

They Flew Out from the Church Dome

A beloved father and monk is telling the following story about our great saint, Pope Kyrillos (his feast was yesterday, March 9th):

What a blessing I gained when I served this simple and meek saint...I was in charge of lighting the lamps in front of the saints' icons in the church, and I used to sleep in the baptismal room. Then, late one night, I saw a venerable old man dressed in a priest clothing...with light emitting from him...and his face is like an angel's face...and he was holding the censor to give incense.. then he brought it closer to me...then, I woke up frightened... I was amazed to find the whole church lit... I asked, "Who lit the lamps?"...Then, I found myself in front of luminous people... I saw them pointing to me to be silent...and I became totally silent because of the great fear that came upon me...I was terrified and I slept...but the elder priest whom I saw in my sleep approached me and held me to get up... I said fearfully, "Leave me"; he said, "I want you"...and these words took away my fear and I became braver. He said to me, "come... come... you ate at 11 O'clock PM... if you had not eaten, I would have given you Communion" I asked him, "How did you know?" .. He answered, "God" and pointed his finger up to heaven.

I walked to the church...and I found it full with anchorites and Fr. Mina the Solitary (Pope Kyrillos when he was a priest and monk) was one of them... they were all dressed in white.... their looks were venerable like the angels...their voices were very beautiful; I never heard such beautiful voices in my life...they were praying in awe and reverence.... So, I approached each one of them to get his blessings and they were looking at me and smiling. Then, I sat with them until the end of the Mass, until the priest who was serving said, "Glory be to God in the Highest..." and he sprinkled the water.... and they left.

How they left !! ...a beautiful and amazing thing happened....this whole gathering of saints turned into white doves...hovering up high.. and flew out from the church dome....I heard the rustling of their wings while they were flying, leaving the church. All this took approximately 1 1/2 hours...I spent it in paradise... through the blessing of my father and teacher Fr. Mina the Solitary (Pope Kyrillos).

Fr. Mina the Solitary, as usual, did not talk to me about anything...but he knew what happened, as he asked me next day not to sleep in the baptismal room again. When I asked him about the reason, he said to me that I disturbed the anchorites the night before. And indeed, I did not sleep there again but I started sleeping in the room where the holy bread (Orban) was made while I was very sad. After a week, one of the anchorites came to me and told me not to be sad, and that I should obey my father because obedience is a wonderful thing...and he stressed that I should be obedient to him from all my heart...and he blessed me and left.....The Prayers and Blessings of Pope Kyrillos be always with us, Amen.....

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A Wolf Addicted To Coffee

The solitary monk, Fr. Mina Elbaramousy (who later became Pope Kyrillos the 6th) sat in the windmill that remained from centuries ago above the mountain of Mokatum...and it had no door. The saintly monk sat in his beautiful seclusion in this windmill and suddenly... a wild wolf breaks into his seclusion. Very quietly, the monk did the sign of the cross on it...then the wolf sat at his feet. Then the saintly father, the monk, asked him, "What do you want, you blessed wolf?"...And the wolf did not move until the morning. When the early morning hours approached with its chilly temperature, the monk got up and covered the wolf so it doesn't catch cold.

In the morning, after Fr. Mina woke up, prayed and made himself a cup of coffee, the wolf came and started sniffing the cup. So, Fr. Mina smiled and said to the wolf, "Are you addicted to coffee?!...I will make you a nice cup" and indeed, the wolf drank with him coffee.... and it became a habit that the wolf used to come to drink the coffee with the saintly monk. And it happened one day that one of the beloved people to Fr. Mina saw this and got scared. So, the monk said to him, "Don't be afraid, this is my

companion in the windmill and my companion in drinking coffee...and by the way, he loves the coffee to be done just right !!!!!" ...all the beloved people and friends of the saintly monk knew this regular incident about Fr. Mina who later on became the Patriarch of the See of St. Mark.

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You Smell Bad!

