

Love for God

Written by: His Holiness Pope Shenouda III 117th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St Mark

ur Fathers the Martyrs loved God, not only more than all the pleasures of the earth, but more than life itself. They suffered death for His sake, trusting that this life has a continuation with Him in Eternity. Hence, the martyrs forsook the world with all that is in it and did not desire anything from it, not even to live in it. Whoever loves God and is satisfied with Him is ready to forsake anything and everything for Him.

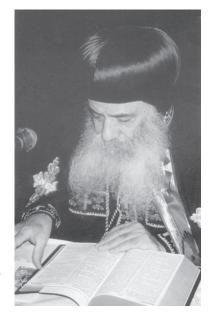
The Lord recompenses manifold those who forsake everything for Him. The Lord says,

'Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundred fold, and inherit everlasting life. (Matthew 19:29)'

This promise concerns the reward. However, those who forsake anything for God, forsake it not for reward, but out of their love to God who rules their hearts.

The spiritual person sees that God is His Shepherd and Protector. If a problem arises, he delivers it to God, for God and not himself, is the One who solves his problems. He says, "Who am I? What is my strength and understanding to be able to solve all my problems? Lord, You know my problems more than I do, You know all the hidden and apparent matters, all the obvious, hidden, and future problems. Through

Your wisdom, O Lord, You can solve all my problems. Through Your love, You want to solve them for I



completely trust that You love me more than I love myself and You care for me more than I care for myself. I am a child in front of You.

'The Lord preserves the simple. (Psalm 116:6)'

Therefore, I leave everything in Your hands and have comfort in Your faith, trusting that You have many solutions for

'Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who built it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain (Psalm 127:1)'

As long as You see my labor, this is sufficient, for You are the Almighty God who preserves justice on earth, and You are the comforter of the weary who carries our grief and sorrows. I do not worry about my problems at all, but I leave them in Your hands."

'The Lord is my strength and song and He has become my salvation (Psalm 118:14)'