The Story of Sheikh El-Azhar -- We Can Only Win Others through Agape Love

Pope Kyrillos VI was visiting an elderly Metropolitan who was sick at the Coptic Hospital in Cairo, when he (the Pope) suddenly addressed his secretary saying: "Let's go to El-Azhar to visit Sheikh Hassan Ma'amoun, Sheikh El-Azhar." (The position of Sheikh El-Azhar is considered to be one of the most authoritative in Islam.)

His secretary answered: "Sayedna, we can arrange for an official appointment for Your Holiness, since this is the first time for a Coptic Patriarch to visit El-Azhar and meet high-rank Muslim clerics there." But the Pope insisted (as if a strong spirit was pushing him to do so) and said: "We will go now and God will make all things work to the good.

Pope Kyrillos went to El-Azhar Mosque, remained in his automobile and sent his secretary to ask for the permission to meet Sheikh Hassan Ma'amoun. Sheikh Hassan was in a meeting when they informed him about the Pope's request. He immediately left the meeting and went to greet Pope Kyrillos. When the Pope knew that Sheikh Hassan Ma'amoun is waiting for him, he left his pastoral rod and cross behind him in the car in order not to offend anyone. And maybe he remembered what Christ said to St. Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness".

As the Pope entered the office of Sheikh Hassan Ma'amoun, he noticed that the Sheikh suffers from Parkinson's disease in his hands, so the Pope took the Sheikh's hands between his (the Pope's) palms. At this moment, Sheikh Hassan -- as a patient -- picked the Pope's touch of sincere love, and with it his (the Sheikh's) heart was opened, even before his ears, to listen to Pope Kyrillos.

After greetings, the Pope immediately said: "I would like to ask Your Excellency a question." The Sheikh replied: "Please do Mao'lana." The Pope continued: "The Crusades War was it between Christians and their Muslim brothers in Egypt or between foreign Westerners and Muslims?" Sheikh Hassan Ma'amoun answered: "It was undoubtedly between foreign Westerners and Muslims." (At that time, there were fierce attacks on Christians by journalists and radio presenters in Egypt; they used to say that the Crusades War was led by the Coptic Christians of Egypt against Muslims.)

The Pope replied: "You have rightly answered, so may I ask Your Excellence to issue a declaration to be published in newspapers and broadcast in the radio mentioning what you have just said so that the matter is made clear to the whole nation of Egypt, because some are telling the public contrary to what you have said, which might cause a Muslim brother to kill his Christian brother".

Sheikh Hassan Ma'amoun was very much affected and said: "I will issue a declaration to be published tomorrow in official newspapers and broadcast in the radio, and I will send you a copy of this declaration early in the morning, God willing".

Pope Kyrillos thanked Sheikh El-Azhar, and his visit effectively stopped Muslim/Christian bloodshed in Egypt and enabled the Church to live in peace.
The declaration was issued on the next day and was very well received and accepted by all the nation. The secretary of El-Azhar Mosque came to the Papal Residence to deliver to the Pope a copy of the declaration as promised by His Excellency Sheikh El-Azhar. The Pope thanked him and greeted him. The secretary of El-Azhar asked the Pope before leaving to permit him to pay a visit (to the Pope) every month just to have his (the Pope's) blessing, and the Pope welcomed his request.

Psalms 139:11-12 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

From Deborah Hendrickse (Lusaka, Zambia)
On the 24th of November 2000, I was admitted to the Coptic Clinic of St Mark in Lusaka, Zambia. I was in great distress and unable to breathe. The good Dr Moheb and his good wife Dr Eman did everything possible for me. They worked unceasingly for hours to relieve the stress from my chest. Nothing seemed to be working. At some point in the afternoon, Eman placed under my pillow a tract of Pope Kyrillos VI. She told me he was famous for providing comfort and performing great miracles. It remained under my pillow unread. Around 4:00 am Saturday 25th, I suffered yet another crisis. The doctor, his nurse and his good wife once again began the battle for my life. I remember praying at one point, but everything was in a blur of pain and panic.