It was told about the saint Pope Kyrillos that during his famous visit to Lower Egypt, in the town of Desouq, a great tent was set up to welcome him. All the political and religious leaders came to greet and welcome him. During the welcome of his holiness, a tall and big man came and was about to hug the Pope to take his blessings...and this man was not Christian.... then, Pope Kyrillos rebuked him saying, " What is this ?!! You smell bad! " Then the man walked away shocked of what happened...what does he mean by 'I smell bad' ?!! Then the man remembered that he had put a piece of drugs in his pocket.... he took it out and gave it to one of his friends then went in again to greet the Pope and get his blessings.... So, his holiness smiled at him and said, " This is better.... now, you smell nice! Go my son, may God protect you !! " Then the man returned home...and before he entered his house, the police came to arrest him...they started searching him carefully, suspecting to find drugs in his possession, but didn't find anything... The man smiled and said, " now, I smell nice and the Pope said 'May God protect you' Thank God!"

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The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations" (2Peter2:9)

.....He was at St. Mina's monastery...and on the way back, it was evening and he was driving the car at more than 70 mph. During his travel on the desert road between Cairo and Alexandria, he saw the headlights go off and the car speed went down to 30

mph. He stopped and got off the car to check it to see if there was anything that caused that failure but didn't find anything. He continued driving the car without headlights and with a speed of 30 mph for half an hour. Then, suddenly, the light came back and the car went back to its normal speed. Then he was surprised when he saw 2 mini vans totally crushed together with the passengers. Still, he didn't understand what happened to his car. After 2 weeks, he went to the monastery...and when H. G. Bishop Mina Ava Mina saw him, he said to him, "He drove the car for you, Doctor".... he said, "Who is that, Sayedna?" ...He said, "St. Mina drove the car for you at 30 mph speed and turned off its lights so you don't get into that accident...because you were driving at a very high speed". So, he remembered and thanked St. Mina and Anba Mina because they protected him from the accident.

Some Rare Photos of the Late Bishop Abba Mina Ava Mina





Kyrillos Paid

Two servants were assigned to serve in villages and small towns. One time, they went to serve in a far place where it required traveling by a bus for a long distance. After they have finished their service, the older servant discovered that he had lost his wallet. So, he asked the younger servant, "Do you have money?" He answered, "No....only a dime". Then, they went outside the village and they agreed to ride the bus and ask the conductor to travel as far as a dime will take them; then they would continue the distance walking on their feet.... this was their only solution. One of them took out all the papers that were in his shirt pocket, hoping to find any money...but he didn't find anything except a picture of Pope Kyrillos.... they spoke to him saying, "Sayedna, do you want us to go home walking all this distance?"

The bus came and they rode it.... the conductor came to them, and before they tell him anything, he said to them, "Kyrillos, who is sitting in the front, paid for you and here are the tickets" !!!! They looked for Kyrillos in the whole bus but they didn't find anyone with that name.... here, they remembered Pope Kyrillos and his prayers that are always accepted in front of God.... Pope Kyrillos is the intercessor of the servants who have no one to remember them...

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Why Didn't You Ask For The Watch ?!!

Fr. Ghobrial is a priest in St. Mina's church in Alexandria.... he came to the Patriarchate in Cairo.... when Pope Kyrillos saw him, he asked him to go and pray Asheya (Vespers) in a church in the name of St. George. Abouna Ghobrial didn't have a car...so, he took the bus and it was crowded. While in the bus, some thieves saw him...they stole from him his watch and the silver cross that he prays with. When he got off the bus and found out that he lost the cross and the watch, he was saddened... he blamed St. Mina: how can he let those thieves steal from him the silver cross that he prays with on the altar ?!! But he submitted his case to God. On the next day, he went to the Patriarchate...and as soon as Pope Kyrillos saw him, he (Pope

Kyrillos) laughed so much !! ...And said to Abouna Ghobrial, " You got robbed and you asked Mar Mina (St. Mina) for the cross.... Why didn't you ask for the watch ?!! Mar Mina will send the cross only.... because you only asked for the cross."

After two days, while Abouna Ghobrial is sitting outside the church in the courtyard, a man came asking for him. Abouna met him and the man took out the cross from his pocket and said: " I'm a goldsmith and I make silver.... a man came to me to sell this cross but I knew it was stolen because your name is on it ...so, I bought it from him and I brought it to you". Abouna asked him, " Didn't he come to you to sell the watch ?! " The goldsmith laughed and said, "only the cross..." Abouna lifted up his eyes and said, "Mar Mina, I wish I would have asked you about the watch too..." !!!

