

ARCHIMANDRITE AIMILIANOS
OF SIMONOPETRA

OUR DAILY REPORT TO GOD

Translated, edited and annotated by
THE HOLY CONVENT OF THE
ANNUNCIATION, ORMYLIA



ORMYLIA PUBLICATIONS

2021



Elder Aimilianos

The Elder, Archimandrite Aimilianos of Simonos Petras (1934-2019), was born in Nikaia, Piraeus, Greece, to pious parents with roots in Asia Minor. He received his primary education from them and his grandparents, who were exemplary teachers of that period, but foremost, he inherited an indelible spiritual wealth.

After graduating from the Theological School of Athens, he ardently desired to serve God's people, thus, he dedicated himself faithfully to a monastic and priestly life. On 9 December 1960, he was tonsured a monk and subsequently ordained to the diaconate by the eminent Metropolitan of Trikkis and Stagon, Dionysios Haralambous. His ordination into the priesthood followed on 15 August 1961, whereupon he was installed as the Abbot of the Great Meteoron, the largest monastery of Meteora.

In 1973, he was invited with his brotherhood to repopulate the Holy Monastery of Simonos Petras on Mount Athos, which had only a few elderly monks, and he was elected Abbot on 25 November 1973. He also had a sisterhood that followed him, which was established in 1974 at the Dependency of Simonopetra at Ormylia, Halkidiki, (an old dependency of the Athonite Monastery of

Vatopaidi.) This became the Holy Convent of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, of which he is the founder.

The Elder, as Abbot of Simonopetra, attended to the restoration of the building and its facilities and the formation and harmonious running of its internal life; but his main goal was to keep inspiring his brotherhood and Dependencies with the ethos of his hope-filled and revelatory words that he generously shared with his spiritual children and the thirsting souls in the world.

The fruit of this toilsome endeavor are the homilies and orations from his spiritual experiences that the Sisters of the Holy Convent of Ormylia have undertaken the task of compiling, editing, translating and publishing unto the benefit and solace of all.

On 9 May 2019, after a long illness, Elder Aimilianos passed away at the Holy Convent, where he was laid to rest. The epitaph on his tomb has the verse “O God, my God, to You I rise early at dawn” (Ps 62:1 LXX), which was the ceaseless expression of his whole life.

Publisher's Note

Looking back in time, over the span of centuries up to the present day, every person, within the depths of his soul, aches at the loss of communion with God in Paradise. Because of that, no man can truly rest while here on earth. One desires the fruit of the Fall; another awaits the resurrection of the dead; all are in search of finding our lost homeland—our communion with God.

The way of restoring that communion is what Elder Aimilianos desired to experientially impart in his talk *Our Daily Report to God* which he gave to students of the Polytechnical University of Xanthi, Greece, on 18 March 1984.

It is our hope that the inspired teaching of the Elder will encourage and strengthen the readers in their attempt to move nearer to God.

About the Translation

For all of the passages that were quoted from Scripture by the Elder, the English translation that we have used is *The Orthodox Study Bible*, Thomas Nelson, Inc. (Nashville, 2008). All Psalm verses are given with the numbering of the Septuagint (LXX) text of the Old Testament.

Gratitude is most humbly expressed to Scott Cairns, Professor of English and Director of the Low Residency MAF (Master of Fine Arts) Program at Seattle Pacific University, for proofreading the final draft of this translation, and for making valuable suggestions and corrections. Appreciation is also duly noted for the collaboration of Nina Rutherford Christou.

OUR DAILY REPORT TO GOD

Our Church celebrates the memory of Saint Gregory Palamas today.¹ Saint Gregory is one of the greatest saints of our Church. He is a father, a bishop, a monk, a teacher, a theologian, a great ascetic; he is a philosopher, someone who soars to the heavens with his heart, his intellect, and his thoughts. He played a very decisive role in supporting the dogmatic teachings of our Church and in the preservation of Orthodoxy. He obliged theologians and clergymen all over the world to witness to the fact that the Orthodox Church is the only Church that offers the means to elevate the faithful to heaven and to make them god-like, beginning here in their own lifetimes. He was the most leading personality of the 14th century, and it was because of him that the famous Synods of Constantinople² promulgated the dogmas of hesychasm and of the uncreated energies of God. Those Synods emphasized, confirmed, and definitively endorsed the dogma of our Church, and they made Her unshakable in the face of heresies.

1. In the year 1984, March 18th was the Second Sunday of Great Lent, a day on which the Orthodox Church honors the great hesychast theologian, St. Gregory Palamas, who was Archbishop of Thessaloniki from 1347–1359.

2. These Synods were convened in 1341, 1347, and 1351.

Saint Gregory secured the future of Orthodoxy in the best way possible, and that is why he has been called “a brilliant star.”³ The author of his festal service has written that he is “truly the finest adornment among the ranks of the hierarchs.”⁴ Let us suppose that we sought to vest a hierarch with his most beautiful and grand vestments, by which to express the grandeur and glory of God—we would vest him with every article of his hierarchical attire. Is it possible for us to leave him without the diadem on his head, without the mitre? Of course not. The kingly crown of Christ is symbolized in the mitre of the hierarch. For our Church, Saint Gregory Palamas can be considered the mitre of all our hierarchs; he is the diadem of all bishops and theologians, and, as such, he radiates security.

Let us take a look at our topic now, the age-old desire of man to search and find God, to meet Him and to embrace Him.

No matter what a person may offer to his fellow man, if that person does not have a personal relationship with God, then he will never be able to rest and be at peace with his life. This is such a profound experience for man.

3. See the first hymn of Vespers for the Second Sunday of Great Lent.

4. See the second hymn of the 1st Ode of Matins.

Other titles in English of
ARCHIMANDRITE AIMILIANOS'
PUBLISHED HOMILIES

1. The Authentic Seal, Ormylia 1999
2. The Way of the Spirit, Indiktos 2009
3. The Church at Prayer: The Mystical
Liturgy of the Heart, Indiktos 2015
4. Psalms and the Life of Faith, Indiktos 2015
5. On Prayer, Ormylia 2020
6. Fools for Christ, Ormylia 2021

THE PRESENT PUBLICATION BY
ARCHIMANDRITE AIMILIANOS
OF SIMONOPETRA
OUR DAILY REPORT TO GOD
WAS TYPESET AND PAGINATED AT
THE HOLY CONVENT OF
THE ANNUNCIATION ORMYLIA
PRINTED AND BOUND AT
MELISSA PUBLISHING HOUSE
IN MAY 2021
FOR ORMYLIA PUBLICATIONS