في العبادة الى الكنيسة الاولى حيث نصت عليه تعاليم الرسل (الديسقولية). وهو استمرار لخدمة رفع البخور التي امر الرب موسى بممارستها عندما قال له: "خذ لك عطراً... فتصنعها بخوراً عطراً... ويكون عندك مقدساً للرب..." (خروج 20: 24-28)

† وتنقسم خدمة رفع البخور الى قسمين:
1- صلاة رفع بخور عشية، وتقام في المساء.
2- صلاة رفع بخور باكر، وتقام في الصباح (قبل القداس الإلهي)

† يمكن عمل خدمة رفع البخور بدون قداس، ولكن لا يصح عمل قداس بدون خدمة رفع بخور باكر على الاقل وتسبقها تسبحة نصف الليل. والقاعدة العامة ان كل قداس يجب ان يسبقه رفع بخور عشية وباكر الا قداسات ايام الصوم الكبير فلا تقام قبلها صلاة عشية ويستثنى من ذلك قداسات ايام الاحاد فيه.

(يتبع)



Abouna said to me:

" Son... the Divine Liturgy is in fact the meal of the Last Supper which the disciples enjoyed having Christ at the head of the table... Vespers and Matins prayers prepare you to participate in Eucharist and enjoy it... so don't forget to attend them regularly."



أبي الكاهن قال لي:

" يا ولدي: ان القداس الإلهي هو بالحقيقة وليمة العشاء الاخير التي فيها اشترك التلاميذ واستمتعوا بحضور السيد المسيح نفسه قائماً على رأس المائدة. ان صلوات عشية وباكر تعديك لكي تستمتع بالاشتراف في هذه المائدة السماوية، فلا يفوتك حضورها. "

OUR DESERT FATHERS

"When you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do...that they may have glory from men... But.. do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Matthew 6:2-3)

ABBA PIMOWA And ST. MELANIA

A Rich Woman

† St. Melania was a rich Roman woman of Spanish origin. She was the daughter of a noble man named Morcellinus. At the age of 22 she became a widow, she didn't wish to remarry, and she chose to leave the life of luxury in Rome and go to the East where she spent the rest of her life in travels where she served the poor, the sick and the prisoners.

A Pious Monk

† In A.D. 393 Melania went to Egypt, and during her stay, she visited the fathers in the desert of Nitria, and there she met a pious monk, Pimowa by name. She offered him, as a gift, a bag containing 300 silver pounds, and she begged him to accept it for his needs.

St. Pimowa Blesses Melania

† The man of God, who was 70 years old, was sitting and weaving palm leaves, merely blessed Melania saying: "May God reward you." Then he spoke to his disciple: "Origen, take this bag and distribute its contents among the poor monks in Lybia, for their monasteries are poor. Do not dispose any of it in Egypt where the monks are better off."

Melania Seeks Glory

† Melania was still standing by, expecting to be praised for her generosity, but St. Pimowa resumed his work with the palm leaves without looking at her. She thought that he did not know how much was in the bag, then she spoke to him: "So, you may know, father, the bag contains three hundreds pounds of silver."

An Advice ... Better Be Silent

† Without even changing his countenance, he answered Melania: "My daughter, he who weighs the mountains knows better the amount of silver... . You had reason to speak if you are giving it to me, but if you are giving it to God, who did not overlook the two mites of the widow, then better keep silent."

St. Pimowa's Departure

† A few days later, St. Pimowa sent for Melania, he was about finishing his last basket. He gave it to her saying: "Take this from my hand so that you

صاحب القداسة الاببا الانبا شنودة الثالث

يرأس جلسات مجلس الكنائس العالمي المنعقد في استراليا

† غادر قداسة الاببا الانبا شنودة الثالث القاهرة متوجها الى استراليا ليرأس جلسات مجلس الكنائس العالمي المنعقد في استراليا ماراً في طريقه بأمريكا حيث وصل قداسته نيويورك بعد ظهر الخميس ١٠ يناير في زيارة قصيرة التقى بأبنائه كهنة امريكا وكندا وقام بتدشين كنيسة القديس الانبا ابرام بلونج ايلاند كما القى بعض المحاضرات بالكلية الاكليريكية بنيوجيرسي، وقد رأس قداسته عيد الغطاس مساء يوم ١٨ يناير.

