



Holiness of Hymns and Purity of Praises

Saint Severus

ΦΗΘΟΥΑΒ ΓΕΡΗΡΟC

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The Absolution of the Servants:



May Your servants, ministers of this day, the hugumen, the priest, deacons, the clergy and all the people, and my weak self, be absolved from the mouth of the All-Holy Trinity, the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and from the mouth of the one, only, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church; and from the mouths of the twelve apostles; and from the mouth of the Beholder of God, the Evangelist St Mark, the apostle and martyr; the patriarch Saint SeverusÖ.

Commemoration of the Saints:



As this, O Lord, is the command of Your only-begotten Son, that we share in the commemoration of Your saints, Graciously accord, O Lord, to remember the saints who have pleased You since the beginning:

Our holy fathers the patriarchs, the prophets, the apostles, the preachers, the evangelists, the martyrs, the confessors, and all the spirits of the righteous perfected in the faithÖ.

The patriarch Saint Severus; i Ö

Saint Severus was from Asia Minor. His grandfather's name was also Severus, who saw in a vision someone saying, *“The child who is your son's will strengthen Orthodoxy, and his name will be after your name.”* When his son had this saint in 465 AD, he called him Severus. During his baptism a hand appeared over his head and a voice was heard saying: *“Worthy, Worthy, Worthy.”* He was taught the Greek wisdom and church subjects.

When the saint was walking once outside the city, a shut-in saint came out of his cave crying, *“Welcome to you Severus, the teacher of Orthodoxy, and the Patriarch of Antioch.”* Severus was astonished, marveled and surprised at how he called him by name for he did not know him before, and how would he know of what he would become?

Saint Severus grew in virtue and became a monk in the Monastery of St. Romanus, and the fame of his righteousness, his strict self-denying and disciplined life spread out. When the Patriarch of Antioch departed, the bishops had a consensus to ordain him the Patriarch of the city in the year 512 AD. On his ordination day, the entire city was filled with a good and pleasing aroma. The church

was enlightened in mind and spirit by his teachings, and he attended the Universal Council at Ephesus.

Saint Severus was regarded as the champion and the most famous of *Miaphysite leaders, which was dominated during his patriarchate. His strong position could not be maintained without the support of the emperor Anastasius.

When emperor Anastasius died, Justinian who was Chalcedonian in faith became emperor after him. He called upon father Severus and gave him great honors to persuade him to change his stand, but the saint refused. The emperor was angry, but Saint Severus did not fear his anger, and so the emperor ordered him to be killed. Theodora, the emperor's wife who was Orthodox in faith, knew what the emperor was about to do, so she told the saint to flee from his place. He escaped to the land of Egypt and traveled everywhere and visited monasteries in the form of a monk. One day during the Divine Liturgy in one of the churches in Wadi-El-Natrun, the Sacrifice Offering disappeared from the altar. After prayers with tears, the angel appeared and told the priest about Saint Severus presence. He begged the saint to enter the altar. As soon as he entered the Sacrifice Offering returned. He strengthened the faith of the believers in the Orthodox principles and teachings. Both the people of Alexandria and its bishop, Timothy III, enthusiastically received Saint Severus in Alexandria.

Saint Severus dwelt in the City of Sakha in the home of a righteous wealthy man; his name is Saint Doretheus. God performed through him many miracles. He departed on the fourteenth day of the blessed month of Amshir in Sakha of the year 538 AD.

On the tenth day of the blessed month of Kiahk, the body of Saint Severus was relocated to the Zogag Monastery. Saint Doretheus sent the body, in a ship, with trustworthy men to the Zogag Monastery, located on the West Side of the city of Alexandria. He commanded them not to enter the bay but to use the lake until they came to the shore. When they came to Kartasa, facing north, they sailed towards the west, but they did not find water enough to sail their ship and the crew was saddened and worried. God, the Lover of



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Crossing the Red Sea

man, He Who saved the children of Israel from their enemies, and opened up a way for them in the Red Sea and made them pass over, this same God preserved the body of **Saint Severus** from those who hated him. God manifested this miracle. He made the ship to sail in shallow water six miles until they arrived to the shore. Then they took the body of the saint, brought it to the Zogag Monastery and laid it in the place, which Saint Doretheus had built, for it. There was great joy in the City of Alexandria and God worked great signs and wonders through the body of His saint.

God magnified **Saint Severus** after his death even more than during his life, **he receives an honorable mention in every Divine Liturgy when abouna prays the Commemoration of the Saints and the Absolution of Ministers**; his name is the second name mentioned after the evangelist Saint Mark the apostle and martyr.

He is also one of the El-Sourian Monastery's twelve Saints in Wadi El-Natrun desert.

Here are some lessons that can be learned from this story: **St Severus'** story encourages me to refuse to sin and do

bad things, and not be afraid or threatened by peer pressure or any pressure. Just like **Saint Severus** when Emperor Justinian wanted him to change his stand, the saint refused and when the emperor was angry, he did not fear his anger.

Another lesson is that there is nothing impossible as long as you are with God. Just like when the ship carrying **Saint Severus** body almost did not make it to shore because of shallow water, God manifests a miracle and He made the ship to sail in shallow water six miles until arrived at the shore.

A third lesson: To be humble, as **Saint Severus**. This saint was known for his self-denial, and when he went to the land of Egypt, he visited the Monasteries in the form of a monk. He did not say, 'I was a Patriarch'.

May **St Severus'**s blessings and prayers be with us all and Glory is to God forever. Amen. ✙

*Miaphysite: A person who believes that the Lord Jesus Christ had one nature, a belief held as truth and principle by members of the Coptic Church.