

*“Tell us, our sweet Mother, of the
mystery of your ineffable dispensation
and of the kinship between us”**

A contemporary “worshipper” and devotee of the Sweetest Virgin and Most Holy *Theotokos* makes Divinely-uttered disclosures, arousing astonishment and Divine love

WE ARE PUBLISHING an extract from a letter by Elder Joseph the Hesychast of blessed memory, written from the caves of Little Saint Anna on the Holy Mountain in 1947 to a nun and the Sisterhood of an historic Old Calendarist convent in Attika. With astonishing grace and boldness, he penetrates to the depths and flies to the heights of the spiritual reality that is familiar to him, in order to initiate us into the “mysteries of God” and the manner of our “kinship” with our Most Holy Mother.



Elder Joseph at a rather young age (1930)

“...**Hearken** unto me, therefore, give ear unto my words, for I shall tell you of the truly fearsome and secret great Mystery of God’s dispensation. I do not jealously keep the benefit to myself, nor do I hide that which I know, as did he who hid the talent. I do not quail before the threats of the demons, who howl at me for revealing these mysteries, but I place my trust in your prayers.

Come, then, all together, in good order. Cleanse your mouths by the truth, purify your bodies by fasting, and sanctify your souls by prayer. Become infants in body and sovereign in spirit. Grow wings, and from worms, become butterflies. Let no earthly thing enter into your mind. Fly nearby me, and I shall go before you; for we are to pass through the ether! By no means should you fear; I have many times made the ascent and know the path. Follow one after another, you deer of Jesus. Leave your mind free to visualize the heavenly, and lo, the door to Paradise is opened unto us!

The Angels are in attendance on both sides, the Cherubim and the Seraphim. The six-winged Cherubim hover right and left. Diamond walls. Sweet-smelling flowers interwoven with gold make the surroundings fragrant, where divers sparrows of myriads of colors warble mellifluously, and our *nous* is led up from *theoria* to *theoria*. The ground is like white snow, and in the center lies the great palace of our Queen and All-Spotless Mother!

Hasten, then, because our sweet little Mother is awaiting us! Take no notice of the Angels, for it is written that not even the Angels should separate us from the love of Jesus.

And lo, the good doorkeeper, the fire-like Angel, opens unto us; and our sweet Mother, white as snow, rises and receives us!

O our sweetest Mother, O light of our souls, O love untainted, O life of our souls! May we die with your name on our lips; receive us with a most sweet kiss into your bosom! O Mother, honey and sweetest nectar, fragrant and sweet-smelling aroma!

Fall to the ground, then, and kiss our sweet Mother—her feet, hands, and mouth—, and receive an ineffable fragrance from the Holy Virgin! Do not hesitate, for she herself taught me the way, and showed and granted me this boldness and love!

Tell us, our sweet Mother, of the mystery of your ineffable dispensation and of the kinship between us. You, sweetest Mother, who ever carry the sweetest Baby in your arms—He, Who sustains all things with a nod of the head, the Tiny One for our sake within time, and the Timeless and Ancient of Days—you told us, with your fragrant little mouth, such things as the Angels can not scrutinize, and of which we were made worthy!

And listen, my beloved sisters, again: When the Divine Liturgy is being celebrated, our sweet Mother gives the Baby, Who is sacrificed for us. And when we commune worthily, through prior fasting, voluntary vigil, and compunctious prayer, we eat the Body of Jesus and the Blood that He received from the Most Immaculate Blood of the *Panagia*. What is more, in eating the Body of Christ, we ever suckle the milk of the *Panagia*, whereupon what happens to us? We become genuine children of the *Panagia*, brethren of Christ, and sons and children of God by Grace. And when we mysteriously contain Christ in our souls and bodies “inessentially” [not in essence, but by Grace – *ed.*]—because He is indivisibly with the Father—, we also have the Father together with the Holy Spirit!

This is the extraordinary kinship we have received from our sweet Mother and *Panagia*!

Do you see what gift our sweet Mother has vouchsafed us? Do you see how much we ought to love her? This is why we must unceasingly draw near and frequently receive her divine breast to suckle as her innocent children. Every time we are going to commune, we should noetically receive her breast to suckle, and the sweet little Jesus in her arms yields to us and permits us. He is not jealous of the profuse distribution by His Mother, but rather rejoices and invites us: Wrap yourselves as babes in our Mother’s dress and be filled with chastity by the Divine and virginal body. Become fragrant from her! I know of nothing else that pleases the *Panagia* so much as chastity. May whosoever wishes to acquire her great love take care to purify himself, and she will always take tender care of him and grant him every heavenly thing....”



Panagia the Milk-Feeder

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