

The Holy Offering of St Nestorius

AGAIN

By the strength of our Lord Jesus Christ we begin to write

THE HALLOWING OF MAR NESTORIUS,
patriarch of Byzantium, which is the city of Constantinople,
the unbloody martyr, persecuted for the truth
of the orthodox confession.

Mar Aba the Great, catholicos, of blessed memorial,
when he entered the land of the Romans, translated the hallowing of Mar
Nestorius and all his compositions from the Greek into the Syriac, as Mar
Yoanis the catholicos makes known in the treatise which he composed for
the fathers, may his prayer be upon us.

And they consecrate by it five times a year:

*On Epiphany, on the Friday of Mar John the Baptist, on the Memorial of
the Greek Doctors, on Wednesday of the Rogation of the Ninevites, on
Passover. (First the priest begins as everything is written in full in the Order
of the Mysteries until page 10.)*

First Cycle:

We confess, O our Lord and our God, the abundant riches of your
goodness toward us, *repeat*, for though we were sinners and deficient,
because of the abundance of your mercies you deemed us worthy to
minister the holy Mysteries of the body and blood of your Christ, while
beseeching the assistance which is from you for the strengthening of our
souls, that with perfect love and true faith we may administer your gift to us.

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Kushapa

Yea, our Lord and our God, *repeat*, do not look upon the multitude of our sins, and let not your Lordship abhor the burden of our wickednesses, but in your ineffable grace accept this sacrifice from our hands, and endow it with power and authority, that it may be able to pardon our many sins, that when you are revealed at the end of times in the humanity which you took from us, we may find grace and mercies before you, and may be deemed worthy to sing praise with the spiritual companies. *And the priest recites this prayer of Mar Bar Sauma while inclining before the altar:*

Gehantha

Glory to you, O Finder of the lost. Glory to you, O Gatherer of the dispersed. Glory to you, who bring near the far off. Glory to you, who return the erring to the knowledge of the truth. Glory to you, my Lord, for you have called me, even feeble me, in your grace, and have brought me near unto you in your compassion, and have established me as a designated member in the great body of your holy catholic church, to offer before you this living, holy, and acceptable sacrifice, which is the memorial of the passion, death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through whom you were well-pleased and reconciled to forgive the sins of all men. *Repeat.*

Qanona

For to you, O God, the Father of truth, and to your Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and to your living, holy, and life-giving Spirit we will lift up glory, honor, confession, and worship, now, always, and for ever and ever.

And he signs over himself, and they respond:

Amen.

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And the priest says: Peace be with you. *And the people respond:* And with you and with your spirit. *And the deacon says:* Give the peace to one another in the love of Christ. *And they give the peace to one another and say:* For all catholicoi, bishops, presbyters, and deacons, and every member of a religious profession who has departed from the assembly of the church, and for the life and tranquillity of the world, and for the crown of the year, that it may be blessed and fulfilled in your grace, and for every child of the church who is worthy of the reception of this oblation before you, and for all your servants and handmaidens who stand before you at this hour, for all of them and for all of us may this oblation be accepted for ever. Amen. *And two deacons read the diptychs, that is, the roll of the living and the dead.*

And the deacon says: Let us all in purity and with sighs give thanks and beseech and supplicate the Lord. Stand aright and look upon those things which are done in the fearful Mysteries being hallowed. The priest draws near to pray, that by his mediation peace may be multiplied for you. Lower your eyes, and stretch out your mind to heaven.

At once the priest draws near and bows on his knees before the altar, and he recites this prayer:
Kushapa

O Lord God of hosts, *repeat*, assist my weakness in your mercifulness, and through the assistance of your grace make me worthy to offer before you this living and holy sacrifice, for the aid of the whole community, and for the praise of your glorious Trinity, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for ever.

