



St. Piamoun the Virgin

† March 3, 337

Verses

*Piamoun wore black, but from earth she departeth
Adorned with the inwoven gold of the virtues.*

λζ'. Περὶ Πιαμοῦν παρθένου

Πιαμοῦν τὸ ὄνομα γέγονε παρθένος, ἥτις πάντα τὰ ἔτη τῆς ζωῆς αὐτῆς ἔζησε μετὰ τῆς μητρὸς ἑαυτῆς, μία παρὰ μίαν ἐσθίουσα ἀεὶ ἐν ἑσπέρα, καὶ νήθουσα λίνον. **Αὕτη** κατηξιώθη χαρίσματος προρρήσεως.

Ἐν οἷς συνέβη ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ ποτὲ τῆς ἀναβάσεως οὔσης τοῦ Νείλου κώμη κώμη ἐπιθέσθαι. **Μάχονται** γὰρ εἰς τὰς ὑδρομερίας, ὡς καὶ φόνους παρακολουθεῖν πολλάκις καὶ κατακοπὰς.

Δυνατωτέρα οὖν κώμη ἐπέθετο τῇ αὐτῆς κώμῃ. **Καὶ** ἤρχοντο ἐπ' αὐτὴν ἄνδρες ἐν πλήθει μετὰ δοράτων καὶ ῥοπάλων, ὥστε συγκόψαι τὴν κώμην αὐτῆς.

37. On the Virgin Piamoun



Piamoun was a virgin who lived the years of her life with her mother, eating every other day in the evening and spinning flax. **She** was accounted worthy of the gift of prophecy.

It happened once in Egypt during the flooding of the Nile that one village attacked another. **For** they fight over the distribution of the water, so that murders and injuries ensue.

Well, a stronger village attacked her village, and men came in a crowd with staves and spears to destroy her village.

Παρέστη δὲ ταύτῃ τῇ μακαρία Ἄγγελος τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἀποκαλύπτων αὐτῇ τὴν ἐπίθεσιν τούτων.

Μεταστελαιμένη δὲ αὐτῇ τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους τῆς κώμης αὐτῆς, λέγει αὐτοῖς:

Ἐξέλθετε εἰς συνάντησιν τοῖς ἐρχομένοις ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐκ τῆσδε τῆς κώμης, ἵνα μὴ πάντες ὑφ' ἐν συναπολώμεθα οἱ ταύτης τῆς κώμης. Καὶ παρακαλέσατε αὐτοὺς λωφῆσαι τῆς καθ' ἡμῶν ἐπιβουλῆς.

Φοβηθέντες δὲ οἱ πρεσβύτεροι σφόδρα, πίπτουσιν αὐτῆς εἰς τοὺς πόδας, δεόμενοι καὶ παρακαλοῦντες αὐτὴν καὶ λέγοντες, ὅτι:

Ἡμεῖς οὐ τολμῶμεν αὐτοῖς συναντῆσαι. Οἶδαμεν γὰρ αὐτῶν τὴν μέθην καὶ τὴν ἀπόνειαν. Ἄλλ', εἰ ποιεῖς ἔλεος καὶ ἐφ' ἡμᾶς καὶ ἐπὶ πᾶσαν τὴν κώμην καὶ ἐπὶ τὸν οἶκον τὸν σόν, ἐξελθοῦσα αὐτῇ αὐτοῖς συνάντησον, καὶ εἰρηνεύσασα τούτους, ἀπόστρεψον.

Ἡ δὲ ἅγια ἐκείνη, τοῦτο μὲν οὐ συνέθετο, ἀνελθοῦσα δὲ εἰς τὸ δωμάτιον τὸ ἑαυτῆς ἔστη δι' ὅλης νυκτὸς εὐχομένη, καὶ μὴ κλίναςα γόνου, ἀλλὰ δεομένη τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ λέγουσα, ὅτι:

Κύριε, ὁ κρίνων πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν, ᾧ οὐδὲν τῶν ἀδίκων ἀρέσκει ποτέ, τῆς προσευχῆς ταύτης ἐλθούσης πρὸς Σέ, ἡ ἅγια δύναμις στηλωσάτω αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸν τόπον ὅπου ἂν αὐτοὺς καταλάβῃ.

Προσευξαμένης δὲ ταύτης τῆς ἁγίας παρθένου, γίνεται τι τοιοῦτον.

But an Angel of God appeared to the blessed one, revealing their attack to her.

Summoning the Priests of the village, she said to them:

Go out and meet the men who are coming against you from that village, lest you also perish with the village, and urge them to cease from their attack against us.

The Priests were greatly afraid and fell at her feet, beseeching her and saying to her:

We dare not face them; for we know their drunkenness and madness. But if you have mercy both on the whole village and your own house, go out yourself and meet them; pacify them and convince them to turn back.

The holy virgin did not agree to this, but went up to her room and stood throughout the entire night in prayer, without kneeling, and beseeched God thus:

O Lord, Who judgest the earth, to Whom no unjust act is pleasing, when this prayer reaches Thee, let Thy power nail these men to the spot wherever it finds them.

The holy virgin having prayed thus, the following took place.

Περὶ ὥραν πρώτην εὐρέθησαν οἱ πολέμοι ἀπὸ τριῶν σημείων τῆς κώμης, καὶ ἐν αὐτῷ τῷ τόπῳ ἐστηλώθησαν καθὼς ἤτήσατο ἡ ἀγία, μηδ' ὄλως δυνάμενοι σαλευθῆναι.



Ἀπεκαλύφθη δὲ κακείνοις τοῖς μαχίμοις, ὅτι πρεσβεία τῆς δούλης Χριστοῦ Πιαμοῦν τοῦτο τοῦτοις συμβέβηκεν.

Ἀποστείλαντες οὖν εἰς τὴν κώμην αὐτῆς, ἤτήσαντο εἰς εἰρήνην, δηλώσαντες τοῖς κατοίκοις, ὅτι:

Εὐχαριστήσατε τῷ Θεῷ καὶ ταῖς καθαραῖς προσευχαῖς Πιαμοῦν τῆς δικαίας, αἵτινες καὶ ὑμᾶς διεφύλαξαν, καὶ ἡμᾶς συνεπόδισαν εἰς ἀνατροπὴν μεγάλου κακοῦ.

About the first hour of the day, when the aggressors were some three miles away, they were nailed to the ground and could not move.

It was then revealed to them that this hindrance had come to them through the intercessions of the servant of Christ Piamoun.

They thus sent a messenger to the village and asked for peace, declaring:

Give thanks to God and the righteous Piamoun, whose pure prayers both saved you and hindered us from perpetrating a great evil.



(*) Παλλαδίου Ἐπισκόπου Ἐλενοπόλεως, Ἡ πρὸς Λαύσον Ἱστορία, ἐκδόσεις Ε.Π.Ε., Θεσσαλονίκη 1996.

• Palladius, *The Lausiatic History*, ch. 31. English translation Taken, slightly emended, from the website https://www.tertullian.org/fathers/palladius_lausiatic_02_text.htm#C31