

Maximos and Domatius

Objectives

To learn from the saints how to achieve holiness through perseverance and steadfastness

References

1. Synaxarium of the 14th of Toubá
2. Maximos and Domatius By Sagui Soliman

Scriptural Verse

“The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.” (Psalm 92: 12)

Lesson Outlines

Their Early Life

- ❖ Two brothers and one young sister were born to the righteous emperor Valendianus (375-387 AD).
- ❖ Raised in the fear of God, they followed an ascetic regime and made their father’s palace look like a monastery full of prayers and praises.
- ❖ They loved each other and agreed to never separate in their spiritual struggle.
- ❖ They asked their father to let them visit Nicaea, the place of the fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council. He happily sent them with guards as they were princes.
- ❖ At Nicaea, they asked the soldiers to get back to inform their father that they wanted to stay longer and they went to a known holy monk called John and told him about their wish to become monks. He tested them to be sure of their vow and sent them to Anba Agabios in Syria as he feared their father’s reaction.
- ❖ They stayed with Anba Agabios 6 years following his guidance and making tents beside their ascetic regime. He put on them, the Monastic Garb and told them that he saw St. Macarius in a night vision telling him that Maximos and Domatius should go to Egypt (after Anba Agabios’ departure) to become his sons.
- ❖ A steward for their father saw their names on a ship’s sails and was informed that the owner put their name to bless his ship. He told the emperor who sent their mother and sister to visit and bring them back. The saints comforted them and refused to return.
- ❖ The Patriarch of Rome departed after a while and Maximos was nominated to be ordained in his place. Their father rejoiced but the saints knew that it was time to go to Egypt.

With St. Macarius

- ❖ Exhausted from their journey they fell asleep on a hill and the power of the Lord carried them to St. Macarius in Scetis who told them about the hard life in the desert then accepted them because of their seriousness.

- ❖ He taught them how to braid palm leaves and told them about who would take their work and bring them bread. He also helped them build a cell to live in. He blessed them and left.
- ❖ They lived three years struggling in their cell, never communicating with anyone. They only went to church to celebrate the Liturgies.
- ❖ St. Macarius worried about them, he fasted for a week and prayed to the Lord asking Him to reveal their life to him.
- ❖ He went to their cell, and spent the night with them. They slept and he pretended that he was sleeping. Maximos woke his brother for prayer silently and The Lord illuminated the cell so that St. Macarius would see them without them seeing him.
- ❖ He saw demons who didn't dare to approach Maximos but tried to come around Domatius but the Angel of the Lord with a fiery sword was casting them away from him. He also saw balls of fire coming out of the mouth of Domatius with every Psalm he reads while a continuous rope of fire coming out of Maximos' mouth going to heaven during the whole prayer.
- ❖ He girdled them with the Eskim and asked for their prayers and went peacefully.

Their Miracles

Their virtuous life was known everywhere and God gave them the gift of healing and casting out demons.

Their Departure

On the 14th of Touba, Maximos became sick with a high fever, he asked for Abba Macarius who saw a group of saints take St. Maximos who departed in peace among the prayers of the monks. After three days Domatius who wept bitterly and asked the Lord to join him with his brother, became very ill and asked for Abba Macarius who saw the same saints with St. Maximos, coming to take St. Domatius who departed in peace on the 17th of Touba. St. Macarius ordered that the Monastery be called after their names (El-Baramus). May their prayers be with us all. Amen.

Conclusion

Spiritual maturity is not related to age or experience, but it goes with love and perseverance.

Activities / Discussion Points

1. How did these two young Saints attain this level of perfection in such a short time? (Remember also St. John the Baptist, St. Abanoub and others)