



ܠܘܥܢܐ ܕܡܫܝܚܐ ܕܩܘܪܒܢܐ ܕܡܪ ܥܫܝ ܫܝܡܘܢ

LIGHT FROM THE EAST
APRIL - MAY, 1949

Vol. 1

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No. 5

**Ordination of
 Rev. S.D. Neesan
 As Archdeacon**

On Sunday April 13, at a solemn Qurbana, in the Church of Mar Sargis, Chicago, the Rev. S.D. Neesan was ordained to the rank of Patriarchal Archdeacon by His Holiness, Mar Eshi Shimun.

This post has been vacant since 1932. The position of an Archdeacon in the Church of the East is superior to that of all the other clergy in the diocese, next to the bishop.

The chief duty of the archdeacon is to act as chaplain to the bishop, to look after all services, and to preside at church functions under the direction of the bishop.

The post of Patriarchal Archdeacon is especially important, being higher than that of any other archdeacon in the church. For conferring this rank there is a special order in the Taksa.

One of the most important duties of the archdeacon is to dedicate a church--without the use of oil--in emergency.



Father Neesan is a native of Kaye, in Turkey. He was educated in the Archbishop of Canterbury's school in Urumia, Since coming to this country he was for some years pastor of the church of St. Thomas in New Britain, Conn. He has been in Chicago for seven years. His friends throughout the world rejoice in his deserved elevation to the high rank of Patriarchal Archdeacon.



Nineteen hundred and sixteen years have rolled by since the greatest message in the history of man passed around among the eleven apostles and the small band of men and women followers of Jesus of Nazareth:

"Our LORD is Risen!" Was that electrifying message.

God's eternal plan for the salvation of man had been fulfilled.

The first Adam had succumbed to sin and death. The second Adam, through His passion, death, and the resounding victory of His resurrection, had vanquished both Sin and Death.

In the words of the Apostle: "Where is thy sting, O Death? And, where is thy victory, O Sheol?"

Since then, millions of martyrs of the Church of the East, following Him, have progressed along the path to Calvary, firmly believing in the promises of the Son of God and thereby sharing in His great victory.

His death as man, and His resurrection as God, is the basis of the Apostolic faith of the Catholic Church of the East.

The significance of this holy event, through all the centuries from the year of the resurrection to this very day, has been commemorated as an event of great joy. The solemnity of the Lenten Season, the awe-inspiring services of the Week of Sorrow (the Holy Week) culminate in the joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Nature itself shares in the event. It is the season when everything comes to life. It is the season of Spring!

It is in this spirit that we again greet you, our Children in Christ, with the message "Qamleh Maran" -- Our LORD has Risen!"

This year, the occasion is of special significance to the Assyrian people throughout the world. The spirit of understanding and good will recently established with the governments of the Middle East, where the Assyrians now live, has, we believe, opened a new door for our people, whereby they can enjoy the privileges guaranteed to all and, likewise, contribute their best as loyal and useful citizens.

It is our earnest prayer that all mankind may share in the victory of the Risen Lord by adopting his principle: "Whatsoever you wish men to do for you, likewise do you also for them," thereby overcoming the international evils that have plunged the nations of the world into the abyss of suspicion and hate.

May the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen

[Handwritten signature] Eshai Shimun

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Eshai Shimun
By Grace
Catholicos Patriarch of the East
and of the Assyrians

PATRIARCH'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Monday, March 14, Patriarch Mar Shimun arrived in Washington for consultation with key persons on the condition of the Assyrian people in the Middle East.

Tuesday, March 15, he called at 2 p.m. on the Iraqi ambassador and at 3 on the Syrian ambassador. With these envoys he surveyed the situation of Assyrians in their respective countries.

Wednesday, March 16, he called at the United States State department, and further discussed there the Assyrian situation.

Thursday, March 17, he visited the British embassy and held a lengthy conference with Mr. Bromley, one of the secretaries of the embassy.

On the same day he had tea with the Iranian ambassador and held an extended conference with Charles Malzik, ambassador from Lebanon.

Monday, March 21, he attended the celebration of the Noruz, or Iranian New Year, at the Iranian embassy which attracted a large number of distinguished officials and society folk of Washington.

George Lamsa, who also attended this reception, makes the following report:

"The marked honor which His Excellency, the Iranian Ambassador, paid to the Patriarch Mar Shimun on this occasion,

created a profound impression. In addressing the distinguished gathering, he began by saying:

'Your Holiness, your Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen.'

