



# St. Philopater Mercurius

## “Abu Seifein”

written by: Marina Ghaly

**St Philopater** was born in the year 225 A.D. His parents worshipped false gods. **St Philopater's** father, Gordianus of Scythian, named him **Philopater**, which meant 'Lover of the Father.' Gordianus and his family became Christian when Gordianus was miraculously saved from death. **St Philopater's** family followed all God's commandments, preached God's word and gave money to the poor.

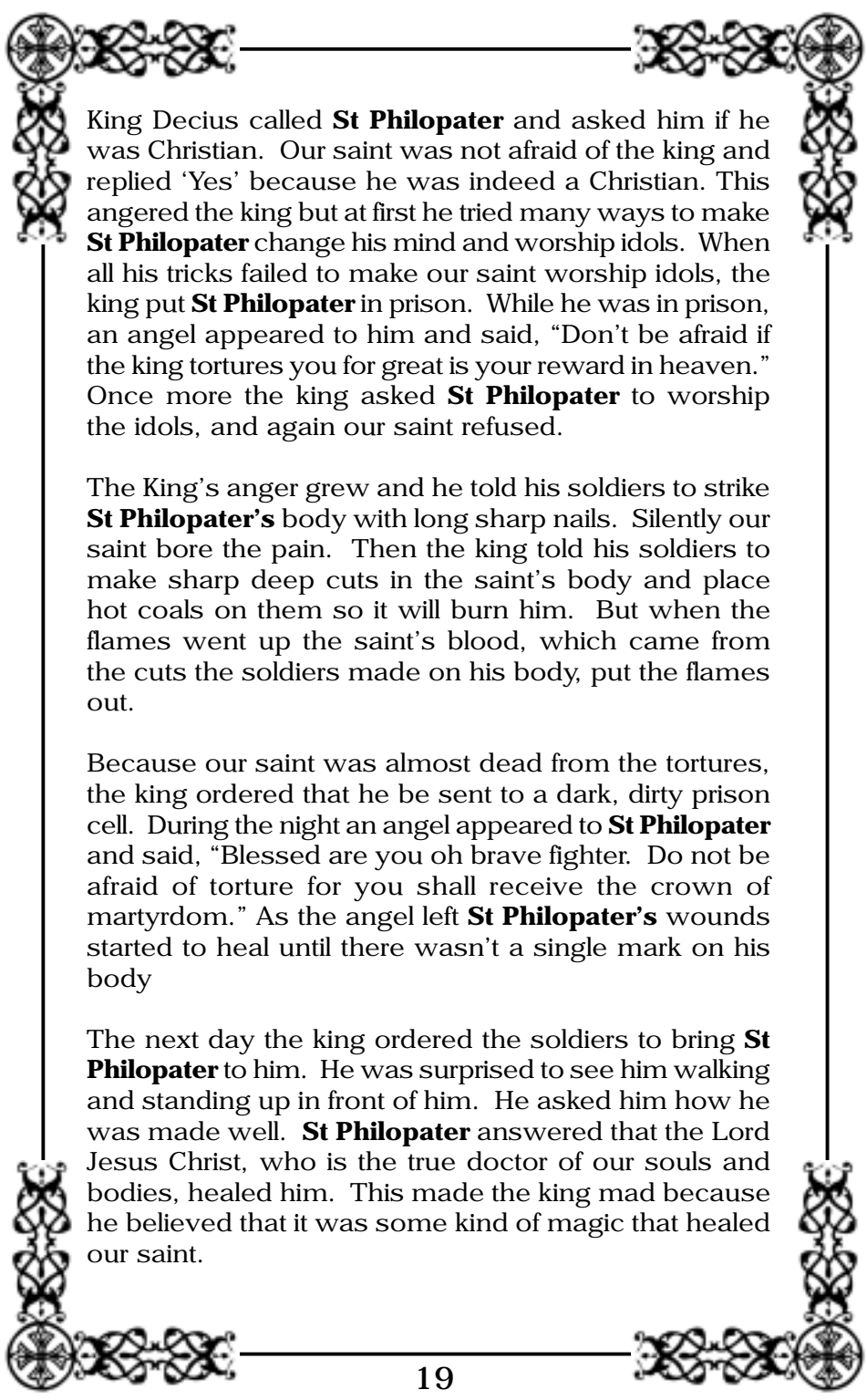
When **St Philopater** was seventeen he had already joined the army. He became the best fighter in his group. Soon he was promoted to the rank of commander for his bravery. He was also given the name “**Mercurius.**”