At one point I looked up and saw two men standing in the room, one old with a great white beard, the other young with curly dark hair. I could not see his face. I presumed they were priests from the church. When I looked again they were accompanied by four women, two wore scarves and the hair of the other two were bound. I then recognised Pope Kyrillos, but couldn't recognise the younger man whose face I couldn't see (had his back to me). A voice in my head said: "Call him Mina". I did not speak as I was yet unsure as to what I was seeing. The four women presented the Pope with four loaves of round bread. He turned and smiled at me.. I fell a touch on my shoulder and I knew this was the curly haired Mina. I realised then that they were there for me.

A feeling of complete peace came upon me and to the amazement of all, I fell asleep. The first sleep in forty-eight hours. In the morning I asked Eman who Mina was and told her the story. Everyone was happy. Especially since a blue stripe had appeared on the wall during the visitation.

I received visitors, Father John, his wife Shireen, the good lady Mona and her husband, Sister Vareena, Eman and the good doctor. Whilst we were speaking I suffered a seizure. Sister Vareena began to pray and anointed me with Holy Oil. Once again I was filled with a deep and profound peace. I slept for about one minute. I awoke with a very strong re-affirmation of faith and totally able to breathe. I have not felt this happy in years. I truly believe that God in his greatness through the intercession of Pope Kyrillos and St Mina, via the blessed hands of Eman and Sister Vareena granted not one, but two miracles.
I thank the lord my God, his saints and his earthly angels, Eman, Sister Vareena, Mona and Shireen whom I believe were the givers of the bread (their prayers) and my doctor Moheb and Father John. To all I offer my eternal thanks and friendship. May the grace of Our Lord Jesus be forever with them.

**The Mexican Chap**
From Mr Ezzat Gaber El-Sab'aa, Los Angeles
I met a lady from Mexico and she was crying bitterly because her son has been shot and wounded upon leaving the factory (where he works). The man's condition was very critical; the lady mentioned that he was about to die. I couldn't find anything to do for her except to give her a picture of Pope Kyrillos VI, asking her to put it under her son's pillow at the hospital. Her son was scheduled for an operation the next day, and I left the lady hoping that she would tell me the outcomes. She was extremely sad as a mother, especially that her son was still young. After a week the lady returned and told me very happily that the operation was successful in an unexpected way. After few days, she brought her son with her and he too was very happy. She explained all the steps that took place and how the miracle was done with the blessing of this saint that she didn't know before.

**The Jordanian Friend**
Mr Ezzat also reported the following miracle:
A Jordanian friend of mine who owns a petrol station was always under attack by gangsters who used to come to the station to steal and break glass and doors. I gave him a large photo of Pope Kyrillos VI, and he hanged it in his station. Then he took two other small pictures of Pope Kyrillos and St. Mina and put them in his wallet. And from that day, those evil bandits left him and his sales and profits increased very much. The man felt the blessing of this great saint.
From Miss Hoda Sobhy (Teacher - El-Mahala El-Kobra, Egypt)

My mother was suffering from a big abscess in her foot that prevented her from sleeping for three days and nights. She was planning to visit a doctor the next morning upon our return from the monastery.

As we have been talking about Pope Kyrillos VI, she put a copy of one of his books of miracle accounts (Vol. III) on her head, while I sat beside her reading for her from Vol. II of the same book series.

Suddenly, my mother asked: "What is this water that is being sprinkled on my face?" We told her: "Where is this water you are talking about?" She said: "I feel as if a person has sprinkled water on me" We replied: "There is no water around us now".

We didn't bother about what happened, but my mother was able to have a good sleep that night. When she awoke in the morning, we couldn't find any trace of the abscess!

Did Pope Kyrillos come to our home and sprinkle holy water on my mother as he used to do while in flesh before his departure to heaven? Probably this is what happened.

From Eng. Fidor Fouad Isaac (works at the Egyptian Telecommunication Organisation -- Microwace Project)

In 1968, I had an emergency appendicectomy, as my appendix was about to perforate but God saved my life. After the operation, I was in severe agony asking for any sedative medication to calm my pain. I prayed to God asking for the intercession of Pope St. Kyrillos VI, then slept and dreamed that Pope Kyrillos is blessing me.

