



■ Two Very Edifying Revelations

Genuine Repentance*

“...she remained in constant and profound repentance...”

One day, when the Staretz had invited his spiritual children to eat with him at a common table, when he suddenly arose and called out: **“There now, my Pelagia! My goodness, how she is repenting, how she is beseeching me to forgive her her sins. And with such tears! Wait, my children; leave your food and pray together with me.”**

The Staretz went before the Icon corner, read the Prayer of Absolution, and blessed his repentant spiritual daughter.

“Where is she now and repenting, Father?”

“**S**he is in the North at the moment. When she arrives here, I will ask her about her repentance. Note the day and hour.”

• **A**nd indeed, Pelagia reached her homeland six months later and told the Staretz how profoundly she had repented and wept, beseeching the Staretz to forgive her precisely the day and hour that he had read the Prayer of Absolution over her.

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Something similar happened with two women who were walking towards the Staretz’ cell.

One of them repented of her sins every step of the way:

“**M**y Lord, how sinful I am! I have sinned in this way and that; I have judged someone; forgive me, O Lord...” and her heart and mind lay prostrate at the feet of our Lord. “Forgive me, O Lord, and grant me the strength not to cause Thee offence again. Forgive me, O Lord.”

As she reflected on her entire life, she remained in constant and profound repentance.



• The other woman, on the other hand, walked nonchalantly towards the Staretz.

“I will arrive,” she thought, “and confess that I am guilty of everything, and tomorrow I will commune. But now, while I am on the way, let me think what material to buy for my daughter’s dress—what color I should choose that would go with her complexion...”

These and other such worldly thoughts occupied the heart and mind of the second woman.

They entered Father Zacharias’ cell at the same time. To the former, the Staretz said:

“Kneel, and I will immediately read the Prayer of Absolution over you.”

“But, Father, how can you do that? I have not told you anything yet.”

“It is not necessary for you to say anything. You continually said all of your sins to the Lord. You were in a state of repentance as you walked here, and I heard it all. That is why I will forgive you now and give you my blessing to commune tomorrow.”

“You, on the other hand,” the Staretz addressed the other woman a moment later, “go, of course, and buy the material for your daughter’s dress. Choose the color, sew it—do as you like. **And when your soul comes to repentance, then come again to confess. I will not hear your confession now.**”



(*) Source: “Consolation and Edification,” vol. II (December 2012 - February 2013), p. 7. Translated from the Greek, 4th ed. (Ormylia: *Ekdoseis Hierou Koinobiou Evangelismou tes Theotokou*, 2002).