During this time a king named Decius reigned over the city of Rome. He forced everyone to give sacrifices to his false gods. Those who didn't were put to death. But if you worshiped his false gods, you were given honor.

Soon **St Philopater** had to go to war because the Barbarians had attacked the Romans. During the war an angel appeared to **St Philopater** and said, “**Mercurius** fear not, for I have come to help you. Take the sword from my hand and fight the Barbarians, and when you defeat them remember the Lord Jesus Christ.” Now **St Philopater** had two swords, one representing faith and the other representing war. When the angel left, **St Philopater** fought with the Barbarians with such skill that they became very scared of him and ran away giving the Romans the victory.



When King Decius heard of **St Philopater** and his heroic acts in battle he called for him. The king honored **St Philopater** for his bravery with war decorations and money. Then he told **St Philopater** to come and worship the idols with him. **St Philopater** sneaked out, away from the king, because he wouldn't worship the idols. When an old commander found out that **St Philopater** was a Christian he told King Decius.

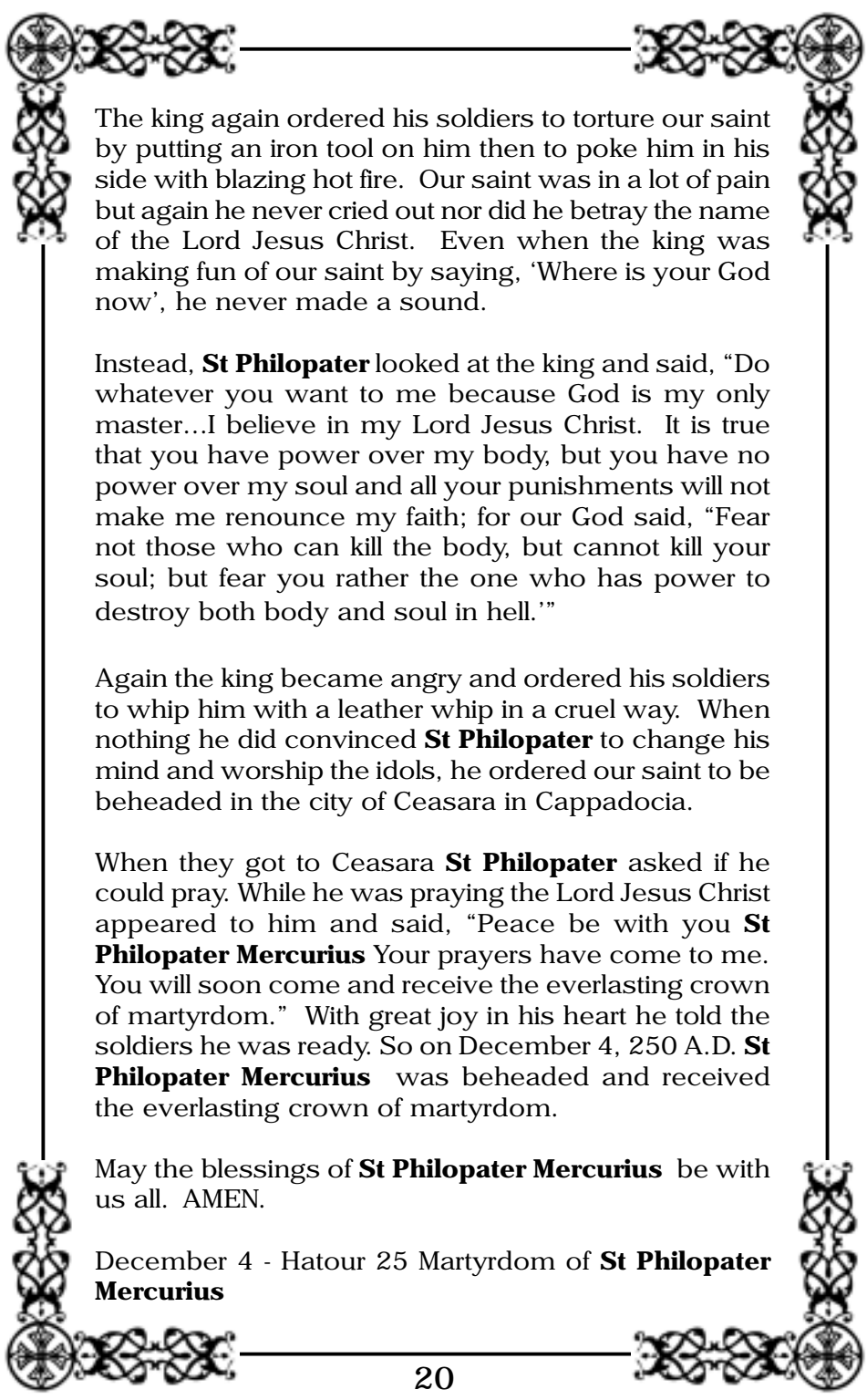


King Decius called **St Philopater** and asked him if he was Christian. Our saint was not afraid of the king and replied 'Yes' because he was indeed a Christian. This angered the king but at first he tried many ways to make **St Philopater** change his mind and worship idols. When all his tricks failed to make our saint worship idols, the king put **St Philopater** in prison. While he was in prison, an angel appeared to him and said, "Don't be afraid if the king tortures you for great is your reward in heaven." Once more the king asked **St Philopater** to worship the idols, and again our saint refused.

The King's anger grew and he told his soldiers to strike **St Philopater's** body with long sharp nails. Silently our saint bore the pain. Then the king told his soldiers to make sharp deep cuts in the saint's body and place hot coals on them so it will burn him. But when the flames went up the saint's blood, which came from the cuts the soldiers made on his body, put the flames out.