"I estimate there were about 300 persons in the beautiful Iranian embassy. The ambassador and Madame Ala, in a courteous and statesmanlike manner, received every guest in person.

"In his address the ambassador explained the significance of Noruz. For the Iranians, as for the ancient Romans, the year begins in March. When in this country we refer to September, October, November and December - meaning the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth months - we are bearing witness to the fact that the western year also originally began with March as the first month since December, for example, is the twelfth, not the tenth month after our New Year.

"The ambassador's address drew attention to the honor in which our Patriarch is held in the Middle East."

On the same night, the Patriarch left Washington on the 11 o'clock train for Chicago, where he arrived on Tuesday. Here he had the great joy of meeting his father, the Rab Khaila d' Mar Shimun, formerly commander-in-chief of the Assyrian armies; and also his sister, the Lady Helen, whom he had not seen for ten years since they parted in Cyprus in 1939.

DROUGHT AND FAMINE ENDED IN SYRIA NEW DAY OF GREAT PROSPERITY DAWNS

End of the long drought and resultant famine in Syria, and opening of an era of large scale irrigation, paid for by newly-discovered oil, is reported to the Patriarchate.

Abundant rain in the past few months promises a record harvest of wheat, according to L'Orient, of Beirut, under date of March 1, Syrian government experts estimate the wheat harvest of North Syria at 6000,000 tons.

However, cattle have suffered heavily from cold.

A five-year plan, calling for expenditure of 200 million Syrian pounds, has been formulated by the government. A system of dams on the Euphrates and Khabour Rivers, providing irrigation and also developing electric power, is proposed.

Draining of the marsh of the Ghab - about 100,000 hectares in the region of Homs - and construction of a harbor at Latakia, are included, together with extension of railways.

Cost of these projects will be met by the oil concession. Discovery of vast oil deposits in North Syria has brought about active plans for their utilization.

A \$100,000,000 oil concession has been awarded, at the request of president Shukri al-Kuwatly, to independent oil companies in the United States, headed by J.W. Menhall, of Benton, Ill., an oil producer. Mr. Menhall, a native of Syria, recently went there at the request of the President to close the concession.

American oil companies will furnish \$50,000,000 and the Syrian government the balance, Mr. Menhall reports. All the money will be spent in this country for equipment.

Enormous production is expected from these oil deposits, it was reported by M. Jean Sahnaoui, minister of national economy of the republic of Syria, in Damascus, March 2.

He said the government already is receiving 75,000 Syrian pounds annually from the companies, although the original agreement only provided for 50 pounds annually. It is expected that 200,000 tons of petroleum will be delivered annually.

Importance of these developments to the Assyrians on the Khabour cannot be overestimated. With a system of irrigation based on dams, harvests will be plentiful and constant.

The Middle East, at one time the granary of the world will become so once again. The ancient prosperity will return to the people who once were the world's greatest scientific irrigationists, the people of Beth Nahreen, the Assyrians.

REPORT ON RELIEF TO KHABOUR SETTLEMENTS

Meanwhile a complete report has been received from the Rev. Yohanan Ishoo, of Tkuma, and Yakub Malik Ismail, regarding distribution of the money sent for relief of Assyrians on the Khabour.

The list includes some 2,500 names of heads of families, and gives the number in the family of each, making a total of more than 8,000 persons.

The amount received by each family is stated, and attested either by signatures or by finger prints, to show that all have in reality received everything sent them from the Church in this country.

ARAMAIC LESSON

In Aramaic, the word "Mar" means "Lord", "Mar Shimun" means Lord Simon, and indicates that the bearer of that name is a member of the family of Shimun Kapa, Simn Peter, chief of the Twelve Apostles.

"The Lord" is Marya.

Maran is Our Lord, as in "Maran Atha" Our Lord has come.

Maran Ishoo Meshikha is "Our Lord Jesus Christ."

In addressing a bishop, the written form is "Mari", but in speaking it is pronounced simply "Mar", as in "B'rikh, Mar"--Bless, O My Lord.

Mart, or Martha, is Lady, as "Mart Maryam"--the Lady Mary, mother of Christ.

Marutha is "Lordship". Maruthakh is "Thy Lordship" "Thy Sovereignty".

In like manner, the word to pray is "zala". "Let us pray" is "N'Zalle". Prayer is "Zlutha".

Maranayta Zlutha therefore is "Our Lord's Prayer".

The word for God is "Alaha". So deity, divinity, is "Alahatha". Alahathakh is "Thy divinity".

The Lord our God is "Marya Alahan".

The Lord your God is "Marya Alahakun".

The Lord their God is "Marya Alahahun".

