



■ The wheat of sin

Sunday as a Day of Rest*

Keep Sunday free from work,
no matter how pressing the need

An instructive and wondrous event once happened to the Fathers of a certain monastery, which became known to their neighbors, who told the story as follows:

The monks would go to their metochia (monastery dependencies) that were located in the lowlands in order to sow wheat for their year's supply of bread, which they would also offer to visitors and the poor.



At one point, they went to sow wheat at the Metochion of St. Athanasios.

Saturday afternoon came around, and just one small strip of land remained unsowed.

One of the monks, so as to avoid their having to return later for the little bit of remaining work, got carried away and sowed the land on Sunday morning at dawn!

* * *

When the time came to harvest the land, they noticed that on the strip of land that had been sowed on Sunday the wheat was twice as high as the wheat elsewhere.

This struck them as peculiar, and they told the Abbot, a Divinely-illuminated and holy man, what had taken place.

To their astonishment, he ordered them not to harvest that particular plot, but rather, when they had finished harvesting the rest of the land, to burn it!

And so they did.

When they were burning the wheat that had been sown in sin, something exploded with the force of dynamite!

Seized with fright, the monks understood the snare of the Enemy and the nature of the sin.

In repentance, and having made a full confession to the Abbot, the guilty monk begged forgiveness and resolved to keep Sundays free from all work, no matter how pressing.



(*) *Panagia Varnakova: Miracles of the Panagia* [in Greek] (Varnakova: Hiera Mone Panagias Varnakova, 2005), p. 35. Translated from the original Greek.