

## THE FOURTH FLOWER: ENDURANCE

The second flower endowed me with Power from on high. I recognized this power in my ministry of love, both internally and outwardly, the ministry of healing. The healing of the inner self is the beginning of the gradual conversion towards God that allows, through grace only, the acquisition of the Holy Spirit to work effectively outwardly towards others through the distribution of the beauty of the third flower of healing.

The power of the Holy Spirit is unlimited. It sets me free from my slavery to my sins to be “refashioned in the divine likeness.”<sup>1</sup> It is a power of gradual transcendence and transformation for both me and creation. The intention of the healing process is not to obtain freedom and do the commandments of God. Jews and Muslims are following these commandments as well, but healing should lead me to live in Christ by emptying my self and allowing the rejected stone to become the chief cornerstone of my life.<sup>2</sup>

The Holy Spirit has freed me and yet I am not free. I chose not to be free for He charged me with a restless commission: my reunion with God and with man. From now on, I can see the fulfillment of the prophecies in Jesus Christ and I cannot accept to stay silent or I will be denying Him once again. The Holy Spirit healed my blindness so I can see the Truth and walk in the Way while carrying the Cross of love towards the Life. My Cross of love is to stay, and to become, a witness, a martyr, of unceasing ministry to myself and others in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.<sup>3</sup> But some may chose to stay slaves to their sins instead, and chose not to believe in the clear actions of the Spirit. They even condemn those who proclaim and do miracles in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They chose to blind their eyes by covering it from the light of truth and try to jail<sup>4</sup> the proclaimed truth. However, this truth continues to manifest itself mysteriously in those who receive and accept it by baptism regardless of the hardship they may encounter.<sup>5</sup>

When I was called by the Master to leave the nets of fish in order to become a fisher of man instead,<sup>6</sup> I never thought that I will become a leader. I never thought that I would be witnessing the work and the revelation of God here on earth and later on, in the

---

<sup>1</sup> Fr. Cyrille Argenti, *“Fear Not, a Spiritual Journey of Faith and Freedom”*, Alexander Press, 2006, p. 36.

<sup>2</sup> Acts 4:11.

<sup>3</sup> Acts 4:10.

<sup>4</sup> Acts 4: 3.

<sup>5</sup> Acts 4: 4.

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 4:19.

Kingdom after my physical death. I never thought that I would be doing miracles in His Name through the power of the Holy Spirit. I never thought that I was going to encounter in person the Second Hypostases of the Trinity, and one day, He would bestow on me the flowers of the Third One.

I remember that He asked me to deny, empty myself, and carry the Cross<sup>7</sup> and to follow Him, but only now, I realize what this commission is. He wants me to decrease so, He might increase in me allowing me to endure the consequences of His commission of witnessing.

The power of the Holy Spirit has gifted me first with the flower of healing and it is awarding me with the fourth flower, the flower of endurance. This flower is keeping me focused on the limited power of humanity and that nothing could achieve its fulfillment without Jesus Christ. It is giving me the assurance that my life without Christ is not worthy and therefore I should endure all tribulations and distresses even physical torture for his sake. This awareness kept me in a state of prayer and purity because through the Holy Spirit I shall become the "Temple of the Holy Spirit"<sup>8</sup> and nothing can harm me. Therefore, I can stand with boldness<sup>9</sup> and defend my preaching and illumining others.

The flower of endurance has awakened me to acknowledge that God is my priority and no one or nothing else could or should alter this vision. For this, I must "leave all earthly cares,"<sup>10</sup> put them in His hands and live in peace sharing God's wealth with others. Living in community is living in communion with God through communication with others, because God is the Creator of creation. He is the common commander of all.

Realizing all that, I recognized the power of the community, the assembly, the Church, where the prayer in one accord and with one voice may shake the place and fill all those who are praying with the Holy Spirit.<sup>11</sup> This is the same Holy Spirit that the Apostles and all those who are baptized received making them one body sharing together their possessions<sup>12</sup> that they may be all equal to their need to the heavenly things.

---

<sup>7</sup> Luke 14: 27.

<sup>8</sup> 1 Corinthians 6: 19.

<sup>9</sup> Acts 4: 13.

<sup>10</sup> The Cherubic Hymn sang at the Divine Liturgy of both St John Chrysostom and St Basil the Great.

<sup>11</sup> Acts 4: 31.

<sup>12</sup> Acts 4: 35.