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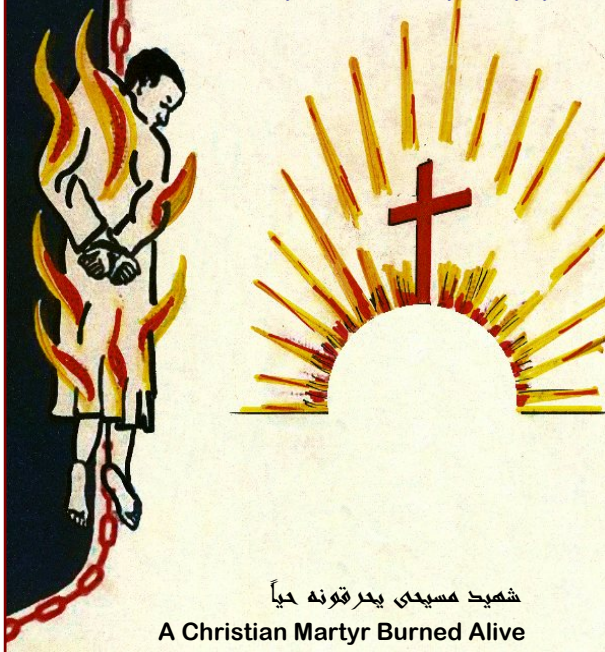
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They "Were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection"

(Hebrews 11: 35)

"محبوبوا ولم يقبلوا النجاة لكي يدالوا قيامة أفضل"



شهيد مسيحي يحرقونه حياً  
A Christian Martyr Burned Alive

*Martyrdom is the story behind preaching the Gospel to the whole world. The Christian faith has spread by the bloodshed more than by preaching and teaching.*

The Late Abba Youannis

الاستشهاد هو قصة الكرازة بالإنجيل للعالم أجمع، وللخليقة كلها. فالإيمان المسيحي كان ينتشر بشهادة الدم أكثر من انتشاره بالوعظ والتعليم.  
المتنح الأنا يوانس



### The Philosophy of Martyrdom

Martyrdom was not a spur of the moment notion adopted by the simpleminded Christians, but it was a philosophy that Christians of all walks of life have taken deep to heart. It is a deep philosophy that stems from the strong spiritual principles, which the early Christians kept, thus sacrificing themselves as symbols of love and strong faith.

### The Cemetery of the Martyrs:

El Ahram, an Egyptian newspaper, published in its May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1982 issue a brief note that said a new cemetery was discovered in the area of Bagawat in Elwadi El Gedid that went back to the era of the Roman persecution of Christians in Egypt. It took a whole year of excavation to dig out the cemetery and it was called "The Cemetery of the Martyrs"

### The Contents of the Cemetery:

The cemetery contains ten burnt bodies. Each body had a wooden cross around the neck. Above the cemetery, a church was built that had a secret passage leading to the cemetery. At half a meter distance from the entrance a boulder fixed on wooden beams to cover a well. Three meters deep they discovered two rooms four square meters each. In each room there was a wooden bed on which there were five burnt mummies covered with a linen cloth in a good condition. These mummies were the burnt bodies of the ten martyrs who were tortured with fire till death. After their death the Christians took the bodies and put a wooden cross around the neck of each one. Then they hid the bodies in a grave and built a church on top.

This discovery helps to shed more light on the Roman persecutions, which the Christians in Egypt had endured for about three centuries, under the reign of the wicked Roman Emperors.

### Where are we compared to them?

By presenting this example of the heroic acts of our early fathers it is our intention to find consolation and hope, and to learn by their example. When we compare our faith, love and sacrifice to theirs we realize that they were the real Christians who willingly faced death and courageously declared "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

(Phil. 1:21)

### فلسفة الاستشهاد:

لم يكن الاستشهاد فكرة طارئة، ساذجة اعتنقها بسطاء المسيحيين بل كان فلسفة عميقة تستند الى مبادئ روحية قوية تعلق بها المسيحيون الأوائل من جميع الطبقات والأجناس مقدمين ذواتهم مثلاً للحب والبذل وقوة الإيمان.

### مقبرة الشهداء:

نشرت جريدة الأهرام المصرية بعددها الصادر بالقاهرة يوم السبت 23 مايو 1982 خبراً موجزاً مؤداه أنه قد تم اكتشاف مقبرة جديدة بمنطقة البحوات بالوادي الجديد يرجع تاريخها الى عصر الاضطهاد الذي واجهه المسيحيون بمصر تحت حكم الأباطرة الرومان. وقد تم اكتشاف المقبرة بعد عام كامل من البحث والتنقيب. وأطلق عليها اسم "مقبرة الشهداء".