After I recovered and left the hospital, I went to see the Pope and said to him: "Sayedna, I saw your holiness in my dream." Pope Kyrillos immediately replied: "You are the man who had an appendicectomy?" and he struck me with his cross over the place of the surgical incision.

Until now, I don't know how the Pope knew that I was "the man who had an appendicectomy", and how he visited me at night (in my dream).

A Non-Christian Lady Passing through Hardship

An elder bishop full of love and who rarely speaks tells this story:

I was at St. Mina Monastery accompanied by one of the saintly metropolitans who have recently departed to heaven, when a woman working as nurse in El-Mansourah City came asking to return a sum of money to the monastery as requested by the one who gave her this money. She was asked to tell her story. She said: "My family and I were passing through a difficult financial hardship. We tried by all means to find a way out of it but failed. Creditors were about to take my home, and my salary is limited. Amidst all this and when all doors were closed before me, my doorbell rang. I opened the door to find an elder man dressed exactly like you, but whom I cannot recognise among you now. Without any introductions, he told me: 'I know your circumstances'. He gave me an envelope containing a sum of money and said: 'Take this envelope and pay all your debts, and when circumstances are better return
the money to St. Mina Monastery in Mariut.' Then he disappeared and I didn't see him. And because I was badly in need, I opened the envelope and paid my debts, and thanks God, my circumstances are now better. I came today to return the debt to the elder who helped me".

On hearing this, the fathers who were listening to the woman's story felt that the man who rendered this great humane service to this lady must definitely be their father and shepherd, Pope Kyrillos VI.

They took the lady to Pope St. Kyrillos VI's shrine (where his body is present and photos of the saint meeting other people are all around on the walls; the shrine is situated under the cathedral's sanctuary). They asked her: "Can you see in these photos someone who looks like the elder man who gave you the money?" The lady raised her voice while pointing at one photo then at another one and saying: "Yes, here he is, the man who visited me"!!

One of the fathers then told her: "My lady, the elder who visited you is Pope Kyrillos VI and his body is lying here for many years now"!!!

The woman was surprised and couldn't speak a word. She delivered the envelope and left!

All Glory be to God.

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Holy Oil and Water from Pope Kyrillos' Windmill
From Dr. Nancy Rashed, 98 El-Shorouk Buildings, Nasr City, Cairo, Egypt

I suffered sudden severe pain during my ninth month of gestation, which I first attributed to pregnancy. But when the pain increased in frequency and intensity, I went to see a
consultant gynaecologist and obstetrician. He asked that an abdominal sonography be done, which showed many small gallstones with inflammation of the wall of the gallbladder (see English report below--before the miracle). I then delivered by Caesarean section, but two professors of internal medicine, and another physician who was dean of the Institute of Hepatology decided that there was no other option but to remove the gallbladder by surgery (cholecystectomy). I was admitted to Nile Badrawi Hospital for the gallbladder operation only two weeks later (after my Caesarean section) as my medical condition at that time didn't allow any delay. The pre-operative laboratory tests revealed a severe elevation of liver enzymes. This news was a shock to me because it meant that the operation had to be postponed indefinitely until liver enzymes return back to their normal ranges. I remained in this dilemma for about two months and half during which I had tests done to detect different types of hepatitis A, B, C, but the results were negative. During that period, the pains (biliary colic) were very intense and continuous that even analgesic injections weren't quickly effective.

I was praying to God to relieve me from these pains, asking for the intercession of His saints that they may come to my help. On 7 March 1998, I visited Pope Kyrillos VI's windmill with my husband, my father-in-law and my mother-in-law. We asked for his intercession during these days that coincided with the feast of his departure (9 March). The monk priest at the windmill put Pope Kyrillos' pastoral rod, scarf and monastic garb (eskeem) on the place where I had the pain. He also gave me holy oil and holy water to drink every day. He asked me not to be careless regarding his advice.

I returned back to hospital to prepare for the operation after the return of liver enzymes to their normal range. A new sonography revealed that the gallstones I had have fused into one large stone at the edge of the bile duct, and another sonography was scheduled for the next day. I remembered my Father's advice (at the windmill), so I drank from the holy water, which I had forgotten.

