

Pope Kyrillos VI and St Menas, The Martyr

We are not going to penetrate deeply into the strong relationship between the Pope and St. Menas, as it has been handled in details in the first book published about the life of Pope Kyrillos VI. But, we here mention that it is infrequent to find such a matchless relationship one part of it lived on earth in flesh, while the other joined the victorious Church about 1600 years ago. In spite of this big gap in time, the Pope used to see his beloved patron, St. Menas, and to talk to him in a most amazing and miraculous way.

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Mr. Amal Thabet Bishai Abut Khair, accountant from Alexandria, said that he suffered from many diseases that affected him psychologically. He was examined and treated by many doctors, but all in vain. Some advised him to see Pope Kyrillos VI. Because of his lack of faith, he was hesitant to go. But when he became desperate, he went to the Pope who was at that time at St. Menas Monastery, Maryout. He asked the Pope to pray for him. The Pope covered him with the sacred vestment he was wearing while serving Mass and prayed, but he did not get better. He turned to the Pope and said, «I am not leaving this place till I recover!» The Pope looked at him with sympathy, asked him to sit down on a chair and prayed again for him. His Holiness then whispered in his ears, «Here is St. Menas, he came especially for you»). Mr. Amal says, «I immediately felt as if electricity is going through all my body which became very light. When the Pope finished praying, I felt that all sickness left me, so I shouted, «I recovered your Holiness... I recovered».

+ GOD WILL DEFEND YOU :

Mr. Aziz Serkis Guirguis, a pensioner, says that during his service at the the Police Force, he was accused and detained for a court case. He had a relative who used to go very often to Pope Kyrillos VI, asking for his prayers that God may save him from this crisis. The Pope used to comfort him and give this relative a piece of El Baraka (Blessed Bread) to take to Mr. Aziz in his detention. When the case was heard, his lawyer failed to attend, and was replaced by another. He talked to the judge who called Mr. Aziz and announced his innocence. Mr. Aziz was set free, and the first thing he did was to find this lawyer and ask who sent him. There was no trace of the lawyer and nobody could answer Mr. Aziz's questions.

+ PARALYSIS:

Mr. Phillopos El Kommos Yohanna was suffering from paralysis and stayed in hospital for five months. His brother-in-law, Mr. Aziz Sarkis was frequently visiting Pope Kyrillos VI, asking for his prayers that Mr. Phillopos may recover. Once, during the raising of incense at Vespers, the Pope surprised Mr. Aziz by asking him, «How is your relative? I am going to send St. Menas to him tonight». At the same night, during his sleep, Mr. Phillopos saw a youth in white standing in front of him. He woke up frightened and in the morning, his brother-in-law visited him, and told him what the Pope said the day before. Mr. Phillopos told him about his dream and they realized that the youth must be St. Menas, the Martyr. Afterwards, life started to go through his body till he recovered completely.

+ THE JAR OF MEAL WAS NOT SPENT

Once, it happened that there was no flour left at St. Menas Monastery, Old Cairo, while Pope Kyrillos VI was still a monk. He simply went to St. Menas, Icon and asked him to find a way to get some flour for the Holy Bread. The late Fr. Athanasios El Meharraki was at the Monastery at that time. Fr. Mina (Pope Kyrillos VI) gave him 25 piasters to buy flour but he could not find any, as there was a shortage in flour supplies at that time all over the country. The Priest returned to the Monastery disappointed, but there next to the Church's door, he found full bag of flour, about ten okes, with a card allowing bearer to collect one bag of flour. The Priest took the flour and the card and told Fr. Mina what happened. He then went to the address on the card, where he was given the bag of flour. When the Priest was about to call a cab, the man was kind enough and offered to take him in his private car to the Monastery. Within the following few days, the Ministry of Supply agreed to issue the Monastery with Provisions Card for a monthly quota of flour.

+ SKIN DISEASE:

Mr. Youssef Wasef Guirguis, Deacon from Virgin Mary's Church, Moharram Bey, wrote this miracle which happened to him during a three days visit to St. Menas Monastery at Maryout. He was suffering from a skin disease and had to take different types of medication, but all in vain. He was advised by doctors to have no salt in his food. Mr. Youssef describes what happened:

During this visit, Pope Kyrillos VI came to the dining room and saw me sitting on my own. He asked me the reason for eating far from others, so I told him about my disease and showed him the medicine. But His Holiness said to me, «Eat with your brothers and you will recover, with God's will and the prayers of St. Menas». The food offered was eggs and cheese, an salty meal that I was warned against. But I obeyed the Pope and ate; since then till today, I recovered and the disease never came back.

+ A Pregnant Lady and the Trouble of Returning From The Monastery:

Mr. Guirguis Sorial from Moharram Bey, Alexandria says that in Nov. 1968, his wife was pregnant in her early months. She was advised by her doctor not to do any hard work and sleep on her back most of the time to avoid a miscarriage.

It happened that she and her husband joined a trip to St. Menas Monastery, Maryout. On their way back, they missed the trip bus so they had to walk to the railway station at Baheeg. This caused her husband great worry as he feared that his wife might lose the baby. Darkness covered the desert, and after three hours of walking, they started praying, asking for the intercession of St. Menas and Pope Kyrillos VI. At that moment came a private car with foreign passengers, who agreed to give them a lift to the station. When they arrived there, they boarded a train which was already one hour late, but it departed immediately. At home, she was examined by her doctor who found out that the foetus (baby) is all right. Later on, she gave birth to a baby boy who was named «Mina».

