



The Holy Virgin and St John Khome



The Lord's Name Lives:

St John Khame

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A saint lives in contentment. He is always thankful for his condition, which God has allowed him to live in. He believes that there is no better condition for him than the one he is presently in. For if there were a better position, God as the Beneficent One, who has all knowledge and understanding would have provided him with it.

A man of faith knows also that God in His wisdom, if He desired to transfer him to a better condition, would chose a suitable time and condition that is best for him. Hence, a saint lives in contentment with his condition, believing in the love and wisdom of God. He always thanks God upon every condition, for every condition, and in whatever condition. Such thanksgiving is not only expressed by words in prayer, but it is a constant feeling of love in the heart, which overflows with joy and happiness all the time.

With this concept of "condition" in mind, let's examine the life of the great saint, John Khame. St John Khame was born in Shubramento of Sa. He was the only child of Christian parents. St John grew up with a great love for the Lord. Despite this strong love, his parents forced him into marriage against his will.

It is often said, "Love suffers long and is kind (I Corinthians 13:4)." Long suffering is thought to be the pride of the saints. By its longsuffering and kindness, love wins the soul. When St John entered into his wife's chambers, he stood and prayed to the Lord, and then came unto her and said, "*My sister, you know that the world and all of its lusts will go away. Can we remain virgins?*" She answered unto him and replied, "**My brother, the Lord's Name lives. This is also my desire.**"

They mutually agreed to live together and care for one another as brother and sister. When they slept the Angel of the Lord descended and covered them with his wings. God planted a vine for them that grew up and covered their place of sleep as a sign of their chosen purity and holiness. This was God's Divine Power abiding with them and caring for them and preserving them, for who would come near to such a flame and not be burnt?

Through the long-suffering nature of love, love is able to

be patient. The two lived together in harmony for some time. One day St John said to his wife, "My sister, I desire to go into the wilderness to become a monk and I cannot do that without your blessing." She gave her permission and she went into a convent. There she became a virtuous nun and performed many miracles.

An Angel of the Lord appeared to St John and led him to the wilderness of Scetis. In Scetis he became a monk and resided in the Monastery of St Marcarius. He learned virtues from Saint Darudi until this saint departed. Then the Angel of the Lord told him to go west to the Monastery of St John the Short. He obeyed and soon three hundred brethren had become his disciples.

It has been said that St Athanasius revealed many mysteries to him. St Mary also appeared to him and told him, "This is my dwelling forever, and I shall be with them as I have been with you and this monastery will be named after me." The church and the monastery carry the Virgin's name until today (El Sourian Monastery).

It is certainly true that in the example of St John Khame, his love endured difficulties, pressures, and obstacles. But his patience led to Eternal Glory: "But he who endures to the end shall be saved (Matthew 24:13)." The saints and righteous people desired to love the Lord Jesus Christ. They felt the world and its pleasures not important. The more the love of man to the Lord Jesus grows the less his condition in life is his focus.

St John Khame departed in peace and love of the Lord. "I have set the Lord always before me...(Psalm 16:8)"

"But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection (Colossians 3:12-14)." St John Khame wore this crown of the virtues throughout his life. The measure of a man is not how great his faith is but how great his love is.

"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. (I Corinthians 13:13)" With this love **the Lord's Name Lived** in St John Khame.

In the Lord's Holy Name may you always be blessed with contentment and everlasting love.