Then, as the deacon says, Watchfully and earnestly beseech and supplicate at this hour. Let no one venture to speak. Whoever prays, let him pray in his heart. In silence and awe stand and pray. Peace be with us. *The priest at the same time rises and lifts the veil (discreetly) from the Mysteries, and winds it round the chalice and paten, saying:* Since you in your grace have deemed me worthy of your body and blood, my Lord, in the same way make me worthy of confidence before you on the day of judgment. Amen.

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(Prayer for the incense: In the worshipful and glorious name of your glorious Trinity may this incense be blessed, which we offer to your honor and for our absolution for ever. Amen.)

And the priest censens the table with the incense, saying: May the sweet incense delight you, our Lord and our God, which we offer you before your holy altar within your glorious temple. May it be for the gladness of your holy name, and for the pardon of your servants and of your flock, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for ever.

And the priest says to the deacon: May Christ strengthen you to do his will continually. *And he continues (in an audible voice):*
Qanona

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now, always, and for ever and ever. *And he signs over the Mysteries, and they respond:* Amen.

And he continues:
Qanona

Above in the exalted heights, in the fearful place of praise where the rustling of the wings of cherubim and the pleasant sounds of the hallowings of seraphim continues without ceasing, there let your minds be. *And they respond:* With you, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Israel, O glorious King. *And he continues:*

Qanona

The living and rational offering of our First-fruits, and the unslain and acceptable sacrifice of the Son of our race, which the prophets depicted in a mystery, the apostles proclaimed openly, the martyrs purchased with the blood of their necks, the teachers interpreted in the churches, the priests sacrificed on the altar of holiness, the levites bore upon their arms, and the people received for the pardon of their debts, is offered to God, the Lord of all, for utterly all creatures. *And they respond:* It is meet and right.

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And the deacon says: Peace be with us.

Or this Qulasa: Remember the marvelous dispensation of Christ our Savior which was perfected for us, for in his body he cheered our sadness, and with his living blood he has sprinkled our hearts. With great care watch and pray. Peace be with us.

Kushapa

Lord, Lord, grant us boldness before you, that with the liberty which is from you we may fulfill this living and holy ministry, our consciences cleansed of all wickedness and bitterness. Sow within us love, tranquillity, and unity with one another and with all men.

Or this: I worship your grace, O my Lord, *repeat*, and confess your mercifulness, for though I am unworthy, you have deemed me worthy in your compassion to offer to you the glorious and divine Mysteries. I beseech you, O my Lord, and request and beseech your grace, that they may be for the tranquillity of the world, for the peace of creation, for the sustenance of your faithful church, for the triumph of your priests, for the nurturing of your faithful, for the preservation of your righteous, for the pardon and forgiveness of the sins of the penitent, for the return of the lost, for the salvation and assistance of all men, and for the wiping out of the offenses of all your servants and handmaids who stand before you at this hour, through your grace and mercies for ever. Amen.

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Gehantha

The priest recites this gehantha softly:

O Lord God of hosts, eternally Self-existent One, omnipotent Father, *repeat*, who eternally and always exist and remain as you are, it is meet, proper, and right to confess, worship, glorify, and exalt you at all times and at every hour. For you are true God, incomprehensible, infinite, inexplicable, invisible, uncompounded, impassible, and high and exalted above the thought and understanding of all creatures. For you are in every place, infinite in your presence, you, and your Only-begotten Son, and your Holy Spirit. Answer us, O my Lord, by giving us eloquence, that we may offer you with a contrite heart and a lowly spirit the spiritual fruit of our lips, which is a reasonable service. For you are our God and the Father of our King, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ our Hope, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and through whom we have received the knowledge of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from you, Father, and is of the hidden nature of your Godhead, by whom all rational natures, visible and invisible, are strengthened, sanctified, perfected, and fulfilled. To you, and to your Only-begotten Son, and to the Holy Spirit we lift up continual praise without ceasing at all times, for everything is your handiwork. You brought us into being from nothing, and fashioned us, but when we had stumbled and fallen and wasted away, you renewed us again, raised us up, and purchased us. You did not cease doing all things carefully for us, as far as lifting us up to heaven. You gave us the kingdom to come in your compassion, and for all your kindnesses toward us we give thanks to you, God, the Father of truth, and to your Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and to your living and holy Spirit, and we worship you for all the gracious things you have done toward us, those which we are aware of and unaware of, both open and hidden. We give thanks to you for this ministry, and we supplicate you to accept it from our hands, for who is sufficient to speak concerning the wonders of your might, or to tell of all your glories. For not even if all creatures were one mouth and tongue would they be sufficient to tell of your greatness, O my Lord.