+ THE POPE KNEW OF THE MIRACLE:

Mr. () chanter at a church in Alexandria says that his son was suffering from dark warts on his face and forehead that looked like brown lentils. He continues the story as follows:

We had a picture of St. Menas at home which was given to us by Pope Kyrillos VI. My son put his face on the picture and I said the Lord's prayer seven times. All the spots disappeared and my son recovered. When the Pope came to Alexandria, I went to receive his blessings. He surprised me by saying, «What did St. Menas do to your son? Do not hide anything». I cried with joy as the Pope knew what St. Menas did. So I explained to His Holiness what happened exactly and he said, «St. Menas honoured you by his visit»!

+ FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Mr. Latif Messiha of Moharram Bey, Alexandria, wrote the following:

I was holding the position of Factory Manager in Alexandria from 1955 till its nationalization in 1963. When the delegated member came for the take over, he referred me to the Public Prosecution on false accusations. Another partial investigation was carried out by the Intelligence Department. I lived in fear for about five months, between inquiries and release on bail that made my life a nightmare. One day, I went to St. Mark's Cathedral at Alexandria for the Vespers prayers, held by Pope Kyrillos VI. During the incense round, I went to the Sanctuary and knelt in front of His Holiness and kissed his hand. I intended to tell him about my problem and ask for his prayers for me and my family. I was greatly amazed when I heard the Pope saying, «Why are you afraid? Do not be worried! God is with you St. Menas is going to be by your side. Hold your strength». He then prayed for me and I did not say a word of what I was about to tell His Holiness. I realized that he knows everything already. In less than a month, the clouds dispersed and I was proven innocent and restored to my position.

+ WHY ARE YOU UPSET?

Fr. Mina Ava Mina says that once, when His Holiness was at the monastery, he asked his driver to take the car to the railway station to telephone St. Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria that His Holiness is coming. When the driver arrived to the station, the clutch burnt out so he took another car and went to Alexandria. He brought back a mechanic. The car was fixed and the driver returned to the monastery. When they tried to start it there, it did not work. In the meantime, a strong sand storm blew and made vision difficult for more than a half meter. They went to His Holiness who shook his head and went to St. Menas picture and said these exact words, «Why are you upset? Didn't we stay with you 35 days! All right... Do not be upset!» After a short time, the storm calmed down. The Pope then asked for a glass of water, put two drops of oil from St. Menas' lamp and prayed on them. He sprayed the water over the car's engine and it started although the mechanic failed before. When they reached the Papal Palace in Alexandria, the car stopped again after fulfilling its function.

+ DELIVERANCE:

This miracle was witnessed by three senior employees from CID Company for Medicines. It is narrated by Mr. Karam Baghdady, Sales Manager of the said company.

The following is a summary of his letter:

In 1966, I faced a very serious problem and was advised by a friend to go and meet Pope Kyrillos VI. When we went to the Papal Palace in Cairo, we were told that His Holiness is at St. Menas Monastery, Maryout. I took my car: and headed to the desert road till we reached .

Maryout, but could not find our way to the Monastery. When we asked, we knew that we were 40 Kilometers away and it is hard to reach it as it was getting dark. But I was determined to go.

One of the Bedouin heard us talking and said he knows the way. I took him in the car till we reached Baheig and crossed the railway.

There, we found ourselves in the vast desert with no track to follow, so we returned to where we were before. A boy about 9 years old signalled to us to stop. He told us that he knows the way and with his lead we reached the Monastery. I went inside and left the two guides outside.

His Holiness had just went to his cell but I asked to see him. I was wondering what the meeting with this great man was going to be like, but his simplicity and humility impressed me. He listened to me all the time with a smile on his face. He was looking at me as if I was a book and he was reading it. He was very honest and frank when he told me that the way was not easy and I'll face many difficulties. But he comforted me by saying that at the end, nothing will happen to me and I'll be saved. He promised to mention me in his early prayers. He offered us tea, gave us from the Baraka (Blessed Bread) and said, «God is with you».

It was almost midnight, and when we were about to leave, His Holiness called one of the Monks whom we never met before, as he was in his cell. The Pope pointed to him, saying, «Tell him!» I was surprised, but the Monk came to my side and said, «You have two guides with you, listen to the young one but be cautious of the old. If he says go left, refuse, no matter what!» He repeated these words more than once and said that God will protect us and St. Mena's blessing will accompany us and guide us in the desert.

The young guide left when we reached the place where we picked him up and refused to take any money, but I insisted. The elder guide asked us to turn left and by that time, I forgot what the Monk told me. I thought I'll give the man a lift to his home but we found ourselves in a desert area then he asked us to stop. We were suddenly surrounded by about 50 men who demanded money. They took five pounds and while waiting to get some change, we heard that three of them are digging three graves!

We realized what fate waiting for us. But St. Menas' blessings and the Pope's prayers protected us. We managed to escape slaughter by a miracle. It was through a divine power that I asked the man who was sitting in front of the car to move aside and then took off! We all remembered the warning given to us at the monastery and how we forgot it quickly. We all thanked God for saving us. The main problems that disturbed me ended peacefully, as the Pope said, and God's name was glorified.

+ AND IN GERMANY ALSO!

An Egyptian Priest in Germany was visiting the family of Mr. Daniel Ghattas, when the wife expressed her fears of child birth. She was in her eight-th month of pregnancy and her previous two deliveries needed operation. The Priest told her that, with God's help, it will be natural birth this time, and the baby is going to be a boy named Mina. The lady agreed and said, «let it be according to your words, Father».

It happened that she had fever and the delivery became difficult. Operation room was prepared. But the lady suddenly saw a man next to her bed. Because of the unbearable pain, she could not see more than the man's stick and black robe. The situation immediately changed and she had a natural birth. At night, Pope Kyrillos VI appeared to her husband and 13 year old son, holding his stick and wearing his black robe.

We conclude this chapter by a miracle told by His Grace Anba Maximos, Bishop of El Kalyoubiah.

It happened that his brother Youssef was suffering from stomach ulcer that needed an operation. The Bishop went to Pope Kyrillos VI and asked him to pray for his sick brother. The Pope simply said, «I will send him St. Menas!» The Bishop went to visit his brother and when he entered, the brother stood up and asked his wife, «Where is the doctor who passed from here now?» The wife answered that there was no doctor at all. He insisted, «He just passed me now and was wearing white». The Bishop told his brother what the Pope said exactly.

The doctor who was seen only by the patient was St. Menas, the Miracle Performer and the beloved patron of His Holiness, Pope Kyrillos VI. After this incident, the brother recovered completely.

VISIONARY SENSATION

+ MY SON ALSO

We read in the previous chapter -The Relationship of Pope Kyrillos VI and St. Menas- about the miracle that happened to Mr: Amal Thabet Aboul Khair. Here, we refer to his father, Mr. Thabet, lawyer from Tahta, who was present when he received the blessings of recovery. At that time, he came closer to the Pope and asked him to pray for his two sons whom he left in Tahta and were suffering from different diseases. He said to the Pope, «Please, your Holiness, remember Amal and his brothers Safwat and Sarwat». But the Pope smiled and said, «What about Adel?» The father, who was amazed how the Pope knew the name of the son that was not mentioned, answered, «He is my son also, your Holiness!!» The Pope said, «Should not we pray for him too?» Here, the father kissed the Pope's hand and left, glorifying God.

Mr. Amal's mother was suffering from pain caused by a stone in the gall bladder, according to doctor's reports, She was advised to have an operation. She asked the Pope to pray for her recovery, which he did and comforted her by saying she will recover without surgery. When she was reexamined and had some tests too, they found out that she had inflammation of the colon. After having a simple treatment, she recovered and regained good health.

+ HE KNEW ALL HE DID:

Fr..., Priest of... Church in Alexandria used, every time he is in Cairo, to visit first Pope Kyrillos VI before going to his own family. It happened once that he went straight home to find his family having dinner, so he joined them. In the evening, he went to the Pope. He was amazed to hear His Holiness saying:

«Shouldn't you come first to the Pope, then to your family, Father!»

The Priest apologized and was sorry for what he has done. He kissed the Pope's hand but the Pope continued:

«And they prepared for you, too», and listed exactly the different types of food served. The Priest answered, «Yes, your Holiness». But the Pope resumed saying, «And before one sits to eat, don't you think he should rest a while, pray then eat slowly?»

The Priest was overwhelmed with wonder. How did the Pope know all these details. He knelt asking for the Pope's forgiveness. The Pope smiled and forgave him; the puzzled Priest left the Papal Palace glorifying God.

+ LEAVING CHURCH:

Mr. Fouad Guirguis was suffering from a dangerous eye disease. He went to Pope Kyrillos VI and knelt in front of him. The Pope, when he saw him, said, «Get up, Damanhourian.... your eyes do hurt!» Then he put his hand on Mr. Fouad's eyes and prayed; his eyes were cured. He also adds that he is originally from Damanhour.

Mr. Fouad also said that whenever he intended to leave Church before end of morning or evening prayers to do some work, the Pope used to come near to him during the incense tour and gently pull his hair. This puzzled him and made him wonder if the Pope knew his intentions. Accordingly, he used to stay till the end and God helped him in whatever he was planning to do.

+ A COMPLICATED CHILDBIRTH:

When Mr. Fouad's wife had difficulty during childbirth she was given some medicines that badly affected her eye-sight. Her husband wrote her name on a piece of paper and asked his mother-in-law to give it to the Pope to pray for his wife. When the mother-in-law was near the Pope, he spontaneously said to her, «How is your daughter? God will help her and she will recover». He took the piece of paper from her and she left. It happened that her daughter delivered the child safely and regained her sight, exactly as it came out of the Pope's pure mouth.

+ THE THIEF:

A youth went to St. George's Church at Sporting and pretended being poor. He spent the night next to the Church's porter, who at dawn heard a movement inside the Church. He woke up, frightened, and hurried to the Church to find the youth trying to steal an electric fan. While he was about to catch him, the Pope arrived for the early morning prayers. Here, the porter stopped and both went to the Pope to receive his blessings.

The Pope put the Cross on the porter's head; and blessed him, then turned to the youth with an angry look, rebuked him and asked him to leave the Church immediately.

+ CONGRATULATIONS, FATHER:

Fr. Guirguis Morcos, Priest of Anba Shenondah's Church, Alexandria, tells this miracle. He was suffering from a dangerous disease and was admitted to hospital, but his condition was deteriorating. One night, he went to sleep and was feeling very sad. In a dream, he saw Pope Kyrillos VI putting the Cross on his chest, exactly on the spot of pain, and said to him, «Congratulations, Father, I came to felicitate on your recovery». The Priest says that when he woke up, he felt much better. Doctors agreed that he almost recovered and discharged him from Hospital. A week later, the Pope came to the Church where the Priest was serving and took part in Mass.

When Mass was over, the Priest was amazed to see the Pope put the Cross on his chest and congratulate him for his recovery. Here, he remembered exactly what he saw in the dream and glorified God.

+ SAY I AM INNOCENT, YOUR HOLINESS:

Mrs. Olga Anis from St. George's Church, Sporting, was accused in a court case and was released on bail. She went to Pope Kyrillos VI who comforted her and assured her that God will save her. The proceeding took long. And before any court hearing, she used to go first to the Pope who kept on saying, «It will be adjourned.» But she begged him saying, «I am tired, your Holiness say I will be proven innocern!» But he repeated that the case is being deferred. He even used to tell her what

the witnesses would testify and what the prosecution would say. The case continued for six years. At one time, this lady was visiting the Pope, who was at St. Menas Monastery, Maryout and begged him with tears to pray for her. He said to her, «It is over. ..your innocence has been proven. » The lady was full of Joy and at the next hearing, she was declared innocent. She immediately sent a telegram to His Holiness telling him of the happy news.

+ HER DAUGHTER AND HER NIECE:

Mrs. Olga tells how she went to Pope Kyrillos VI with her daughter and her niece, to receive his blessings: When he saw her, he said, «You come with your daughter and your mece!»

These words took her by surprise as the girls never met His Holiness before, so she knelt, kissing his hands and pointing to her niece, she said, «this is my daughter», then she pointed to her daughter and said, «this is my niece». But the Pope corrected her saying, «How come? ...It is vice versa!» The lady says that she could not believe herself and left overwhelmed with wonder.

+ SHE ATE BEANS IN THE MORNING:

Once, a lady asked Deacon Salib El Kess Dimetry, who was serving in Mass with Pope Kyrillos VI, to carry her daughter to the Pope, to receive Holy Communion. When the Deacon reached the Pope, His Holiness turned to him saying, «Take her back to her mother, she ate beans at breakfast».

The Deacon went to the lady and repeated what the Pope said. The mother answered, «It is true, she had a small sandwich in the morning!» The Deacon was amazed and simply told her that fasting is a must for whoever wants to receive Holy Communion, according to the tradition of our Orthodox Church.

+ WOULD NOT BE LATE:

Mr. Benyamin Ghaly Abdel Messih of Cairo wrote the following: I used to go daily to St. Mark's Cathedral, Alexandria, and attended the Vespers Prayers with the Saint, Pope Kyrillos VI, from 6 to 8 at night. This time suited me, as it was during my off duty hours from work, for twelve years. Once, when raising incense was over, the Pope was blessing the congregation. So I hurried to where he was standing, in front of the Sanctuary. One of the Priests rebuked me and asked me to get down. I was very embarrassed and upset, but my deep love for the Pope made me accept anything patiently. I turned to the back without His Holiness noticing me and waited for more than ten minutes. He was still blessing people and I was getting worried about being late for my night shift. Suddenly, The Pope's left hand grabbed me, blessed me and I went to work in time.

+ COME HERE, RUNAWAY:

Mr. Yonnan Awad Michael from the Church of Arch-Angel Michael, Old Cairo, says:

In 1968, I suffered from Angina Pectoris, a chest disease that caused me great pain for about two years. One Friday, I went to His Holiness, Pope Kyrillos VI after Mass. He was sitting to receive his children while I was standing, feeling very tired. My wife was by my side, holding my hand to support me. The Pope looked at me and pulled me towards him saying, «Come here, runaway... Who told you to escape by ship!» I was surprised to hear these words which he said joking, but it proved that he knows my name Yonnan which is «Johah», although he never saw me

before.

His Holiness then hit me lightly with the Cross and said, «You will recover... but do not try to run away!» Since that moment, I started feeling better, then I returned to my Church and I am still serving there.

+ WITH THEM IN THEIR PROBLEMS:

Mr, Fouad Ishak Youssef of Alexandria says that once, in a state of anger, he threw a heavy cushion to hit his son. The boy fell and broke his leg and was put in plaster. Few days later Mr. Fouad discovered a crack in one of the walls of his house, which made it bound to collapse. So he started looking for another house.

During this crisis, he went to Pope Kyrillos VI. When His Holiness saw him, he asked, «How is your son now?» The man was surprised and replied, «His leg was broken and is still in plaster!» Then the Pope asked again, «How is your house?» And Mr. Fouad answered, «It might collapse any time and I am still searching for another one,» The Pope prayed for him and said, «God will ease your way».

Mr. Fouad left in great amazement, as the Pope knew everything without him saying a word about his problems. Within the following few days, he found a house better than the first one and his son recovered, thank God.

+ A BROKEN BACKBONE:

Mrs. Yvone Michael from Fakous wrote the following:

My mother fell from the roof and broke her backbone while I was in Cairo. I went to Pope Kyrillos VI to receive his blessings, but before I utter a word, he said, «Do not be worried, my daughter... Your mother will recover, with God's will».

+ YOUR SON, TOO:

Mr. Awadallah Guirguis of Tanta says:

In April 1969, I was repeating third year in the High Institute of Postal Affairs, when I went to the Pope to pray for me.

While I was sitting in the waiting room with other visitors, I saw Samir, my colleague at the same institute, with his father. When all the guests left except us, the following conversation took place between the Pope and my friend's father:

Pope: How are you my son?

Father: I am well, Your Holiness, thank God.

Pope: Are they both your sons?

Father: No, Your Holiness (then pointing to Samir), this one is my son.

Pope: It does not matter. He is your son too. Where does your son study?

Father: In the Institute of Postal Affairs, second year.

Pope (pointing to me): So does he!

The Pope said that, although he does not know me at all. I left in great amazement, repeating to myself: God... may your name be always glorified and blessed in your Saints.

+ BLOOD PRESSURE AND HARDENED ARTERIES:

Mr. Guirguis Sorial from Moharram Bey, Alexandria, wrote the following:

My late father was suffering from blood pressure and hardened arteries since 1960. He was regularly examined by the doctor. In May 1961, we went to St. Mark's Cathedral at 5 o'clock in the morning to pray. The Pope was there, so I took my father by the hand and went to His Holiness. When we became near the Pope, he turned to me and

said, «Leave him, Guirguis!» We were taken by surprise when the Pope called me by my name without any previous introductions. He prayed for my father whose health has improved vastly, without medicine or the need to go back to the doctor. When his doctor wanted to know how did he get well, we asked him, «Do you believe?» Then we told him exactly what happened and his answer was, «This man is a Saint. I heard so much about him! »

+ WHEN DID HE COME:

Mr. Helmy Ayoub Zaki of Sohag wrote saying:

This happened when we were receiving the Holy Communion from the Pope's pure hands. A youth was standing with us and when it was his turn, the Pope said to him, «You came after the Gospel Reading! Didn't we say that whoever wants to receive Communion must come before the Gospel is read?» The youth was spell bound and taken by surprise. We were all in fact amazed. How did His Holiness know the exact time of this youth's arrival and me, who was standing there, did not notice it at all!

+ I HAD ENOUGH OF FATHER MINA!

A chanter from a Church in Alexandria wrote the following:

When I was a student in the Theological College, I used to go with some chanters to St. Menas Church in Old Cairo and happily spend the day with Fr. Mina, the Solitary. When I graduated, I was once visiting a friend who asked me to accompany him to St. Menas Church in Shoubra, as Fr. Mina was praying there. I simply answered, «My friend, I had enough of Fr. Mina!» Then I left him and went to a tailor called Anis Daoud in Shoubra and spent the night there.

In the morning, I was asked again to go with my friend. When I refused, he was angry with me, so I went to please him. When I was kissing Fr. Mina's hand, he said to me, «Did you really have enough of Fr. Mina, my son?» I was so ashamed and said, «Forgive me... forgive me»! I realised that Jesus Christ has guided him to every word I uttered the day before.

The amazing thing was that Pope Kyrillos used to remind me to say the Hymn every time I forget, by sending a message with some friends who would say to me, «Do not forget to say the Hymn!»

+ GO AND START YOUR WORK:

Mr. Zaghoul Riad Botros from Shoubra says:

In 1962, I was transferred to another division at work, but for personal circumstance, I refused to carry out this order. I used to feel very depressed to the extent that I would burst in tears. When I visited Pope Kyrillos VI, he asked me, «What is wrong, son? It seems that you washed your face!» referring to my tears, but I never said a word to him about my problem.

One day, I went to St. Mark's Cathedral, in Cairo but I did not feel like getting in the Church. I stood in the yard, far away, as I was feeling sick. That day, I had one of my friends with me. He tried to convince me to go in and meet the Pope, but I refused. I was trying to avoid the Pope asking me about myself. When my friend went in, the Pope was coming out. His Holiness surprised my friend by saying, «Go and call Zaghoul!» My friend came and told me what the Pope said. I was angry with him as I thought he told the Pope about me being outside in the yard, but he assured me he never mentioned a word to the Pope. It was inevitable to obey the Pope's order. When His Holiness saw me, he surprised me by saying, «Go... my son, start your work today!»

+ HE HAD BREAKFAST!:

One of the Priest tells how he was, at one time, in charge of the church services at the prisons. One day, a prisoner told him that he wants to receive the Holy Communion. On the day of the visit to the prison, the Priest went to ask the Pope's permission to take the Holy Communion with him. But the Pope said to him, «There is no need... he had breakfast... There he is eating!» When the Priest went to prison, the prisoner came to him apologizing that he was not prepared to receive it, as he was hungry and had breakfast!

+ HE STARTED WORK ALREADY:

Mr. Ramsis Francis Wisa from El Daher, Cairo, wrote saying:
My brother Magdy migrated to America but failed to find a job, which made him suffer. So I went to His Holiness, Pope Kyrillos VI on a Sunday and told him about my brother's problem, but he did not say anything. On the following Sunday, I repeated to His Holiness what I said before, but this time he said, «He started work already!» It happened that my brother sent a letter soon after this meeting, explaining how he succeeded in getting a job. It was at the time when the Pope gave me the good news.

+ This miracle was told by Fr. Morcos Ghaly, General Secretary of the Papal Palace. It was published in «Watany» on 28.3.1971, where he says:

Pope Kyrillos VI enjoyed the gift of knowing people's problems before they talk about it. There are countless cases, and as an example, we tell the following story:

A non-orthodox youth from Upper Egypt used to joke with his friends and make fun of clergymen. It happened that he travelled to Cairo with some friends who took him, against his will, to visit His Holiness, the Pope.

After they greeted His Holiness and were about to sit down, the Pope pointed to the non-Orthodox youth and asked him to come close to him. The youth, who was a University graduate and well educated, said, «I saw in his eyes a spiritual force that I could not resist. So I moved closer to His Holiness who said to me in loud voice that was heard by all, «Stop being naughty, son, and do not mock at Clergymen, they are the servants of God's Holy Sacraments!»» Here I was shaking and could not believe myself. How did His Holiness know what I used to say and do in Upper Egypt without anyone telling him about it? Then he asked me to kneel. When I did, he prayed and said, «May Jesus guide you». Since then, the youth holds all respect and reverence to His Holiness and all Clergymen.

+ The late Fr. Youssef Assad, Priest of Virgin Mary's church, El Giza, wrote the following:

I was inconvenienced by a certain problem that I kept to myself without telling anyone. I did not even mention it in my prayers. I had an inspiration to refer my problem to nobody except Pope Kyrillos VI. So I went to His Holiness and as soon as I kissed the Cross and his hand, and before I utter a word, he surprised me by detailing all I had in mind. He gave me his advice and without waiting for my answer, he said, «May God support you, son».

Fr. Youssef also tells the following incident:

My sister went once to His Holiness, the Pope, to seek his advice on a person who recently proposed to her, but she was not satisfied. The

Pope comforted her saying, «Do not worry, my daughter... The one you do not like has gone. When you return home, you'll find the one that God chose for you». My sister did not know of anyone coming that day to ask for her hand in marriage.

When His Holiness finished talking, he looked through the window behind him and said, «Hurry up, go home before it starts raining!» Then he made the sign of the Cross and said, «No, it would not rain till you reach your doorstep». It happened that after she arrived home, it started raining and there was the man who later became her husband. Nobody at home knew beforehand that this person is going to come and ask to marry her.

+ Here is another witness to the Pope's sensitivity of the soul, told by His Holiness, Anba Aghabious, Bishop of Dayrout and Senbo and Kaskam, in the speech he made in the second commemoration of the Pope's departure to Heaven. It was also published in «Watany», issue No.746 of March 1973:

«For the first time, I allow myself to reveal a hint about the spirituality of our Holy Father, Pope Kyrillos VI, and the rare sensitivity of his soul. After some tribulations and severe experiences, I went to visit His Holiness at St. Menas Monastery, Maryout. When I stepped in, he surprised me by saying, «Congratulations, brother, I was with you!» He repeated these words with a look in his eyes that carried a specific meaning. Then he told me few things that proved, with no doubt, that he was really with me.

I also say, and Jesus is my witness, that I saw the Pope during my trip to Rome and that was after His Holiness departed to Heaven and joined the Saints there. He even blessed me and gave me a piece of the Blessed Bread (El Baraka) which he had in his hand.

I hesitated for so long to mention such hints about the Pope's spirituality, to avoid any misunderstanding. But God knows it all proves the Pope's spiritual personality that many already witnessed its glory and experienced it themselves.

SOME OF THE POPE'S MIRACLES AFTER HIS DEPARTURE

Was the Pope's departure to Heaven an end to his miracles? No! As is the case with all great Saints, he continued in the life of many, appearing to them, solving the problems of those whom he loved and fulfilling what he promised before.

He was not just «a good man». He was a striving hero who deserved great divine gifts. He was given as much as he loved. He sacrificed himself on the Altar, and God was pleased with the offering, so He granted His Holiness double what he gave. The Pope had glory, honour and renown source of blessings. Since the first day of his departure, miracles have been happening. It was said by one of his acquaintances, «We knew him, unfortunately not for long, but only today when God opened our eyes».

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+ Fr. Guirguis Boutros, Priest of St. Refka's Church, Sonbat, says that after his father's death, and due to the exertion and bereavement, he suffered from acute chest pains. Doctors' examinations showed high blood pressure which affected the heart. He came to Cairo for medical consultation. On his arrival, he heard the news of the Pope's departure. So he went to bid farewell to this great man of God. He cried bitterly and stayed the whole day by the side of the body. In the evening, and after such a tiring day, he left the Cathedral to go to the specialist, But it was

amazing that he felt the pain has gone and he has recovered. He decided to return to his village and tell everyone about this miracle.

+ Mr. Raouf Guirguis from St. Menas Church, Fom el Khaleig, says that on the 40th day of the Pope's departure, he planned with one of the Priests to attend the special Mass, then go to St. Menas Monastery, Old Cairo, to attend the requiem held for this occasion. This arrangement was at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and the prayer was at 6 o'clock. Mr. Raouf continues saying:

It was a Friday and when I returned home and had lunch. I felt very tired. So I laid down without changing, because of the short time left, thinking of missing out the prayer.

In my sleep, I saw His Holiness, Pope Kyrillos VI, in the white vestment, and the crown glittering on his head. He was holding the Brazen Serpent in his hand and he turned to me with a smile and said in a kind, fatherly voice, «Why don't you want to go, son, to see me as you promised? Why did you forget me, son? When I was alive, you loved coming to me, why not now?»

After these words, and the vision I have seen, I got up quickly and it was already 5 o'clock! Without thinking, I hurried to the Church to meet the Priest. On my way, I turned into a street where I heard Fr.... calling me. I found him and his family in a cab, so I got in with them. They told me that they did not suggest to take this route, but it was God's plan to meet and take me with them.

+ Mr. Mohammed Khalil Ibrahim, alias El Nounou, engraver at Milopolus Marble Factory at Alexandria, tells this story.

He was inscribing the name of Pope Kyrillos VI on the marble tombstone that was later laid over the grave of His Holiness at St. Menas Monastery, Maryout. When he reached a specific part, he feared it might crack. At this moment, he smelt beautiful incense, like that used at Churches. He also noticed that the marble piece is the source of the sweet smell! He was amazed and hurried to a senior employee at the factory, called Antoun Asaad Fahmy. He told him about what he had just experienced and asked him to go and see for himself. Assuredly, the sweet smell was coming from the piece of marble, each part of it.

The engraver resumed the inscription which went very smoothly, and when finished, was a master piece of art and beauty. Each of the men wrote a testimony about this incident and both are kept in St. Menas Monastery, Maryout.

+ Mrs. Hoda Takla, a teacher from El Mahalla El Kobra, wrote saying:

After the Pope's departure, and while I was listening to the funeral prayers over the radio, my little son, Nagy, aged five years, was playing with matches and lit fire in the newspaper that was lining the shelves in the kitchen. There was a fry pan with oil on one of the shelves. When my son " called me, I went to the kitchen and found the fire as high as the walls. In my agony, I cried out to God to put off the fire, through the intercession of Pope Kyrillos VI and the blessings of the prayers that were still going on. In few minutes, the fire was off with no difficulty or damage. It was all through the blessings of His Holiness, Pope Kyrillos VI.

Any time I need something that is hard to get, I kiss the Pope's picture and ask for his intercession and God always responds.

+ In Dec. 1972, there was a trip from El Menia to St. Menas Monastery, Maryout. The trip was arranged by Fr. Yohanna Aziz, Priest of St.

George's Church, Abou Korkas, and Deacon Nazmy Ayad, taxation officer from El Menia. It was raining heavily that day which delayed the trip and therefore, they had to stay for a short time and leave early for the return trip.

Half way to Baheig Station, the bus went into a pit on the road and all efforts failed to get it out. Some members of the trip returned to the Monastery for help, to get a tractor to pull the bus out; but this also failed. Fear was spreading, and some children started crying. Here, one of the members shouted in a loud voice for the intercession of Pope Kyrillos VI. Other members joined him. Suddenly, the bus jumped twice and was out of the pit. They continued the trip without any trouble.

Few days later, many letters were sent to the Monastery from members of this trip. They described how, after the bus moved, they saw Pope Kyrillos VI in the white vestment. He stood in the middle of the car blessing them with the Cross in his hand. They were all amazed and thought it was their duty, while at the Monastery, to have a requiem. They kept on praying all the way back, glorifying God's name and blessing the name of his Saint, Pope Kyrillos VI, till they reached El Menia.

+ Mr. Kamel Khalil Kyrillos, committee member of St. Abou Seiffin Church, Ambruzo, Alexandria, wrote the following:

I was organising a trip to St. Menas Monastery, Maryout, several months after the departure of His Holiness, Pope Kyrillos VI. A man called Rizk Gabra from Ghourbal, paid for himself but said that he was going to bring with him his son who was 16 years old. I told him that he must pay for his son as well, but he replied, «I'll take him with me and you can send him back». I explained to him how the money left after the bus hiring charges was needed to buy few presents for the Monastery, such as tea, sugar, etc. I also told him that if he was going to bring his son, to buy us 3 kilograms of sugar to cover the son's expenses. He still refused and went away.

On the following morning, Mr. Rizk came to see me. He brought with him sugar and tea, as a present for the Fathers of the Monastery. He said that Pope Kyrillos VI appeared to him in a dream last night, with three other Monks.. He knocked at his door. Mr. Rizk opened the door and invited them in, then asked His Holiness, «Would you like Coca Cola or tea, Your Holiness?» The Pope answered, «I don't drink anything, son, but bring some to your brothers, the Monks!»

+ Mr. F. S. who is known to us, says that he had in his possession, few of Pope Kyrillos' hair that used to fall while combing it. He is very careful about keeping this as a blessing. One night, after the departure of His Holiness, his wife could not breathe and suffered great pain in her left arm that prevented her movement. She put the Pope's hair on her chest and in less than three minutes, she was breathing normally. When she realised what happened, she put the hair on her arm as well and the pain gradually decreased and she was able to move easily.

Mr. F. S. also says that since he put this hair in his wallet, he noticed an increase in his income that could not be denied. For example, he was back to an additional job that he left before, for threefold his previous wages!

+ Mr. Youssef Wassef Guirguis, Deacon from Virgin Mary's Church, Moharram Bey, Alexandria, wrote saying that he saw Pope Kyrillos VI enter the Church during Mass, while the Priest was saying the commemoration prayer. The Deacon whispered to the Priest Fr. Samuel Abdu what he saw. It was precisely the time of His Holiness passing away, as two hours later, they heard about the Pope's departure to Heaven.

We wrote to Mr. Youssef asking for a letter, to confirm this incident, from Fr. Samuel, who sent the following:

I testify with all my heart that this miracle took place. Pope Kyrillos VI appeared in Virgin Mary's Church, Moharram Bey, the moment he passed away. I was serving the Holy Mass on that day, and while I was saying the Commemoration Prayer, Deacon Youssef Wassef whispered in my ear that His Holiness, the Pope, entered the Church. Two hours after Mass was over, we heard the news that the Pope's pure soul has departed and joined the Saints in Heaven. This is a testimony from my weak self which I had also announced to the congregation at Church.

