



The Paradise Of The Holy Fathers

Excerpts from “The Paradise of the Holy Fathers”:

(...By the power of our Lord Jesus Christ we begin to write the Book of the Histories of the glorious Acts of the Holy Fathers, monks of the desert who hated the world and all that belongs thereto... Dr. Ernest A. Wallis Budge, Curator of Assyrian and Egyptian Antiquities in the British Museum has for decades been recognized as one of the greatest translators of ancient manuscripts into the English language. The volumes of the Paradise of the Holy Fathers are translated from a Syriac manuscript he discovered in 1888. He first published his translation in 1904 in a private printing. Later in 1907 he printed a revised and updated version in a public edition which has yet to be rivaled to date.)

The History of Didymus the Blind

....I also saw a certain blessed man who was in Alexandria, and whose name was Didymus, and who also, with us, wrote these things; now he was blind, and he could not see at all; he was a marvelous man, and I went several times to see him. He was eighty years of age, and he told me that he became blind when he was four years old and could not see at all, but according to what he himself related to me, “*After forty years I perceived the faces of things.*” And although this man had never learned the Testaments, and had never entered a school, the gift of an excellent and healthy mind had been given unto him by God, and he became learned in the knowledge of books through an enlightened understanding. And he was adorned with goodness and with the knowledge of truth to such a degree, and was so ready and was so wholly wise that there was fulfilled in him that which was written, “The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind.” He could interpret the Old and New Testaments word by word in its proper place, and had investigated



***The relics of the Twelve Saints.
El Surian Monastery***

carefully the commandments and could repeat all the words which were in them. And he was so thoroughly well acquainted with the belief of the truth and he comprehended so deeply all heresies that his knowledge was more excellent than that of many who were before him in the Church. Now when he was urging me to make a prayer in his cell and I was unwilling to do so, he spake unto me and related unto me concerning Abba Anthony who, he said, “*came three times and visited me in this cell.*” And when “I



begged and entreated him to pray, straightway he knelt down upon his knees and prayed, and waited not for me to speak one word about it, but at the first word he corrected me by his obedience. He did not let me finish my speech, but by work he made manifest obedience.” And Didymus said unto me, “Thou also, if thou wishest to walk in his footsteps and life and deeds, and in hospitality, and if thou wouldst walk in the life of excellence and in the love of God, remove thyself from contention.”

And this blessed man Didymus himself told me the following story. *“Once on a time I was suffering by reason of the wretched Emperor Julian. Now one day, when it was eventide, and I had eaten no food through my anxiety about this matter, whilst I was sitting on my seat I dropped into a light slumber, and*

there fell upon me a marvelous thing. I saw and behold there were white horses galloping about, and they had on them riders who were dressed in white and they were crying out saying, “Tell Didymus that Julian died this day at the seventh hour. Rise up, then, eat and send and make this news known unto Bishop Athanasius, so that he may also know and rejoice. And I wrote down the day, and the hour, and the month wherein this vision took place, and it was found that it had happened even as it had been told me in the vision.”

In the next issue, the blessed Didymus will tell the story of a certain young maiden, “Maiden Alexandra,” who shut herself up in tomb until the end of her life.....

Statistics and Oddities of the Holy Bible

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Holy Bible</u>
1. Number of Books	39	27	66
2. Number of Chapters	929	260	1189
3. Number of Verses	23,214	7,959	31,173
4. Number of Words	592,439	181,253	773,692
5. Middle Book	Proverbs 11	Thessalonians	Micah, Nahum
6. Middle Chapters	Job 29	Romans 13 and 14	Psalms 117
7. Middle Verses	Chronicles 20:17-18	Acts 17:17	Psalms 118:8
8. Shortest Verses	1 Chronicles 1:25	John 11:35	John 11:35
9. Shortest Books	Obadiah	III John	III John

“And,” the most used word of the Holy Bible, appears 46, 227 times.

“Jehovah” or “Lord” appears 6, 855 times.

The word “eternity” appears only once in Isaiah 57:15.

The shortest chapter of the Holy Bible is Psalm 117.

The longest chapter of the Holy Bible is Psalm 119.

The longest verse of the Holy Bible is Esther 8:9.

The longest word of the Holy Bible is Maher-shalal-hash-baz in Isaiah 8:1.

The number of persons mentioned in the Holy Bible is 3,340.

Ezra 7:21 contains every letter of the alphabet except “j.”

Daniel 4:37 contains every letter of the alphabet except “q.”