

من كلمات صاحب القدايسة  
الاببا الانبا شنودة الثالث

## صفحة الاستشهاد المشرقة

✠ هذه الصفحة الرائعة من التاريخ ما اعتمها وما ابدعها، انها مثالا عجيبا، كلما تأملناها نرتفع الى افاق ونغمس في اعماق الروحيات، ولا نظن ان العالم يمكن ان يصل اليها مرة ثانية في اجياله.

✠ كان الروح القدس يعمل في الكنيسة الاولى، وكانت الكنيسة آلة طبيعة في يد الروح القدس يعمل بها عجباً. وكان من عمله صفحة الاستشهاد المشرقة. تقرأ هذه الصفحة المجيبة فنشعر بالحب العنيف الذي لم تقوى عليه كل وسائل العنف، ونرى الرسوخ والصلابة في الايمان بوضع لم تستطع ان تزعزع وحشية الاباطرة وقسرة الولاة.

✠ وندهش كيف احتمل ابائنا عذابات تقشع لجرد سردها او قراتها، كيف ثبتوا وكيف اتمصروا، وكيف استطاع السدم المسفوك ان يحطم السيف المسلول!



تمنيّة

اطيب تمنياتنا قلبينا  
لأبينا الطوباوي المكرم  
صاحب القدايسة الاببا  
الانبا شنودة الثالث  
بمناسبة

عيد النيروز

الرب نسال ان يمتعم بالصحة والعافية وان يحفظكم ذخراً  
للكنيسة ويديم رئاستكم سنين كثيرة وازمنة سالمة مديدة.

## THE NAYROUZ FEAST (Coptic New Year) 1708

**N**ayrouz is the feast of the Coptic martyrs. Our Church believes that martyrdom is the beginning of its history. It started its calendar in the year 284 A.D., the year in which Diocletian became emperor of the Roman Empire.

✠ Diocletian horrified the entire world with his persecution of Christians. It was said that He went to Egypt to torture and kill Christians by himself till their blood reached his horse's knees. Thousands of Christians were martyred.

✠ By doing so, Diocletian thought that he would wipe up Christianity, but in fact, his persecution allowed Christianity to grow bigger within the empire, and the cruelty suffered by the Christians brought forth the good quality of Christianity.

✠ Our early fathers did not fear persecution but rather they surrendered their lives joyfully to die for their love to Christ. We are the children of those martyrs, and when we compare their demeanor with ours, one can't help but admire their sacrifice, love and giving, and would realize their high spiritual life in contrast with ours, those who were tortured not accepting deliverance, considering everything as nil in their desire to be with Christ .... where are we from viewing those martyrs?!

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate  
Mary Coptic Orthodox Church  
F.A.S.E.  
كثيسة السيدة العذراء مريم  
القطبية الارثوذكسية بهيكلها

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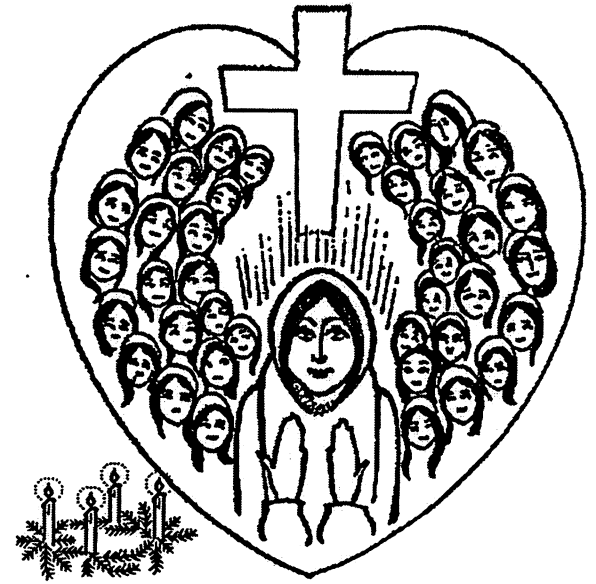
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السنة ٦ - العدد ٧ - سبتمبر ١٩٩١

A HAPPY

COPTIC

NEW YEAR

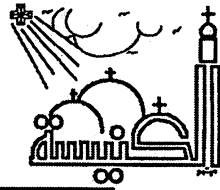


St. Domiana & the 40 virgins "... were slain with the sword... of whom the world was not worthy." (Hebrews 11:35-38)

# Know Your CHURCH

كنايسة كبرى

## A WOMAN MARTYR



### NOT ALL THE MARTYRS WERE MEN, FOR WOMEN ALSO SHARED THIS GLORY

#### SAINT DOMIANA

✦ This was the name of a young Coptic girl whose name found its place among the list of martyrs. She sacrificed her life for the love of Christ and the Church. She lived in the third century during the reign of the wicked emperor Diocletian.

✦ Domiana spent her childhood living an easy life in the palace of her father Mark who was the governor of Al-Borolos, a province in Egypt. She was a well educated girl, known for her beauty and good character. As she grew, her faith also grew and her heart was overflowed with the Divine love.

✦ Eventually, when her father proposed marriage to her, she said to him, "Father, I have decided to place my life in the hands of Him whom I love. A love that filled my heart so that there is no more room in it for any worldly love."

✦ Her parents welcomed her decision, and built a palace for her at Al-Zafaran where she lived with forty other virgins who had also dedicated themselves to the Lord. They all lived peacefully and happily together for some years.

#### An Appeal To Her Father

✦ Soon, however, the worst of all persecutions against Christianity took place during the reign of Diocletian who commanded to burn incense before the idols. Her father Mark weakened and obeyed the emperor's

orders of burning incense to the idols.

✦ On hearing the news, Domiana was greatly distressed and she went to her father and said, "It would have been tolerable to hear of you death than to know that you have denied our beloved Saviour." Domiana's words filled her father's heart with courage and he set out immediately to meet Diocletian and declared his faith before him. The emperor was outraged and commanded his men to cut off Mark's head, and thus he gained the crown of martyrdom.

#### Her Steadfastness

✦ A few days later, Diocletian came to know that the young Domiana was the cause of her father's return to Christianity. So, he sent his soldiers to arrest her. The soldiers tried in vain to make Domiana and the other forty virgins deny their faith. At the end, at Diocletian's command, Domiana and the forty virgins were beheaded for the sake of their beloved Saviour.

#### A Wonderful Sight

✦ It was indeed a wonderful sight, when the virgins were beheaded, a company of angels appeared bearing 41 crowns and crowned the martyred virgins.

#### Abouna Said To Me:

"Martyrs struggled against Kings and chiefs and refused to denounce their faith. Whoever goes after his lust has already denounced Christ. You stand against the King of sin and the prince of this world, if you die to sin and overcome the desires of the flesh, you will become a martyr.."



## SUFFERING.... ..A PATH TO GLORY

*"If so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together." (Rom 8:17)*

✦ Suffering is a blessing permitted by God to bring man to glory....  
Martyrs suffered... All their suffering will be forgotten "and God shall wipe away tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain for the former things are passed away."

(Revelation 21:4)

✦ Their suffering will be comparatively light in comparison with the glory that results from it. As St. Paul puts it, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

(Romans 8:18)

✦ One of the saints says that he saw in a vision a group of martyrs more dazzling in glory than the angels who appeared with them. Around the necks of those who had been beheaded he saw garlands of red flowers in the place where the sword had struck and they shone and sparkled more brilliantly and brightly than any other light in the vision.