The Blessing of the Five Loaves

Someone visited Fr. Mina (Pope Kyrillos). Later, many other guests came over and Fr. Mina did not have enough food for everyone. He brought what he had in a bowl, and he reached in and mixed the contents while he is saying, "As you blessed the five loaves and two fish." Everyone ate and was filled; there were approximately 10 people... However, the bowl had the same amount of food left!

Not Only a Picture

Mr. Samir Zarif - Texas - wrote saying: I came to Egypt because my father had died. I visited St. Mina's monastery and I felt the spirituality of that place. I took some pictures, which included a picture of St. Mina and a picture of Pope Kyrillos. I developed the pictures when I came back to the US. When I was looking at them, a

very pleasant frankincense smell filled the place. The pictures of the saints are not only pictures but the saints themselves !!

Lift Up Your Heads, O You Gates!

His Grace Anba Philipos, Metropolitan of Dakahleya tells the following story about the saint, Pope Kyrillos:

In 1969, it happened that Pope Kyrillos called me...and His Holiness was at the head residence of St. Anthony's monastery in Cairo.... and this was at midnight. He called me to come and pray with him. So, upon Pope Kyrillos' order, the car carried us to the church of St. Barbara in Old Cairo, driven by Azmy who was the driver for His Holiness. There, we found the big wooden gate closed.... Azmy, the driver, tried to open the gate but couldn't.... then, the disciple of His Holiness tried to open it but he couldn't... then, I (Fr. Matta Ava Anthony at the time) tried to open it but couldn't. Here, the Pope approached the gate and made the sign of the cross on it and said: "Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in." (Psalm 24:7) Instantly, the gates were opened by themselves, as those who were standing were watching in amazement. It was a wonderful surprise.... but no amazement; this is Pope Kyrillos, the man of prayer.

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I Have Work..

Mr. (...) used to pass by the cathedral of St. Mark every morning to take the blessing of His Holiness Pope Kyrillos...and the Pope knew him well. One day the Pope looked at him, smiled and said to him, "Wait...I want you". Mr. (...) waited 5 minutes...then another 5.... he looked at the watch in his hand because he had work...and the Pope was greeting the people.... he prays for one...and takes the hand of another...and the line was long.... and Mr. (...) started to get worried. He whispered in the ear of someone standing next to him and said, "I have work and the

Pope looked at me and said 'Wait' " So, it wasn't until 20 minutes had passed when the Pope looked at him and said, "Ok, my son, thank God...go to work safely." Mr. (...) was so surprised, nevertheless, very frustrated...and said, "Why was all this delay? and at the end...go to work ?!!!!" So, he ran quickly to his work in the downtown area, which was about 5 minutes away. When he arrived, he found the employees standing in the street saying to him, "You are so lucky... you were never late except today, but it was for your advantage...because the ceiling inside the office collapsed over your desk 10 minutes ago.... if you were here, you would have been dead !" Mr. (...) closed his eyes and said, "That's why the Pope said 'Thank God...go to work'...he felt and saw what was going to happen.. And that's why he prevented me from leaving" !!!!!!!

Get Out...

In Chicago, an Egyptian family lives in an area that is well known for its high rate of theft and robbery. When this family was living in Cairo, the wife used to be afraid of the thieves. So, she took with her a big picture when she came to America...a picture of Pope Kyrillos holding the cross.....and she put the picture at the entrance to the house so that whoever is entering from the door, will see it....and every time she leaves the house, she looks at Pope Kyrillos in the picture and says to him, "Take care of the house, ya Sayedna".

One day....she asked Pope Kyrillos for the house as usual and left. But when she returned, she found the house door wide open...she panicked.... but she found a man lying on the floor near the door and passed out. She and her family tried to make him conscious...then, when he regained his consciousness, they asked him about the reason for his presence and what happened to him. He said to them: "I came to rob the house...but when I opened the door, I found that priest (Pope Kyrillos) is gesturing to me with the cross and says *Get Out...* and every time I try to enter, he yells at me...then when I saw that he is only a picture inside a frame, I passed out and didn't know what happened until you came and made me conscious...I'm sorry !

