



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of
the Southern United States

The Monthly Message
to the Priests' Wives
June 2015

War of Inferiority

From the book: "*Journey to the High Mountains*" - St. George Church, Sporting.

It is a symbolic story from the spiritual literature telling the story of a soul that loves God and how He guides her through hard ways until she reaches the top of high mountains.

Persons of the story are "*The Chief Shepherd*", i.e. the Lord Jesus Christ, and "*Fearful*" who is each soul seeking delivery from her weaknesses represented by "*The Family of Fear*" in order to depart to heavens which is "*The High Mountains*" through the tribulations that purify the soul i.e. "*Sufferings and Sorrows*". The resistance of the devil appears through "*Pride and his group*".

Fearful was looking with amazement. Her feeling of fear was increasing within her to the degree she became frightened. The mountains were surrounding them all around. It was obvious that there was no a

single paved way except the way of returning back!!

But *Sufferings* held the hand of *Fearful* and pointed at a gazelle and a deer that appeared between the rocks and started to ascend the mountain ...

The three were watching this spectacle !! The way was so winding, very tight in some parts and interrupted in some other parts. The gazelle and deer were leaping in gracefulness continuing their way until they reached the summit and disappeared. *Sorrows* said encouraging *Fearful*, "This is the way we should take. The gazelle and deer showed it to us. We will not return back".

- *Fearful*: "No ... No... *This is impossible. It is a way for deer not for humans. I cannot ascend it. Surely I will fall down and be broken*".

She then started to be shaken and crying in a hysterical way saying: "*Impossible ... Impossible ... I will not reach the summit after all what happened!*"

Her two companions tried to say something to her but she put her hands on her ears refusing to hear them and started to weep again.

- Ha! Ha! Ha! Finally I met you again Fearful !! How are you doing now? Are you happy?

Fearful looked with fright at the place from where the voice came ... It was "Coward" who continued saying: *"I expected this from the beginning. Did you think you are able to flee from me forever?!! You are a member of the Family of Fear and I will take you back to your place to stay in safety"*.

- Fearful: *I will not go with you.*

- Coward: *Then you have to choose between ascending this mountain and break your bones or returning back with me.*

- Her two companions said to her: *Fearful, you know well he is a liar ... call the Chief Shepherd immediately!!*

Fearful held them vigorously saying: *I am afraid of Him because He will say that I must take this hard dangerous way. That is why I cannot confront Him ... What should I do?!! What should I do?!!!*

Sorrows stroked her shoulder saying: *Fearful, you have to call Him now and quickly!*

Coward laughed feeling he conquered her and got closer to her. But her two companions surrounded her and prevented him from reaching her.

Sorrows looked at Sufferings who understood the message and nodded her head. She took a small very sharp knife from her bag and pricked Fearful who shouted of pain and did what she ought to do since she came to the mountain. She shouted saying: *Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me ... I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy Hill.*

She then heard the voice of the Chief Shepherd saying: *Why are you afraid fearful? ... Be of good cheer! It is I ... Do not be afraid.* His voice was full of love and power. Therefore, *Fearful* felt that life started to flow again in her entire being.

- The Chief Shepherd: *Fearful, tell me what is going on? Why are you so afraid?*

- *Fearful: It is the way you chose for me ... it looks frightening ... I feel dizzy whenever I look at it ... It is good for deer and gazelle but not for someone who is coward and lame like me.*

- The Chief Shepherd: *But, Fearful, what did I promise you when you were still in the valley of misery?*

- *Fearful: You promised me to make my feet like the feet of deer and to set me on high places.*

- The Chief Shepherd: ***The only way to obtain the feet of deer is to go in their ways.***

Fearful was shaking saying slowly:

- *I do not think ... I do not want ... I do not want to obtain the feet of deer if this would cost me to ascend this mountain.*

She was astonished to see the Chief Shepherd smiling and saying:

- *No, you want ... I know your heart better than you ... You desire to obtain the feet of deer and I promise you will get it ... What did I say to you last time?*

- *Fearful: You said wait and see what I will do. But I did not imagine such a thing. I am not a deer ... This must be difficult!!*

- The Chief Shepherd: ***I like doing difficult things. My desire is to turn weakness into strength, fear into faith and defect into perfection ... This is My unique work.*** I will transform *Fearful* into ...?!!! Let us

wait and see what she will be !!! Do you believe, Fearful, that I will transform you?

- Yes.

- Do you let me transform you?

- Yes

- Do you think I can abandon you?

- Not at all ... please fulfill you will in me ... That is what I care for.

Like before, she bowed her head, knelt, offered herself as a sacrifice, took the remaining stone, put it in her bag then she stood up waiting for the instructions of the Chief Shepherd.

- Now, Fearful, you are at the foothill of the high mountains. A new stage of the journey will begin soon ... This mountain is named the Mountain of Humiliation. There are other more difficult mountains than it. I mean the Mountain of Hatred, the Mountain of Persecution and the Mountain of Revenge ... There is no way to reach

the summit except through ascending one of them and I chose this one for you. You learnt, till now, the lesson of obedience and it is the first lesson of love. Now, you must learn the second lesson while you climb the Mountain of Humiliation because when you learn it nothing will hurt you.

Thereafter, the Chief Shepherd put His hand upon Fearful and blessed her. He then called her two companions who were used to leave her whenever she would talk to him. *The Chief Shepherd* took a rope and tied *Sorrows, Fearful* and *Sufferings* with it. It was then guaranteed that *Fearful* was supported with the help of her two strong companions so that they would be able to drag her up if she would fall.

The Chief Shepherd took a small bottle from His bag containing a reviving elixir. He asked *Fearful* to drink it to regain strength. Its name was "The Spirit of Grace and Consolations". Immediately as soon as she took two or three drops of it she felt vitality that made her ready to ascend the mountain without hesitation.