The next day, another sonography was done under the supervision of a professor in internal medicine. It showed that the gallbladder is completely normal with no inflammation in its wall (see English report below--after the miracle). Everyone was surprised, especially the surgeon who told me: "You always come up with surprises!" I thank God who took many pains away from me through the intercession of Pope Kyrillos VI.

A sick woman brought to the Pope Kyrillos VI's residence in an ambulance. She was cured after being anointed with oil by His Holiness.
ABDOMINAL SONOGRAPHY

NAME : NANSY RASHED RAPLA
DATE : 16-Jan-98
REFERRED BY: AMR BEY.
ULTRASONOGRAPHIC SCANNING REVEALED :

- Liver is mildly enlarged showing smooth surface, sharp margin and a parenchyma reflecting uniform - bright fatty echo-pattern. No focal defects or dilated bile ducts. Portal vein is not dilated.

- Gall bladder is contracted over multiple stones. CBD is not dilated (2mm).

- Spleen is not enlarged, texture is uniform.

- Pancreas is normal in size and shape.

- Both kidneys are normal in size with normal parenchymal echogenicity. No stones, cysts or back-pressure changes. The urinary bladder is of regular outline, average wall thickness with no intraluminal masses or stones.

- No evident intra-abdominal adnopathy.

- No ascites.

CONCLUSIONS:
- HEPATOMEGALY - FATTY.
- CHRONIC CALCULAR CHOLECYSTITIS.

Signature
Dr. AHMED FARID

CORNICH EL MAADI TEL.: 363868

الدرعاشر – الحجز يومياً من ٩ – ٥
10th floor - reservation from 9 – 5
ABDOMINAL SONOGRAPHY

NAME: Mrs. Nancy Rashid

DATE: 11-Mar-98

REFERRED BY:

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC SCANNING REVEALED:

- Liver is average in size with a homogenous echopattern, no focal defects or dilated bile ducts. Portal vein is not dilated.
- Gall bladder is normal in size and wall thickness, no stones or mud detected inside. CBD is free.
- Spleen is not enlarged, texture is uniform.
- Pancreas is normal in size and shape.
- Both kidneys are normal in size with normal parenchymal echogenicity. No stones, cysts or back-pressure changes.
- No evident intra-abdominal adenopathy.
- No ascites.

CONCLUSIONS:

NORMAL UPPER ABDOMINAL SONOGRAM.

Signature
Dr. Rada Amin, M.D
وقفأ غضب من جمال عبد الناصر
طلبت مقابلة مع الرئيس أكثر من عشر مرات، تأثرت عليه بعض المضايقات
والمشكلات التي تعرضاً له الكيسية. ومع الأسف لم تجدها استجابة. حتى جاء
لبقاء رئيس ثقافة هو عضو في مجلس الشعب. وكان يجيب، ودائم الزيارة لم تد تد
كان ابنه مهضا وصلت له وربنا شفاه. وجدني هذا الرجل متناضنا وعلانا
فسائر السبب.

وبعد من قداسة عدم استجابة الرئيس لطلباته، لم يكن هناك علاقة بينه
 وبين عبد الناصر علاقة وطيدة. فقد ورد بأن يقابل الرئيس، وطلب منه تحديد
 موعد للقاءه.
فغدا أمكننا الحصول على الموعد. رحب وأصحتي في سبارته إلى القصر
الجمهوري. وقابلني عبد الناصر بفترة شديد جداً، وبدأت الحانة بعدة: «إيه،
نفيني، فإيه. هم الأقباط عارين إيه. هم الأقباط هم كلهم في كده...»
أحسن من كده إيه. مطالب مطالب مطالب.

الفقابلة باينة من أرائها.

ومع ذلك، قلت له: «مش سألتك وتقول لي فيه إيه؟!» فرد على محتما
قائلًا: «هنج نبأ وقت عسانك أوتك وتقول لي. ما هو مشح حادة». ووجدت نفس غاضبة وعلانا، وقامت القبيبة: «ده بدل ما مستقبللي وعجبني
بتنجذ نهج ونسعى. وفي الآخر باعمل يا ما تعملش؟ كده من الأول تحاول
تعملني إن ما فيش وقت لعرض موضوعنا؟!» وخرجت عن طوعي وآنا زعلان،
وقلت له وأنا متشي غاضبا: «منك لله. منك لله..»