Repeat.

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And we beseech you, my Lord, and supplicate before you, that you remember by this oblation the fathers and patriarchs, and the prophets, apostles, martyrs, confessors, bishops, teachers, presbyters, deacons, and all our fellow ministers who have gone out from this world, and all our brotherhood in Christ, and all who in the true faith have departed from this world, whose names you know, loosing and forgiving them, in whatever way they have sinned and offended before you, as men prone to evil and clothed with passions. By the prayer and petition of all who have been well-pleasing before you, turn to us and have mercy upon us and upon all your servants and handmaidens who stand before your holy altar. Make us all worthy to participate in the portion and inheritance which comes to your saints in the light. Grant us, O my Lord, that with the sincerity of love and with the purity of clean thoughts we may live before you in this dwelling-place of our sojourn, while we gain exact knowledge of the truth which is in you, and we fellowship in the fearful, holy, and divine Mysteries. And when we stand before the fearful judgment seat of your greatness, may we not be ashamed and condemned. As in this world you have deemed us worthy of the ministry of your fearful, holy, life-giving, and divine Mysteries, so too in the world to come make us worthy, that with confidence we may fellowship in all the good things which do not pass away and cannot be destroyed. And when you make an end of these things which we here lay hold of as in a mirror and type, may we there lay hold openly of the Holy of Holies in heaven.

Therefore, we, my Lord, your deficient, feeble, and miserable servants, *repeat—he makes the sign and stretches out upon his face*, who were far off from you, and because of the multitude of your mercifulness you have deemed worthy to stand before you and minister this fearful and glorious ministry, together beseech your worshipful Godhead which renews all creatures,

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may there come, O my Lord,

the grace of the Holy Spirit. May it dwell and rest upon this oblation which we offer before you. May it bless and consecrate it, and may it make this bread and this cup the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, while you change and consecrate them by the operation of your Holy Spirit, so that the reception of these glorious and holy Mysteries may be for all who receive them unto eternal life, resurrection from the dead, the absolution of body and soul, and for the light of knowledge and confidence before you, and for the eternal salvation which you promised us through our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may all be joined to one another in one unity in one bond of love and peace, that there may be one body and one spirit, as we are called in one hope of our calling. And may no one eat and drink to the condemnation of his body and soul; may there not be for him sickness and disease because of his sins through eating this bread and drinking this cup unworthily, but may he be strengthened and increased in all things which are pleasing to you, while we are made worthy with a clear conscience to partake in the body and blood of your Christ. Repeat.

Qulasa

In place of "in stillness and in awe": O how fearful is this hour and anxious this moment in which the priest invokes the Spirit and he descends from on high and does his will, and hallows this heavenly Eucharist, which is the body and blood of Christ our Savior, for the pardon of debts and the forgiveness of sins of its recipients. In silence and fear, and with trepidation and trembling, stand and pray. Peace be with us.

Qanona

That when we stand before you at the fearful and glorious tribunal, before the throne of your greatness, we may find mercies and compassion, and may take delight with all those who from of old have been well-pleasing to you through the grace and mercies of your Only-begotten, for to you, with him, belong glory, honor, dominion, and exaltation, with your living, holy, and life-giving Spirit, now, always, and for ever and ever. *And he signs over the Mysteries, and they respond: Amen.*



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