

AN ELDER SAID...



Edifying Stories and Teachings from Ancient and Modern Times

“For it is a Fire Burning the Unworthy”*

*A recorded account by the Priest,
Fr. Demetris Gagasthis of blessed memory (†1975)*

On Saturday, 30 December 1967, at 3 PM, I went to Meteora to worship and receive spiritual benefit. On Sunday, I liturgized at the Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration and, on Monday night, at St. Stephanos. It was a great joy and blessing of the Lord.

When, by God’s strength, I returned to my village, I was immediately informed that I should go commune the elderly Zoe Gagasthis, who was around eighty-five-years-old and had been bed-ridden for quite some time.

I went, and as soon as I had administered the Immaculate Mysteries to her, she cried out: “The Communion has burned me; I am on fire... Give me water to drink; I’m burning. It’s burning me inside....”

During the few hours that she lived after that, she called out incessantly: “I’ve been burned, the wretch.” She then gave up her spirit.

That was a miracle, because she had not confessed herself for a long time and had a temperamental character. She had a passion for speaking ill of others. Wherever she went, she always had wicked things to say about her child, her daughter-in-law, etc. She was always gossiping. She never stopped. She felt that everybody wronged her and she was never pleased with anyone.

She also had the passion of gluttony. Up until her death, she was constantly talking, and that is why God showed her the miracle. She partook of the Immaculate Mysteries unworthily, and cried out that the Holy Communion had burned her.

And after her death, her mouth remained open, as if she wanted to keep on talking.

I am writing this as the parish Priest of the village, so that it will be in



*As soon as I had communed her, she cried out:
“The Communion has burned me! I am on fire!”*

writing and be read by everyone, thereby serving as a lesson that we should restrain ourselves and have love for our children and the whole world, and that we should confess ourselves. We must follow the instructions of our spiritual Father.

She also went to confession many times, but it seems that she heard the words there, and left them there.

God wants full and frank confessions from us and the keeping of His commandments, so that we will not suffer the same fate as this old woman and be punished eternally in the future torment of the Devil.



(*) Source: Άγιος Κυπριανός, No. 327 (July-August 2005), p. 216.

Papa-Demetris Gagastathis: Life, Miracles, Counsels, and Letters (Thessaloniki: “Orthodoxos Kypsele” Publications, 1975), pp. 107-108.