† غادر قداسته نيوجيرسي يوم ١٩ يناير متوجها الى كليفلاند حيث زار كنيسة القديس مرقس بها، ورأس صباح يوم ٢٠ يناير صلاة القداس الالهي، وقام برسامة بعض الشمامسة. وفي نفس اليوم اختتم قداسته زيارته لكليفلاند متوجهاً الى لوس انجلوس.

† غادر قداسته لوس انجلوس صباح يوم ٢ فبراير متوجها في رعاية الله الى استراليا. ويرافق قداسته في هذه الرحلة صاحبي النيافة الانبا بولا اسقف طنطا ورئيس المجلس الاكليريكي العام والانبا صرايون اسقف الخدمات.



may remember me, for I have nothing else for you." After this he fell asleep in the Lord. Melania treasured the basket till the day of her death.

EPIPHANY

A Major Feast

Every year, on January 19th (Tobi 11) our Church celebrates the feast of Epiphany. Epiphany is a Greek word which means manifestation and it refers to the baptism of our lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan River by John the Baptist.

THE LAKKAN

Or Blessing of the Water

How Gentle Our Lord Was

† When Jesus was thirty years old , we saw Him coming from Nazareth to Jordan , to John the Baptist, to be baptized by him. John felt that he was incapable of receiving this honor and he tried to talk Jesus out of it by saying : " I have need to be baptized by you, and are you coming to me ?" (Math. 3:4), Jesus said to John : " Permit it to be so now."How gentle our Lord was...

How Lowly He Was

† A great number of people came to John to repent and to be baptized and to cleanse themselves from their sins. Jesus who had no sin came with those sinners to be baptized How lowly He was. Although our Lord was very lowly , He was exalted from heaven, and when He was baptized the Spirit of God descended like a dove and alighted on Him and a voice from heaven said : " This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." (Math. 3:16-17)

A Lesson to learn

† Let us learn from our Lord to be Lowly and gentle with others. We must always remember to say " please" and be nice to others. Our Lord said: " Learn of me , for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Math.11:29)

A Major Feast

† Our Church considers this event, the baptism of

our Lord Jesus Christ, as one of the major feasts of the Church. It is called "Epiphany " because during His baptism the Holy Trinity was revealed (or manifested): The Father speaks from heaven, the Son in the Jordan River being baptized , and the Holy Spirit taking the shape of a dove.

The Lakkan

† On Epiphany eve, just before the Divine Liturgy a special service is held in the Church. It is called "The Lakkan" which means "The blessing of the water". It is held to commemorate the blessing of the water of the Jordan River by having the Lord Jesus baptized in it .

† In this service, abouna asks God's blessing of the water contained in a vessel set before him, saying " Bless this water which is set before thee and give it the blessing that you gave to the Jordan river by the descent of the Holy Spirit..... Let it be a fountain of blessing, a holy gift, a healer of the sickness of the body and the soul.....and a blessing to the homes....."

† At the end of the service abouna blesses the people with that water by crossing their foreheads three times. The people also fill small bottles with that water and take them home to use them when there is sickness in the family or to bless a new home, office, car...etc...

اجتماعيات

تهنئ الكنييسة ابناءها:

† الابن المبارك مارك بطرس لنواله درجة الاغنسطس .
† الابناء المباركين: ميكل حبيب، جيمى بسخيرون ،
جوى بنيامين، دافيد مرقس، دانيال موسى، وتونى واندرى
عبد المسيح . لنوالهم درجة الابسلطس .

† الدكتور جورج منير وعروسه الدكتورة نهلة غليوم بزفانها
المبارك. الرب يحفظهما ثابتين على العهد المقدس .
† الاستاذ سمير ميشيل وزوجته السيدة سعاد بعماد مولودهما
صونيل .

تتقدم الكنييسة بخالص العزاء:

† للاستاذ البير اسكندر لوفاة شقيقه المرحوم ادوارد اسكندر
† والسيدة تريزا سورى لوفاة والدها المرحوم زكى يوسف الاسيوطى .
والرب نسال ان ينيح الراحلين الكريمين فى احضان اباثنا القديسين وان يعزى زويهما .