



*It is said about those who resided in Mount Nitria.... "He never told a lie in his life, and he never used oaths; he never uttered a curse, and beyond what was necessary he never spoke at all." Such was the greatness of those who made the desert their homes...*

# *The Paradise Of The Holy Fathers*

## **The History of the Blessed Man Pambo**

### **Πιορωω Ἰτε εἰς μαρωωτ Παμβο**

**(died AD 393)** In this mountain there also lived the blessed man Pambo who was the teacher and master of the Bishops Dioscorus, Ammonius, Eusebius, and Origen the nephew of Dracontius, a marvelous man. Now this man Pambo possessed the power to utter words of prophecy, and splendid triumphs, yet with all these he despised gold and silver, even as the Word demandeth. Now the following things concerning him were related unto me by the blessed woman Melha:



said unto me, "My daughter, He unto whom thou hast offered thy money hath no need to know the weight. For He who weighed the mountains in a balance knoweth how much the weight of thy silver. If thou hadst given the money unto me thou wouldst have done well to have informed me concerning the weight thereof; but since thou hast given it to God, Who did not despise the two mites of the widow, what need hast thou to tell Him? Hold thy peace."

**When I first came from Rome** to Alexandria I heard concerning the life and deeds of Pambo, inasmuch as the blessed man Isidore, who also brought me unto him in the desert, told me about him. And I brought unto him a basket which was filled with stamped silver (coined money) three hundred pounds (in weight) and I begged him to accept some of my possessions for his needs. He was sitting and plaiting the leaves of palm trees, and as he was doing this he merely blessed me, and said, "God give thee thy reward!" Then he said unto his steward, whose name was Origen, "Take and distribute this among all the brethren who are in the "Island" and "Libya"; for these monasteries are exceedingly poor, and he commanded the steward not to give unto any man who dwelt in Egypt, for those who dwell therein have abundant means of subsistence. Now I stood there and I expected to be treated with honour or to be praised for the greatness of the gift, but when I heard nothing from him, I said unto him, "Master, knowest thou how much money it is, and that there are three hundred pounds in the basket?" Then Pambo, without lifting up his gaze

**Now our Lord so directed that** in the day on which I entered the

mountain this blessed man died without having been ill, for he died whilst he was sewing together the palm leaves for mats, without fever and without sickness. And he was seventy years old. Now he was sewing together palm leaves for a mat, and coming to the end of it he sent and called me. And when he had finished sewing it, he said unto me, "Take this mat from my hands, so that thou mayest keep me in remembrance, for I have nothing else whatever to leave thee." And having given it unto me he straightway died. And I wrapped his body in linen swathing, and buried him, and then I departed from the desert; and I shall treasure the mat as a sacred relic until the day of my death.

**Now at the time of the death of this holy man** Pambo there were standing before him certain famous men, Origen the priest and steward, and Ammounius, together with the remainder of the brethren, and they told me that at the time of his death, he said, "From the day wherein I came into this desert and built this



cell in which I have lived until this day I know not that I have ever eaten the bread of idleness or bread which did not come from the labour of mine own hands; and my soul repenteth not that I have ever spoken an empty word in my life; thus I go to God like one who hath as yet, not made a beginning in the fear of God.” And Origen and Ammonius, the servants of Christ, in telling us the story of his life, bore witness concerning him that he was never asked a question by any man about a saying from the Book, or about the rules and labours of the ascetic life which he did not either answer immediately or say, “I have not as yet understood the matter.” Now there were times when he spake these words only after three months’ consideration of a matter; and he used to make answer with such understanding that every man received the things which were said by him with great reverence as if they had been said by God. Now this excellence was also attributed to Anthony the Great and to the rest of the holy men. Among other things which are said concerning the holy man Pambo is the

following. The blessed man Pior once went to Pambos’ cell and took with him some bread and Pambo made a compliant, saying unto him, “Why hast thou done this?” Then Abba Pior made answer saying, “Let this thing be not grievous unto thee” but Pambo was silent and sent him away. And after some time Rabba Pambo went to the cell of Abba Pior and he took with him bread which had been dipped in water; and being asked, “Why hast thou done this?” the blessed man Pambo said unto him, “Let it not be grievous unto thee that “I have also dipped the bread in water.” ✚

In the next issue of the Mighty Arrows we will meet the Blessed Ammonius, his three brothers known as the “tall brothers,” and his two sisters all of whom were disciples of Rabba Pambo.

Budge, E.A., 1994, The Paradise of the Holy Fathers, p.103,104.

## Special Places

Written by Father Bishoy Kamel

ΠΕΝΙΩΤ ΠΙΩΩΙ ΚΑΜΕΛ



The Lord Jesus Christ’s manger is in a special place, whoever wants can go to it by way of humility.



The Mountain of Transfiguration is in a special place, whoever wishes to reach its top can be lifted to it by prayer.



The Holy Cross has a special place, whoever wants to share the love and suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ can go to it and will find the Lord Jesus Christ with His arms opened and blood

and water pouring out of them for our lives, our healing and our cleansing.



But the Glorious Resurrection has no fixed place and no fixed time because it

is the manifestation of God in our lives, and the Lord Himself will take the trouble to come and manifest Himself to us. ԱԿՏՈՆԳ ՏԵՆ ՕԿՄԵԹԱԽԻ ԱԿՏՈՆԳ