ورجعت إلى البطريان مع عضو مجلس الشعب، الذي يقع خلفه وانت غاضب.
واعتبرت لغاضتك وتائسك، قالت له، إن كنت خير، كن تستفيد الموعد.
أما استقبال عبد الناصر لي بهذه الطريقة إن ما يكون ذنب فيه. ووصلت إلى المقبرة
البابور ورجح.

أنا أنا رجعت إلى العشبة والتشبيبة والصلاة، ودخلت قلايتي لأمام.

وفي الساعة الثانية بعد منتصف الليل، حضر عضو مجلس الشعب، وطرق على
فتحته الباب، وطلب أن يقابل الرسول سليمان، وما إن التقى به حتى قال له:
عبد الناصر إزاع لباقة للغاية حال. راح سليمان أن يعذره له بنأك
عمل السجينة، وسماحك تعبانيا. ويا ما يمكن تقرر تحب، لأنه بعد ساعة ونصف
سوف تقوم لصلاة، غير أن الرجل طلب أن يخبطر على بابك فخطين، فإذا لم ترد
سوف يعود إلى عبد الناصر ينفول له أنه وجدك نائماً.
ولكن الذي حدث أنَّهُ قبل أن يُخفِّضَ على الباب، كانت أُنُمُّدتُ ملابسي، وفتحت الباب، وقلت له: "بالله يا خير، يا الله.

لقد عرفنا يا سيدي أنَّك ذاهب إلى بيت الرئيس عبد الناصر الذي في مصر الجديدة. ودخلنا مباشرة إلى غرفته أبطاله المريضة، والتي حضر إليها أكبر أطباء مصر. ووجدنا أنها لا تعاني أي أمراض عضوية، وقلت وانت تقترب إليها متبكَّسماً. ولا عيانة ولا حاجة.

اقترحنا منها وصلت لها قرآة الربع ساعة، وصرفت الروح النجس، وعدت اللائمة إلى طبيعتها قاماً.

لقد عرفنا إنَّ عبد الناصر قد تذكر ما قلته له عندما قابلت بالحافد (روح ملك الله).

فلما أكد الأطباء أنَّهُ لا يعاني أي أمراض عضوية، تكلم مع صديقه عضو مجلس الشعب ليحضره إلى بيتنا، فقد أطع أنَّهُ جمل صالح.

انسي الله إنَّ عبد الناصر بعد أن عادت الدهر لطبعته، مرحباً، في وجهه وقال لي: "إني من النهاردة أبوبًا". وأحضر زوجته وأولادها. وقال لي: "صلى لهم يا أبوبًا ما يتصل لأولادك المسيحين". فصلى لهم.

لقد قال لك: "من دوتبت أبوب ما تجبيش القصر الجمهوري. البيت، البيت.

وتيجي في أي وقت.

ومنذ ذلك اليوم، كانت العينية والتقدير والاحترام كل منا للاخر مثار إحجاب واهتمام.

كما كانت مناقشتنا تتم في جر من الصراح ويثبط مفتوح. وما أكثر مسائلة التحتم معه بعد ذلك.
http://www.stmina-monastery.org/
في إحدى زياراتنا للدير كان معنا أحد أهالينا وعائلته، وقد كان في زيارة مكثفة. وكان لدينا بعض الأشياء الخفيفة من أن تكون دفء. ويتضمن الموضوع في بيان الأدب العربي الفذة، يقدر به عدد من العلماء والدعاة.

وكلما طلبت من عبد سيدنا كان في ذهاب عدة علامات استفهامات، إذ كيف علمنا كنت بقدر من أسبوعين؟ بعما أن لا أحد من الآباء الروحاني أو العاملين بالدير يعرف؟ Whether we come to the problem of the door of the angel who holds the key to my heart, I must admit that I have</two_column_right>

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لا يوجد نص يمكن قراءته بشكل طبيعي من الصورة المقدمة.