Because our saint was almost dead from the tortures, the king ordered that he be sent to a dark, dirty prison cell. During the night an angel appeared to **St Philopater** and said, "Blessed are you oh brave fighter. Do not be afraid of torture for you shall receive the crown of martyrdom." As the angel left **St Philopater's** wounds started to heal until there wasn't a single mark on his body

The next day the king ordered the soldiers to bring **St Philopater** to him. He was surprised to see him walking and standing up in front of him. He asked him how he was made well. **St Philopater** answered that the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the true doctor of our souls and bodies, healed him. This made the king mad because he believed that it was some kind of magic that healed our saint.



The king again ordered his soldiers to torture our saint by putting an iron tool on him then to poke him in his side with blazing hot fire. Our saint was in a lot of pain but again he never cried out nor did he betray the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even when the king was making fun of our saint by saying, 'Where is your God now', he never made a sound.

Instead, **St Philopater** looked at the king and said, "Do whatever you want to me because God is my only master...I believe in my Lord Jesus Christ. It is true that you have power over my body, but you have no power over my soul and all your punishments will not make me renounce my faith; for our God said, "Fear not those who can kill the body, but cannot kill your soul; but fear you rather the one who has power to destroy both body and soul in hell."

Again the king became angry and ordered his soldiers to whip him with a leather whip in a cruel way. When nothing he did convinced **St Philopater** to change his mind and worship the idols, he ordered our saint to be beheaded in the city of Ceasara in Cappadocia.

When they got to Ceasara **St Philopater** asked if he could pray. While he was praying the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him and said, "Peace be with you **St Philopater Mercurius** Your prayers have come to me. You will soon come and receive the everlasting crown of martyrdom." With great joy in his heart he told the soldiers he was ready. So on December 4, 250 A.D. **St Philopater Mercurius** was beheaded and received the everlasting crown of martyrdom.

May the blessings of **St Philopater Mercurius** be with us all. AMEN.

December 4 - Hatour 25 Martyrdom of **St Philopater Mercurius**