### محتويات المقبرة:

تحتوي المقبرة على عشرة موميאות لأجساد محترقة معلق برقبة كل منها صليب خشبي، وفوق المقبرة توجد كنيسة لها باب سرى يؤدي الى المقبرة. وعلى بعد نصف متر من الباب يوجد حجر كبير مثبت في دعائم خشبية يسد فوهة بئر. وعلى عمق ثلاثة أمتار توجد حجرتان مساحة كل حجرة منهما أربعة أمتار مربعة. ويوجد بكل حجرة من الحجرتين سرير خشبي عليه خمسة موميאות محترقة ومغطاه بملاية من الكتان في حالة جيدة. والعشرة موميאות هي أجساد لعشرة شهداء عذبهم الرومان حرقاً بالنار حتى الموت. وبعد موتهم حمل المسيحيون أجسادهم المحترقة ودفنهم في تلك المقبرة بعد أن علقوا حول أعناقهم صلبان من الخشب. ثم شيدوا فوقها كنيسة. إن اكتشاف تلك المقبرة يلقي مزيداً من الضوء على بشاعة الاضطهادات التي واجهها المسيحيون بمصر على مدى ما يقرب من ثلاثة قرون تحت حكم الأباطرة الرومان القساة.



### أين نحن منهم؟

ونحن إذ نقدم هذا النموذج لأبائنا الشهداء الأبطال، إنما نفعل ذلك حتى يكون لنا معزياً وبعثاً على الرجاء الحي فنتمثل بهم. إننا حين نعقد المقارنات بيننا وبينهم في الإيمان والحب والبذل، تأخذنا رعدة ونعرف أين نحن من هؤلاء الذين واجهوا الموت بفرح، وهم بشجاعة يعلنون "لي الحياة هي المسيح والموت هو ربح."

"St. Mary's 7th Anniversary"

Our church will celebrate this great event  
on Sunday, November 16th, 2003, 5:00 PM  
at Chicago Marriott Schaumburg.



## Clergy Seminar – 2003

August 25th –27th

H.H. Pope Shenouda III headed the annual seminar at St. Mary Spiritual Vineyard in Boston. Among the subjects, H.H. talked about, was “homosexuality”, the assembly condemned homosexuality, ordination of homosexuals and same-sex marriage as they go against teachings of the Holy Bible.

Among the other topics discussed were: marriage, Coptic Language, catering to the needs of youths and establishing Coptic schools aboard. H.G. Bishop Souril gave a memorable lecture about the “Mormon”.

## Condolences To

Dr. Rifaat Abd Elmalik and his sister Mona Youssef for the passing away of their uncle the Late Dr. Halim Greis.

Michael and Adel Farag and their sisters Sohair, Laila and Mary for the passing away of their mother the late Mrs. Awatef Sakla

May the Lord repose the souls of the deceased and console their grieving families.

*“As soon as the days of his service were completed that he departed to his own house.”*

(Luke 1: 23)

### Rev. Fr. Daniel Farag

Archpriest of St. Mina Church in River-side, CA passed away on Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup> 2003 after celebrating the Divine Liturgy. May the Lord repose his soul, reward him richly and console his family and congregation, through the prayers of H.G. Bishop Serapion.



*On Friday September 12<sup>th</sup>, an early Divine Liturgy Service will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 AM to celebrate the beginning of the Coptic New Year (Nayrouz Feast)*

## St. Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey (4)

### The Philippian Jailer

(Acts 16: 19-40)



Sts. Paul and Silas were imprisoned for no other reason than that of healing a poor slave girl. The multitude rise up together against them, and after they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them in prison commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Accordingly, the jailer threw them into a dark dirty dungeon, making their feet secure in the stocks. Then he went off to bed to sleep.

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the prisoners were listening to them... God was watching. Suddenly the ground begins to shake, the prison walls totter, the gates open, the chains snap and the stocks fall asunder.

The jailer, awakening from sleep, seeing the prison doors open and everyone chains were loosed, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself. Instantly Paul's voice sounds out: *“Do yourself no harm, for we are all here”*. (act 16: 18)

Jesus has now intervened for deliverance. The jailer feeling guilty, rushes in with his lamp and falls terrified on the ground before the Apostles saying: *“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”* (Act 16: 30). At once Paul declares, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”* (Act 16: 31). The jailer accepted the message and he and his family believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and they were all baptized.

## Faith versus Works

People who accept the Lord Jesus Christ become happy, free and kind to others. They love, not beating bodies, but washing wounds. And that was what the Philippian jailer did immediately after believing. He took Sts Paul and Silas and washed their wounds. He brought them into his house, and set food before them... His faith was accompanied by his works.

St. James gives us an example saying; *“Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? ...a man is justified by works, and not by faith only....for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also”* (James 2: 21-26)

## تأمل An Insight

### الإيمان مقابل الأعمال

إن كل من يؤمن بالسيد المسيح يحيا حراً سعيداً مترقفاً بالغير.. وبدلاً من تجريح الأجساد فإنه يعمل على تضييد الجراح. وهذا ما فعله سجان فيلي مع الرسولين بولس وسيلا. بمجرد إيمانه بالسيد المسيح. فقد أخذ الرسولين وغسل جراحهما ثم صحبهما الى بيته مقدماً لهما مائدة وهو متهلل مع جميع أهل بيته.. لقد كان إيمانه مقترناً بأعماله.

قد أعطانا معلمنا يعقوب الرسول مثلاً على ذلك فقال: *“ألم يتبرر ابراهيم أبونا بالأعمال إذ قدم اسحق ابنه على المذبح؟ ومن هذا نرى أن الإيمان عَمِلَ مع أعماله وبالأعمال أُكْمِلَ الإيمان.... أى انه بالأعمال يتبرر الانسان لا بالإيمان وحده لأنه كما أن الجسد بدون روح ميت هكذا الإيمان أيضاً بدون أعمال*