



SAINT BOCTOR SON OF ROMANUS

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Called upon to “carry the cross” of forsaking inherited wealth, forsaking social ruling status, forsaking family, willingly accepting persecution, and decapitation...

God later.

I love reading or hearing the stories of the saints from the Coptic Synaxarium. They're short and to the point, you can read them in less than five minutes, yet if you slow down a little you can find so many treasures in these stories, on which you can meditate all day.

The first thing that caught my attention about St. Boctor (Victor) was his success at such a young age. Some may think that being a Christian means ignoring the world and all of our worldly responsibilities. The Holy Bible teaches us to be diligent and excellent in everything that we do, St. Boctor was a good example of such. Imagine that at age 20, you are the 3rd in succession to the emperor. That's like being a 20-year-old Speaker of the House, if you live in the United States. Another issue that comes to mind is a common misconception (or more accurately a deception from the devil), is that we ought to take care of our responsibilities and then worry about bearing fruit for

Many of us (and I'm very guilty of this) say to ourselves: "I'll start focusing more on God and bearing fruit for His kingdom after I graduate"; or "after I have a family"; or "after I retire, since I won't have as busy a schedule then", ... etc. The instant we feel a calling from God in our heart (*to carry our cross*) to do something for His glory, we ought not to delay in responding, regardless of our age or socioeconomic status. When God wants to do something through us, He will always find a way to do it.

Another thing that is quickly noted is the fact that at such a high position, which obviously kept him pretty busy and at such a high rank, which also kept him wealthy and well respected and admired in the community, he still did not let any of the above keep him from remembering those that have no one to remember them. Even though he was very young and very busy, not only did he "pray and fast much", but also he "visited prisoners and assisted the poor and needy" - the ones that were considered at the time as low as dogs and were hated and despised by everyone. If we ever think that we are too busy, or that we are doing something that is too important, for us to



remember those who no one remembers and to love the unlovely, we ought to think again and note that the Almighty God remembered us and pursued us while we were buried in our sins.

The rest of the story of St. Boctor talks about his conviction, boldness and steadfastness. He went and took the body of the martyred St. Theodata the mother of Sts. Cosmas and Damian and shrouded and buried it, not caring at all about the reaction of the emperor Diocletian. Do you believe that St. Boctor's father actually reported him to the emperor and told him that he would not worship idols and recommended that he be sent to Alexandria to be tortured there?! His own father! Who says that if you choose the Christian way, everything will go great for you?!

I love how St. Boctor took off his soldier girdle and threw it at the face of the emperor and told him boldly "take your gift that you gave me." Oh, how I wish I was this bold for God and Jesus. Unfortunately, we as Christians have lowered our standards so much, that we have lost most or all of our zeal for God and ***are not carrying our crosses in the manner that we should.*** We wouldn't even dare to think about being so bold in front of our colleagues, much less a torturing, idol-worshiping emperor to defend our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The next time we're faced with the opportunity to stand up for God and our faith in Him, which will happen soon and will happen often, we will be blessed to remember the boldness of St. Boctor and all the other saints and martyrs, who valued the Kingdom of God and their love for Him (or I should say His love for them), more than their positions, their reputations, their income, their family, even more than their own lives.

The Holy Bible says in the Holy Gospel of St. John 15:13 "*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*" Imagine laying down, not your life, but maybe only your position, your reputation, your possessions, your rights, or even your opinions and not for just a friend, but for the greatest

friend you could ever hope for, God Himself. May we all remember the story of St. Boctor and his boldness and steadfastness for God, when we're faced with such situations.

The Martyrdom of St. Boctor Son of Romanus

On The Twenty Seventh Day of the Blessed Month of Baramoudah, the Honorable Saint Boctor (Victor) Son of Romanus, the Minister of Emperor Diocletian, was Martyred

(Excerpt from the Coptic Synaxarium, Volume III)

His mother Martha had reared him in the Christian ethics. He was promoted in the ranks in the kingdom until he became the third in succession. He was then twenty years old.

When Diocletian reneged the faith and incited the persecution against the Christians, this Saint agreed with St. Claudius to be martyred for the sake of the Name of Christ.

Satan appeared to them in the form of an old man and told them, "O my sons, you are young men, the sons of nobility, and I am afraid for you from this infidel Emperor; so if he asked you to worship the idols, accept his command, and in your houses you can worship Christ in secret." They realized that he was satan disguised as an old man and told him, "O you who are filled with all evil, go away from us." Straightway the old man changed his appearance and became like a black slave and told them, "Behold, I will go before you to the Emperor and instigate him to shed your blood."

He prayed and fasted much, visited the prisoners and assisted the poor and needy. When they cut off the head of St. Theodata, the mother of Sts. Cosmas and Damian, no one dared to bury her because they feared the Emperor. This Saint went forth and took the body, shrouded it, then buried her, not caring about the Emperor's order.



St. Doctor often admonished his father for worshipping the idols, so his father accused him before the Emperor. The Emperor had him brought and asked him to worship the idols to obey the imperial order. The saint took off his soldier girdle and threw it in his face saying: "Take your gift that you gave me." His father suggested to the Emperor to send him to Alexandria to be tortured there. On their way, his mother bid him farewell, crying, and he asked her to care for the poor, the widows, and the lonely. When he arrived to Alexandria, the governor Armanius tortured him many tortures, then he sent him to the governor of Ansena, who tortured him also, then cut off his tongue and plucked out his eyes. The Lord strengthened and comforted him every time. There was a fifteen years old girl who was watching his torture from the window of her house. She saw a crown coming down over his head. She confessed that before the governor and all those who

were present. The Governor ordered her head to be cut off and also the head of St. Doctor. They received the crown of life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Some of the believers took his body and shrouded it. They placed the body of St. Claudius who was martyred shortly after that, with his body. After the end of the time of persecution, Doctor's mother came, and took both their bodies to Antioch.

There is a district in Alexandria until now known as El Boctoriah (Victoria), named after this Saint, because probably there was a church on his name in this district.

His prayers be with us and Glory be to our God forever. Amen.

WHO AM I?

I WAS THE CHILD OF TOBIT, A GOOD MAN WHO
GAVE HIS MONEY TO THE POOR AND NEEDY
MY FATHER LOST HIS EYESIGHT AND COULD
NO LONGER WORK
HE REMEMBERED A FRIEND HE HAD LENT
SILVER TO AND DECIDED TO SEND ME TO THE
FARAWAY CITY
AN ANGEL AS A STRANGER ACCOMPANIED ME
ON THE JOURNEY
WE STOPPED ALONG THE WAY AND ATE A FISH
BUT I SAVED THE GALL OF THE FISH
THE MAN GAVE ME MANY SILVER COINS AND I
RETURNED TO MY FATHER
I RESTORED MY FATHER'S EYESIGHT WITH THE
GALL
THE ANGEL RAPHEAL FLEW AWAY AFTER THIS



TOBIAS AND THE ANGEL