

A Miracle of the Holy Fire at Our Monastery

AS IS the case every year, and so this year as well, on the evening of Great Saturday, before the Holy Resurrection, we had the great blessing of receiving the Holy Fire at our Monastery. As is well known, the Holy Fire miraculously proceeds from the All-Holy Sepulchre at noon on Great Saturday at the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem, and is then transported by a special air-flight to our country on the same day.



We light all of the perpetual vigil lamps on the Holy Tables in the Altars of the Katholikon (main Church) and of all of the other Churches and Chapels at our Monastery with the Holy Fire, so that it burns all year long and preserves the flame and the Grace of the Resurrection in this sacred space and in our hearts.

The narration that follows describes in a vivid and ingenuous manner a miraculous occurrence on the night of the Resurrection at our Monastery, which was seen and experienced by an absolute-



ly trustworthy believer who is a decades-long spiritual child of ours and a family man with children and grandchildren, the full particulars of whose life are at our disposal.

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WITH THE BLESSING of our Most Reverend Father Cyprian, I, the sinful and unworthy servant of God, would like to recount in this letter the stirring moment I experienced on the evening of Great Saturday, shortly before the distribution of the Holy and Unwaning Fire by our Most Reverend Metropolitan and Father to the Faithful.

To be exact, at the moment when our holy Father was about to come out from the Beautiful Gates of the Church of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, and while the entire Church was in darkness and we were waiting to hear the words, “Come, receive ye Light,” **I suddenly saw a breathtaking flash of light, blue in color, like lightning, illumine the Church’s entire *Templon* from one end to the other, and which then changed to a white color!**

This was repeated many times for the duration of over a minute....

This flash—like lightning, as I said—also appeared inside the Altar and was accompanied by sounds that resembled those of short-circuiting electricity....

The thought crossed my mind at that moment that the phenomenon was some sort of technical electrical effect by the Monastery’s technicians, perhaps as an enactment of the Holy Fire from the All-Holy Sepulchre; so, for that reason I did not attach any greater or further importance to it.



After the Paschal Liturgy, though, I told what had happened to me to my wife, who told me that it must have been some kind of a miracle. But once again, I did not attach much importance to it.

My disbelief, however, resulted in my feeling an inexplicable distress and anxiety throughout the entire day of Pascha, and tears continually came to my eyes.

In the afternoon, I also related these events to my younger daughter's son (who is a chanter), in order to hear his opinion. He indeed encouraged me to believe that it involved a miracle and urged me to tell it to our Most Reverend Metropolitan and Father in the afternoon, when I was to go to the *Agape* Vespers service at the



Monastery, which I did.

In this way, I regained my calm; and I thank the All-Good God that I, the sinful one, saw such a miraculous thing, identical to that which takes place at the All-Holy Sepulchre, which I was not vouchsafed to see there, as I had desired.

In conclusion, I wish to assure anyone who hears (or reads) what I have described in this letter that it was a true, stirring miracle which I experienced, if for but a moment, on this year's Holy Pascha (18 April/ 1 May 2005).

With brotherly love in Christ,

CHRIST IS RISEN!

A. P. – Petroupolis, Attika

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• *We must also make mention of the fact that already a good number of other pious Faithful have confessed that they, too, were witnesses to the wonderful miracle related above!*

Their accounts center precisely on the fact that, when the Church was still pitch-dark, before our Most Reverend Metropolitan and Abbot Cyprian came out to transmit the Fire of the Resurrection, they saw various manifestations of the Holy Fire before the Holy Altar (a radiant flash, rays of light, etc.), which varied in particulars and duration from person to person.

“Come, receive ye light from the Unwaning Light, and glorify Christ, Who is risen from the dead”!

