



Spreading evangelism through his gift of documentation and writing....

St. Julius of Aqfahs

ΦΗΘΟΥΑΒ ΙΩΛΙΟΥΣ ΠΙΡΕΜΑΚΥΑΖΟ

Revered Author of
ΠΙΣΑΪ ΕΥΤΥΛΙΗΟΥΤ ΗΤΕ

“The Biography of Martyrs”

ΠΙΦΙΡΙ ΝΩΝΪ ΗΤΕ ΝΙΜΑΡΤΥΡΟ

Written by: Hala Schepmann

St. Mary & Archangel Michael, Houston, TX

St. Julius of Aqfahs (El-Akfehasi) lived during the reigns of both Diocletian the Infidel and Constantine the Righteous. Having been called by the Lord Jesus Christ to care for Christian martyrs, he appointed three hundred biographers to record “**The Biography of Martyrs.**” St. Julius complied and further took upon himself the humble, sole responsibility of preparing the holy martyrs’ bodies for burial.

Throughout his life, St. Julius was repeatedly tortured by the local governors. But through faith and prayer he combated idol worship, performing miracles and converting non-believers. Saint Julius, as had been earlier prophesied, received the crown of martyrdom along with his sons and approximately fifteen hundred individuals. One can only speculate that many of these martyrs were brought to the Lord Jesus Christ by Saint Julius.

Relevant to us today is St. Julius’ example of living a humble Christian life. Humility, characterized as modest, respectful, without pretension, unassuming, or low in rank, often seem at odds with our ambition to succeed, often defined by prestige, titles, degrees, physical appearance, and monetary gains. Instead, St. Julius shows that we should strive for such a title as “*faithful Christian*” and such a position as “*kind caregiver*”. St. Julius heeded the command “*not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly*” (Romans 12:3) and accepted perhaps one of life’s lowliest tasks - caring for the bodies of the departed. Such an occupation is work

not typically associated with glory, honor, or distinction. But, those who “*seek those things which are above where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God*” (Colossians 3:1) can understand that it was a blessed task.

Our Father in Heaven understands the challenges facing youth and so advised, “*Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*” (1 Peter 5: 5-7).

So, how do we heed God’s call to humble ourselves? Perhaps humility is best learned through practice. Here are some tips:

- Accept an assignment and/or request that you consider ‘beneath you’ (Recall: What is ‘above you’? HEAVEN!).
- Care for another who may not or cannot express their gratitude.
- Be grateful for your Christianity, your Coptic Church, your parents, your home, your school, and your work JUST THE WAY THEY ARE!
- Show your gratitude to God for the life He has blessed you with by respecting and caring for your Church, your parents, your home, your school, and your work.

Saint Julius lived a beautiful and humble life, car-



St. Julius of Aqfah

“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5: 5-7)





ing for those close to God. May we all humble ourselves, and recognize and appreciate the gifts God has granted us.

(A narrative of the life of the blessed Saint Julius of Aqfahs can be found in the Coptic Synaxarium, Volume I)

The Twenty-Second Day of the Blessed Month
of Tute

**The Martyrdom of St. Julius of Aqfahs
(El-Akfehasi),
the Writer of the Biography of Martyrs.**

(Excerpt) On this day, St. Julius of Aqfahs (El-Akfehasi), the writer of the biography of martyrs, was martyred. The Lord Jesus Christ appointed him to care for the bodies of the holy martyrs, to shroud them and to send them to their hometown. The Lord brought blindness into the hearts of the governors, and no one objected to him. They also never forced him to worship idols. The Lord kept him to care for the martyrs. He used three hundred young men for this purpose. They wrote the biography of the holy martyrs and sent it to their hometown. But he used to minister to the holy martyrs by himself and dress their wounds. The martyrs blessed him, saying, "You must shed your blood in the Name of our Lord Christ, so you can be counted among the martyrs."

When the reign of Diocletian the Infidel came to an end, Constantine the Righteous reigned. The Lord Christ wished to fulfill what the saints had prophesied to St. Julius; to be counted among the martyrs. The Lord commanded him to go to Arkanus, governor of Samanoud, and to confess the Lord Christ. St. Julius went there, and the governor tortured him with many tortures, but the Lord strengthened him.

The governor ordered to bring him to worship the idols. This saint prayed and the earth opened and swallowed up the 70 idols and the 140 priests who were serving them.

When the governor beheld the destruction of his idols and their priests, he believed in the Lord Christ.

The governor went with the Saint to the governor of Athribis who tortured Saint Julius with great severity, but the Lord Christ strengthened him. Once there was a feast for the idols and they decorated the temple with ornaments, lamps, and statues and with palm branches. They closed the gates till the following day to start celebrating the feast.

The saint asked the Lord to blot out their idols. The Lord sent his angel who cut the heads of the idols, blackened their faces with ashes, burnt up all the palms, and all the idols in the temple. On the following morning when the people came dressed to celebrate the feast and saw what had happened to their gods, they recognized their weakness. The governor of Athribis and a large number of people believed in the Lord Christ.

The Saint then went to the city of Towa6 along with the governor of Samanoud and the governor of Athribis, and they met Iskandros its governor. First he refrained from torturing them, but later on he ordered his men to cut off their heads. Julius and his two sons, Tadros and Yunias; his slaves; and the governors of Samanoud and Athribis and many people were martyred. They numbered fifteen hundred. They took his body with the bodies of his sons to Alexandria for it was their hometown. May His prayers be with us and glory be to our God, forever. Amen.✠