This is the protection of the great Pope Kyrillos to his children.....

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(The Feast of Pope Kyrillos is on March 9th)

Modesty

While giving a sermon at St. Mina's Monastery in Mariout, a priest mentioned a miracle that happened as a result of the Pope's prayers. Pope Kyrillos, who was attending the sermon, left the church and went to his cell. He didn't return until the sermon was about to end, and one could see that he had been weeping.

The Marvelous Sight

An accountant and his daughter came to meet with the Pope. When they entered, the daughter knelt in front of the Pope, and looked up as she went to kiss the cross he held in his hand. She saw such a marvelous sight that she could not stand up until the Pope helped her. Once out of the room, she told her father about what she saw. She came back the next day with her father and met the Pope. She told him that she had seen a halo of light around his head that reached his shoulders. At hearing this, the Pope became really disturbed, and cried, "Protect me O God! O God Protect me!" and he turned his face in humility.

My Hands Served My Needs

(Fr. Rafael Ava Mina, his disciple, tells the following story)

One night I awoke when I heard some movements in the small reception hall near my room. To my great surprise, I saw His Holiness standing in the kitchen in his nightclothes, putting the food back into the refrigerator. I was deeply touched and asked His Holiness, "Why didn't you ask me to do that?" He answered, "You are tired after working for me all day. I was concerned that the food would go bad because I didn't eat any of it, so I thought it better to put it away. Have a good night." I was moved knowing he didn't treat us as one would expect a Pope and Patriarch to, but rather as an equal.

upset....just go and do Asheya again next week" So, I went to the church and there was no one there.....and when I was stepping out from the sanctuary (where the altar is) to do the incense in the church, I saw wonders I saw the church full with the fathers the anchorites (see explanation below) ...and even more than that, I saw Pope Kyrillos between them!!!! The next day, I met with his holiness and he asked me with a smile on his face, "Abouna.... was the church still empty ?!!!"I became silent because I couldn't answer the question....and I knelt down before him.....

Anchorites: are very ascetic fathers who live alone in the deserts, and occasionally they get together with the other monks in monasteries. They hardly eat anything all their lives...their food is grass or plants of the ground or occasionally some fruits from trees or palm trees. They pray and worship continuously all their lives without seeing anyone except very rarely. Due to their ascetic lives, their souls become very strong through God while their weak bodies submit to their souls. Frequently they move from one place to another in a very short time through flying as the soul being in a very high spiritual state.

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Happy Easter

During the days of Pope Kyrillos, Dr. (.....) was a man who loved the poor and the needy... and he went to the church on Easter night to attend the Easter Mass by Pope Kyrillos. The man was surprised by the organizers at the doors preventing a poor man with torn clothes and long beard and hair from entering. Dr. (...) intervened to end the problem but the organizers refused to let him (the poor man) in because his looks are inappropriate and it's Easter night and the representative of the president will come with ministers and some political figures....that's in addition to the live TV broadcast. The doctor promised that he will keep the poor man next to him in a place that's away from peoples' eyes.....and indeed, the man entered with the doctor and stood next to him during the whole Mass without lifting up his head until the Mass ended.

The doctor went out.....and the man behind him.....and at the outside doors, the doctor said to the man, "Kol sana we enta tayeb !!" (Happy Easter !!) ...and the man responded to the greeting. Then the doctor asked him, "where do you live?" The man

answered, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head." The doctor said to the poor man, "Come, let's take a blessing and eat dinner together !" And they both rode the doctor's car and went to his house. So, when the doctor's wife saw that poor man coming to their house, she murmured and became very displeased. She said to her husband, "Can't we have dinner alone together even on Easter night ?!!!" Her husband, the doctor, didn't want to upset her....so, he opened his clinic which was facing his house (the 2 apartment doors facing each other) and he took him in it to rest. He brought the food for both of them to eat together. The poor man lifted up his hands and said, "I thank your hospitality and your love to your poor brethren...and you will have a crown in my Kingdom" and a bright light like the sun shone and the doctor didn't see anyone in front of him....who was that ?!!! where is He ?!!!.... He disappeared !! but I noticed the marks of nails in His hands.....YES, IT'S HIM !!!!!

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