

AN ELDER SAID...



Edifying Stories and Teachings from Ancient and Modern Times

From the Life of St. Nikon "Metanoeite"*

(Tenth Century, Commemorated on 26 November)

When, therefore, the Saint had arrived in Evia and had stood on the top of a rampart, as though on a pulpit, in order that his preaching might be heard, he called out "Repent ye" ["Metanoeite"] all day and night long, as was his custom.

The children of Evia, taking his unusual preaching for a game, as is often the case, all flocked together to the place where the Saint was standing.



But what did the envious enemy Belial do? Not enduring the sight of the return and salvation of sinners, he hastened to show his maliciousness here as well. That is why, then, the homicidal one invisibly thrust one of the small children from high off the rampart wall, tossing him to the ground.

When a great tumult arose and a large crowd had gathered, no one doubted that the child who had fallen to the ground had been dashed to pieces and, unseen, had died a bitter death. The child's parents were nearly ready to rip the Saint to shreds, because he was, supposedly, to blame for the misfortune.

But he, calmly and quietly, said to them:

"Your child lives. He is alive and has suffered no harm, as you imagine."

When the boy's parents and the rest of the crowd saw the boy safe and sound, they were dumbstruck, marveling and taken aback at the event.

Judging well that the wondrous miracle did not occur without the aid of Divine power, they took up the boy with great astonishment.

As for the boy, he said:

“That monk who calls out ‘Repent ye’ reached into the air and held me, not allowing me to fall to the ground.”

Thus, all being conquered by a great fear, they henceforth looked upon the blessed one as an Angel.

After a short while, the small boy, desiring the life without cares, was tonsured and lived in accordance with the vows of monastic life. And, having pleased God in this way, he departed to the Lord.



(*) Source: Ἅγιος Κυπριανός, No. 323 (November-December 2004), p. 136.

The Life, Conduct, and Narration of Several of the Miracles of St. Nikon “*Meta-noeite*,” Ἄνθη Εὐσεβίας 4 (Athens: Ekdoseis “Τῆνος,” 1997), pp. 96, 98.