



# The 7 Ascetic Saints

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**“A**nd they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and did not love their lives to the death.” (Revelation 12:11)

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of Baouna, our Church commemorates the martyrdom of the 7 Ascetic Saints in Tounar Mount. These were: Basadi, Cotolus, Ardama, Moses, Esey, Parkalas (Mikalas), and a monk called Cotolus. The Angel of the Lord had appeared to Sts. Basadi and Cotolus and commanded them to confess the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They met the five saints and confessed the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in front of the governor. They were severely tortured, and endured a lot of pain and suffering for the sake of Our Lord. The Lord Himself appeared to comfort them and remind them of the promise of eternal life. He sent His angel to heal them of their wounds. Eventually, the governor could not but behead them, and they all received the crown of martyrdom.

But was it necessary for these martyrs to pass through this road of pain and suffering to reach the Kingdom of Heaven? How does this apply to us? Perhaps a few of us will be called to be martyrs, but certainly all of us are called to follow in the steps of the Lord Jesus Christ:

*“For to this you were called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps” (1 Peter 2:21).*

Therefore, pain is inevitable, if one wants to follow in



Scouring of Our Lord

the steps of the Lord Jesus Christ. Actually it is a blessing granted to us by our Lord:

*“For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake” (Philemon 1:29)*

We cannot share the glory of our Lord without sharing His pain. It is one way of expressing our love, and

being unified with Him:

*“...If indeed we suffer with Him, that we may be also be glorified together.” (Romans 8:17)*

Think of it this way. An athlete will endure the pain of working out, so that he may eventually achieve a medal. Yet, we are not on our own. We are not just asked to go ahead and endure these sufferings, and whoever endures them, by himself, to the end, will receive the heavenly reward. We are always supported by the grace of God:

*“But may the God of all grace, who called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you.” (1 Peter 5:10)*

This is the narrow road that leads to eternal life. We all go through it to reach Heavenly Jerusalem.

*“And I heard a loud voice from Heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He*



*will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God himself will be with them, and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things are passed away.” (Revelation 21:3-4)*

The 7 Ascetic Saints were among a huge procession who proclaimed their victory in the Lord Jesus Christ, through their pains and sufferings. It was their way of expressing their love to their King. We, like them, are called to express our love and be glorified with Him, through sharing His pain whenever we are confronted with it in our lives. ✚

## When . . .

When One Loves the Lord

It ignites the spirit

With a fire white and pure

The heart it aches from yearning

For the Bridegroom to come and knock

One must keep the lamp light burning

To give light for the Lord to come in.

The Lord's my God

He shall reign forever

For He touched my heart and soul.

In the moonlight I can feel Him

With the Psalms of David on my lips.

As He sends His dew like kisses

To surrender my heart to the Son.

When He gives His love

It is done completely...

for no other Love exists.

But His.

Rabbu~Saba-outh, Rabbu- Saba-outh

Rabbu~Saba-outh

Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie, Kyrie Ele

Kyrie Eleison

When one gives their heart

It is done completely

For no other ~

No other Love exists...

but His.

The Lord is my Savior ~

The Alpha of all ~

that I Am

When I hear Thy Word

It fulfills completely

For no other Word exists ~

No other Word exists ~

Just Thee

When I call Thy name

Thou holds my heart within Thee

Then our two hearts beat as One.

Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

When I seek Thy mercy

My heart fills with tears ~ just for Thee

Then one night like magic ~

I felt Thy touch upon the

window to my soul

O Rabbu

With Thou tender touch

Thy wiped away a tear

Shed for Thee.

When I fell in Love

It was through the Spirit

Thou has touched my heart and soul.

I shall take Thee Lord

And hold Thee within me

For all the world to see... Thy Love

Thou has blessed this heart

May I be so worthy?

To hold Thee within my Soul.

I call out Thy name

Rabbu Saba-outh,

O Rabbu Saba-outh

May I be so worthy...

to ignite the world for Thee!

When they hear Thy word

They will fall in Love

All will fall in Love with Thee

Then...

One by one they'll come

One by one they'll come

One by one they'll come

Unto Thee ~

My Lord.

Amen fausta +