

“Interventions”



Egyptian “Doctor of the Poor” Dr. Mashaly Dies

Egypt as a nation is mourning the passing of one of its most charitable citizens, Dr. Mohamed Mashaly who dedicated his entire life and career to treating the less fortunate from disease.

Mashaly passed away at the age of 76 and many of Egypt’s most prominent figures took to social media to mourn his death.

Dubbed “Tabeeb El Ghalaba” or “The Doctor of the Poor”, Mashaly was born in Al-Beheira governorate in 1944. He would spend his formative years there until he and his wife and children moved to Tanta in Al-Gharbiya governorate where he stayed until his death.



Mashaly graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Cairo University in 1967 and specialized in general medicine, fevers and pediatrics.

At a time when many of his colleagues were trying to build their careers with ambitious goals in mind, Mashaly decided pretty early on to dedicate his life to treating the poor, who did not have the means to seek professional medical assistance much of the time.

Mashaly recounted the story of why he was so dedicated to the plight of Egypt’s poor during a televised interview he did back in May, revealing that he once saw a little boy who had diabetes ask his mother for insulin but his mother responded that the family would have no money for food if she paid for the 10-year-old’s medication. The boy, upon realizing that his illness was a burden on his family decided to burn himself to death and the family called Mashaly to save the child’s life. “As he was dying, he told me that he did that so his siblings could eat,” Mashaly recounted. “That was the day when I vowed to pledge my life to the treatment of the poor.”

Mashaly spent the majority of his career charging his patients EGP 5 (less than \$0.3) for visits and only recently increased the fee to EGP 10. (\$0.6) And according to many of his patients, he sometimes would even refuse to be paid if he could see that the family needed the money and

would often pay out of his own pocket to purchase medication for his less fortunate patients.

Mashaly's death comes at a time when Egyptians and the world at large are appreciating their doctors more than ever because of their courageous work to counteract the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and Mashaly stands as a symbol of what a doctor should be, giving, healing and ultimately a true role model for all of us to follow.



Presented by

† Metropolitan Cyprian

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† Translation of the Relics
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