



# St Freig (Anba Reweis)

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**S**t Freig (Anba Reweis) was born in a small village in El-Gharbeya County. His father's name was Isaac and his mother's name was Sarah. When he was born, his parents named him Freig. St Freig as a youth farmed with his father in the field. Sometimes, he would sell salt on his young camel whose name was Reweis. St Freig loved Reweis so much because the camel was so loyal and faithful to him. The camel would cover St Freig with a blanket whenever he fell asleep so he would not become sick. Also, if St Freig overslept, the camel would tug on his feet to awaken him.

**St Freig stayed in his father's house until the** age of twenty when he left to Cairo, Egypt. At that time, there was persecution against the Christians. There he made it known to everyone, that his name was "Reweis" and not "Freig." The reason was twofold: One was humbleness and the other because he did not want people to know that he was "Freig" due to being well known. St Freig didn't have a place to stay and therefore suffered the harsh weather, hunger, and thirst. He wanted to endure these circumstances to be like the Lord Jesus Christ, who had no place to rest His head or to reside in. St Freig would often spend the night crying because of his sins. St Freig would fast for days and even weeks without food.

**Traveling around from one place to another, St** Freig used to eat food from his profit of selling salt. The remainder of the money would be split between the poor and the needy and his father. He never accepted gifts from anyone. St Freig went to Church every Sunday and attended all the Feasts (Glorious Feast of the Resurrection, Holy Feast of the Nativity, etc.). He took the Holy Eucharist with great care and examination.

**One time, St Freig exiled himself from society** and remained at some people's house in which the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him in the form of fire. That is why the Coptic Church called him, "Theorimos," which is a Greek word meaning, "Beholder of God."

**One of his virtues was to cease from talking for** days or months at a time. Another virtue the saint had was that he took compassion upon the widows, the poor, and the orphans. He did not discriminate between Christians and others, treating everyone equally. St Freig had the gift of prophecy. He could tell others about things that would happen in their future. Once while staying with his disciples, God revealed to him things that were happening in other countries or places.

**St Freig was ill for nine years before he departed** from this world. He remained in his disciple's home. There, people who were sick would come to visit St Freig and he would heal them. At the time of his departure, there was no one to stay with him. St Mary appeared to him and stayed with him. St Freig departed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the Coptic Month of Baba in the year 1121 A.M. This is the day that the Church celebrates the Commemoration of Our Lady the Mother of God, St Mary.

**May this humble saints' blessing be with us all.**  
Glory be to the Holy Trinity forever. Amen.