

“Interventions”



Securely in God's Embrace, Not Sporadically Under a *Magic Umbrella*

The devil does not acquire power over us in a “magical” or automatic way, but rather with our own free consent. Thus, we cannot be freed from the influence of the demons in a way that is “magical” or automatic, such as simply by wearing a Cross or drinking a bottle of Holy Water.

We must first come to the realization that closing the entry points of the demons and opening the door of God’s mercy require *effort* and the good use of our free will, not only on the part of the Priests, but also on our own part.

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A Turkish officer who was gravely ill sent a container of water to St. Cosmas of Aetolia, asking him to bless it so that he could drink it as medicine.

The Saint, making a correct diagnosis, proposed to him a different medicine, which was much more valuable:

“I will bless the water for you under two conditions: first, stop getting drunk and, second, give alms of a tenth of your wealth.”

In other words, the Saint told the Turk: a) I am not a magician so as to heal you mechanically and automatically, and b) if you want to become WELL (with capital letters), you should struggle to free yourself from the tyrannical masters called the spirit of hedonism and the spirit of avarice. Then you will become well (with small letters); that is, you will be healed from your sickness.

The Turkish officer promised to do as the Saint said, and only then did St. Cosmas send him the Holy Water.

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Hence, we should not look on the Church and her means of sanctification as a sort of “umbrella” that we need only when it “rains.” We should seek out the Church as the place where, steadfastly putting into practice the will of God, **we will come to know and love Him** more and more every day. Only by such a conscientious and steadfast relationship to God can we feel ourselves **securely in His embrace**, and capable of victoriously confronting every demonic activity and deceit.

Presented by

† *Metropolitan Cyprian*

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† Holy Hieromartyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea