

## On Various Pious Monks

Venerable and aged Elder Iosaph, known for his hospitality, was an established iconographer and member of the Iosaphites in Karyes. He told us, "I have met many fathers who laboured endlessly to purify their inner world and be saved. Among them I have known the following;

Elder Charalambros of great restraint, from the Fountain of Life kellion.

Elder Methodios from St. Nicholas' kellion, known for his voluntary exile.

Very simple Elder Simeon the Chanter.

Mild Father Dionysios from the holy kellion of the Entrance of the Theotokos.

Elder Charalambros, the poorest and most simple of all. Konstamonitan monk Philaretos the lantern-maker, who never left Mount Athos. Elder Arsenios the woodcarver, noted for his silence and piety. Russian monk Lavrentios, frugal and self-restrained.

Elder Dometios, known for fasting.

Father Neophytos the ever-charitable, unceasingly praying all night long.

Father Nikodemos the meek and mild, the good shepherd. The Romanian ascetic who had the birds eating out of his hand. Elder Pachomios, one of the Pachomian iconographers, who was a supporter of the Kollyvades and the traditionalists. Monks Averkios and Charalambros, the most charitable elders. The ever memorable monk Ioakim who, whenever I met him, would tell me all about the many virtuous Agioritan fathers. Finally, possessionless Elder Kosmas the silent.

-----  
In the Russian monastery of St. Panteleimon lived many hard-working monks:

Elder Serapion, who fed only on bread and water. Elder Sabinas, who for a total of seven years did not sleep on a bed. Elder Dositheos who was always exact in following

the rules. Elder Anatolios, blessed with the gift of repentance. Elders Savinos and Seraphim, who had met St. Seraphim of Sarov.

In the holy skete belonging to the monastery of Xenophontos lived pious fathers like Father Akakios, who had no evil in his heart. He had very little schooling. He would read passages from the Bible to his guests, thus avoiding idle and empty talk. He died in 1927.

Also strict was Elder Chrysogonos who died in 1943.

In a hut suitable for goats lived an ascetic by the name of Elder Euthymios. He had hung in the middle of his hut a sack full of toasted bread which was his daily food.

The simple, century-old elder Gregorios lived on Mount Athos for eighty years. He died not long ago. He was born in 1890 and had come to the skete when he was eighteen. He had met the monk Moraitidis, and he was closely associated with the hermit Avimelech and the discerning Elder Daniel the

Katouniotan. His father confessor was Elder Akakios. We frequently enjoyed his unpretentious, child-like and serene company. One time he brought a book by Ilias Miniatis and read to me a chapter on the Elevation of the Holy Cross. As he read, his eyes filled with tears, this aged elder. It was a sight worth seeing. He felt as if he were standing at the foot of the Lord's cross.

---

In Kafsokalyvia's skete lived many important monastics, some distinguished for their virtues and others for their formal education attained in the world, and some for both—all of which had become part of their Greek Orthodox soul. Among these were Ionas, a disciple of Saint Akakios from Kafsokalyvia, who reposed in 1665; Pelagios, a subordinate of Ionas who slept in the Lord in 1754; Raphael; Neophytos, of Jewish descent, who was a wise teacher; Eugenics . Voulgaris, who was in charge of the Athoniades School on Mount Athos; Theokletos Karatzas the Byzantine, who died in 1777; the long-bearded Methodios from Byzantium, who reposed in 1811; Philotheos from Ismirne, who reposed in 1789; Monk Petros, who laboured in the Birth of the Theotokos kalyve and died in 1865; the famous Nikodemos the confessor, a subordinate to Arsenios, the great wood-carver who left behind two legendary carvings, The Crucifixion and The Second Coming, for which he spent fifteen years'

work to finish; and Pavlos and Panteleimon the spiritual fathers, both of whom were discerning and charismatic, serious and silent, sweet and mild when they had to advise anyone..

---

Father Germanos Chair tells us the following about the Kafsokalyvitan fathers, whom we respected greatly:

They would stand up during all night vigils, resembling steadfast pillars, always keeping their eyes turned to the ground. The church had many such elders. They were all silent. They did not waste time with idle talk. They kept with exactness their spiritual life. The one who shone more than the rest of them with his illuminated life was Elder Auxentios. He resembled a star. He lived in the kellion of the great martyr St. George. He used a clay urn in which to boil wild greens, the only food he had to live on regularly. Sometimes he ate bread also, but nothing else. He lived in the skete for approximately sixty years.



[back](#)