PERSONAL MEMORIES

Fr. Mettias El Baramousy (formerly Mr. Fahmy Shawky, private Deacon of Pope Kyrillos VI) says:

Once, His Holiness suffered from a tumour on his back and the doctors, in particular Dr. Refaat Kamel, suggested its removal by surgery, but the Pope refused. The following day, His Holiness told me what he saw in a dream. A youth riding a horse, whom the Pope believed was St. Menas, came and pricked the tumour with his finger. In the morning, the clothes of His Holiness were covered with blood, and after one day he was completely recovered.

+ Fr. Mettias also tells this story about a lady who insisted to see Pope Kyrillos VI at a very late hour at night, as the doctors, including her own daughter, decided to operate on her in the morning. She wanted to receive the Pope's blessings, so he prayed for her and said, «Do not be afraid, what you have is not cancer as the doctors said. It is just a cyst.» The woman was surprised to hear this, and after the operation, the doctors with her daughter found out that their diagnosis was wrong. And as His Holiness said, it was just a cyst. This miracle was published in «Watany» newspaper number 64, published on 21.3.1971.

Fr. Mina Ava Mina, Abbot of St. Menas Monastery, Maryout, was the private Deacon of the Pope.

He wrote:

When the Pope was visiting Kafr El Sheikh, people were joyfully surrounding him. The Pope turned to a man among the crowd and said, «It seems that you sell Falafel!» The man was amazed and answered, «Yes, Your Holiness, this is true». So the Pope said, «I would like to eat from your Falafel.» The man went out full of happiness, as the Pope is going to eat from his falafel.

Some of the close persons whispered to His Holiness that he might disappoint those who prepared feasts, but he said, «Let him go... I want to please him!»

Fr. Mina also adds:

During a visit to St. Menas Monastery, Maryout, a young lady lost her hand-watch. After the departure of all visitors, a bedouin found it and gave it to His Holiness who did not know to whom it belonged.

Few weeks later, the Pope returned to Alexandria. The above mentioned young lady was among a queue of visitors who came to receive his blessings. His Holiness pointed to her and said, «My daughter... didn't you lose your watch at St. Menas Monastery, Maryout? Here it is, take it!» The young lady was amazed and recorded this miracle at St. Menas Monastery.

+ Dr. Youssef Mansour, Arch-Deacon of St. Mark's Cathedral,

wrote the following:

Mother Ereny, head of the Abu Seifein convent, told me the following story: It was during the Pope's presence at St. Menas Monastery, Maryout, that she wanted to have a certain project completed as soon as possible, but she had to ask the Pope's permission first. She prayed, and in her sleep, she saw His Holiness giving her permission to go ahead and finish what she planned. When the Pope returned from the Monastery after almost a month, she went to him to apologize for doing this project without his permission. But His Holiness turned to her and said, «My daughter, didn't I come to you and blessed your project?» Mother Ereny was greatly surprised and glorified God's name, who gave such gifts to His Saint.

A Father in the Monastery of Martyr Abba Mina at Mariout said: that badouin, named Abdel Monem Moharib from Borg El Arab district (near the monastery) went one day to the Monastery suffering from a severe kidney pain. Pope Kyrillos was in the monastery at that time, he prayed for him, and gave him some water to drink. After a short while the pain was relieved, and the man went home in good health after being carried to the monastery.

FROM THE RECORDS OF THE MONASTERY OF THE GREAT MARTYR
ST. MINA

Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Coraitum, Editor-in-Chief of the "New Time Magazine" in Alexandria wrote,
I have visited the Monastery of St. Mina the Miracle Performer many times. The main reason is to visit the shrine of His Holiness the Late Pope Kyrillos VI in remembrance of that great Saint. I met him in 1970 at the grand church of St. Mark in Alexandria. At the meeting were Dr. Hassan Zaza the Professor at Faculty of Arts in Alexandria University, and Mr. Edward Hanna Saad of the Department of Legal, and Financial Affairs in the Province of Alexandria. The meeting was merely for business as I was planning to go to Ethiopia on a journalistic mission. During the meeting one of the Pope's aides offered us some chocolates, but I apologized for not taking any, because I was a diabetic and the sugar rate in the blood was very high. His Holiness, the Late Pope Kyrillos, insisted that I took one... after a few moments he insisted that I take another one. Before I left, His Holiness placed his hand on my head, prayed then said: "Mohamed you are no longer diabetic".
After Ethiopia, I went to another mission in Lebanon. I forgot all about what the Pope had told me, but I was still under the belief that I was diabetic. But in Lebanon it was very hard to keep to your diet, the Lebanese rich food, and renown sweets were never suitable to a diabetic, but I could not resist them. However, I resolved to go on a strict diet once I returned to Egypt, and had the necessary tests. After I returned to Alexandria I had a full test done by pathologist, Dr. Lotfi Bayoumi, the results showed a lower than normal rate of sugar in the blood despite what happened in Lebanon. I still could not remember what Pope Kyrillos had told me. I saw Dr. Hassam El Badawi the Professor of Internal Diseases in Alexandria University to get his assessment on those results which I had doubts about. He examined me, and studied those results, and to my and his amazement he stated that I was cured. He insisted on knowing how it had happened... only then did I remember what had happened when I met His Holiness the Late Pope Kyrillos VI but I could not tell the doctor about this. Until this moment I still vividly remember how I was cured from diabetes.