

**AN
ELDER
SAID...**



**Edifying Stories
and Teachings from
Ancient and Modern Times**

Teachings of the Holy Hierarch Calinic of Cernica, Romania, to His Spiritual Children

(† 11 April 1868)*

THIS virtuous Bishop and man of God taught his spiritual children not only by means of his own example and advice, but also with letters. Here is how he taught the monks of the Cernica Monastery.

“I beg you, my brothers, in the House of God, may all of those who are standing outside of the Alter have orderly conduct, so that the people will see your good works, be instructed, and glorify our Heavenly Father. In this way, the Name of God will not be blasphemed because of you.”

He said again:

“You will be in a position to honor God and yourselves only if you put His commandments and your monastic vows into practice.”



Concerning prayer, he taught the monks as follows:

“Fulfil, first of all, your duties towards the Church with great diligence and humility, and do not allow your mind to be scattered or become vainglorious. For if the Lord said that we will have to give account for every idle word on the Day of Judgment, how much more severely will we be judged when we talk during the holy services?”

The great Hierarch also said the following:

“Preserve the *typikon* of common meals in your Brotherhood and share, all of you, in the food and drink. Keep yourselves from vain-glory, because this leads monastics to perdition.”

He then added:

“Do not go out of the monastery without a blessing. Do not go to the capital, to the villages, or off on some important personal affair of your own.”

“A monk who is at leisure outside of his cell without having been sent on an obedience resembles a fish out of water. Do not have particular friendships among yourselves, and do not have your own purse as did Judas.”

He then insistently stressed to them:

“I beg you, keep yourselves from the three weapons of the Devil, which are the following: self-love, forgetfulness, and unbelief, by means of which Satan leads the world to perdition.”

St. Calinic said again:

“I beg you, brothers, keep God’s commandments and He will protect you.”

He then went on to say:

“I beg you, my beloved brothers and children in Christ, keep the *Typikon* by which you now live. I gave it to you in accordance with the Canons of the Holy Fathers. For that matter, I also lived according to it, as you saw, when I was among you.

(*) Source: *Άγιος Κυπριανός*, No. 331 (March-April 2006), p. 288.

Hieromonk Ionnikios Balan, *Romanian Gerondikon* (Thessaloniki: Ekdo-seis “Orthodoxos Kypsele,” 1985), pp. 272-274.