God is our Lord--"Alaha Maran".

Malka means King. Malkutha is "kingdom"; malkuthakh "Thy kingdom". Teeteh Malkuthakh is "Thy kingdom come".

Now we take up another very important word "Qaddish"--Holy.

Qaddish is the adjective. Qaddash is the verb--to be holy. Nith-qaddash is to be made holy, to be sanctified, to be hallowed.

This is the word the seraphim sang around the throne of God, in the vision of Isaiah. It is repeated many times during worship.

"Qaddish, qaddish, qaddish - at" means "Holy, Holy, Holy art thou."

"Nith-Qadash shmakh" means "hallowed be thy name." In English we lose the close connection between Holy and Hallowed. But in the Lord's Language, they are seen to be the same.

ARAMAIC LESSON. . . c o n t .

So now we have learned a good deal of the Lord's prayer. Let us study it this way:

ZLUTHA MARANAYTA

Abun d'ba-shmaya
Nith-Qaddash shmakh
Teeteh malkuthakh
Qaddish,qaddish,qaddish-at
Abun d'ba-shmaya.
Damleen Shmaya u-araa
Rabbuth shukakh.
Eere O'nasha qain-lakh
Qaddish,qaddish,qaddish-at
Abun d'ba-shmaya.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Come thy kingdom.
Holy, holy, holy (art) thou,
Our Father who (art) in heaven.
Full are heaven and earth
Of the greatness of thy glory.
Watchers and men cry to thee
Holy, Holy, Holy art thou
Our Father who art in heaven.

The Church of the East cannot say the Lord's Prayer without praising God for his glory, so it puts in as a refrain the chorus of the seraphim around the throne of God.

There is no liturgy like this in the world; no other liturgy so full of heart-lifting adoration of the Lord our God.

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**THE CALIPH'S CHARTER TO THE NESTORIAN
PATRIARCH**

A forgotten document of tremendous importance to the history of the Church of the East.

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Price 50 cents.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The sacred Liturgy of the Qurbana, in Aramaic and English, will be ready for general distribution about the middle of May. This is of very great importance to all members of the Church of the East throughout the world. It is not as yet known how much each copy will cost, but it is hoped that every family will obtain a copy.

LIGHT FROM THE EAST

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Rev. Saul D. Neesan, vice president

Narsey Serges, secretary

Adam Benjamin, treasurer



EDITORIAL EXPLANATION

In starting LIGHT FROM THE EAST, it was intended to publish it monthly. However, difficulties of overseas communication, and complications of getting a paper started in this country, led to the decision to issue a double number every two months.

This number includes important communications in the Syriac tongue.

LIGHT FROM THE EAST asks every reader to enlist at least one other.

Each one win one! That way the paper will grow, and light from the east will spread over the world.

29 SUBSCRIPTIONS

FROM UPPER TYARI

Twenty-nine subscriptions to this paper have been sent by the tribe of Upper Tyari, now living in the Khabour Valley. They are transmitted by Yakub, son of Malik Ismail, who writes:

"We are all tremendously pleased with Light from the East, and consider that it meets one of the greatest needs of the church and nation. The only thing we ask is that it should include some Syriac for the benefit of those who do not read English."

NEWS FROM FLINT, MICH.

Elizabeth Baly, Correspondent

First returns of the Patriarchal Pence in the Church of the East here amounted to \$35, which was forwarded to the Patriarchate for theological schools in Syria and Iran.

March 12 the Youth Organization of the Church of the East elected the following officers:

President, Peter Paul; Vice-president, Philip Yonan; Secretary, Helen Thomas; Treasurer, Martha Thomas.

The Ladies Club has elected the following: President, Mrs. Esther Sargis; Secretary, Mrs. Nancy Lazar; Treasurer, Mrs. Sarah Thomas.

LAMSA'S BOOKS

This great scholar's translation direct from the original Aramaic, and his wonderful commentaries on Scriptural life and times, have produced the effect of a revolution in all religious circles. The word most often applied to them is "—Marvellous!"

MY NEIGHBOR JESUS,	\$1.50	NEW TESTAMENT ORIGIN,	\$2.00
GOSPEL LIGHT,	\$2.75	THE BOOK OF PSALMS,	\$1.50
THE NEW TESTAMENT,	\$2.50	THE SHEPHERD OF ALL,	\$.60
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By **GEORGE M. LAMSA**

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REPORT FROM IRAN

News of the greatest importance comes from Iran in a lengthy letter from the Rev. Kashisha Ruwil, of Sarnis. He reports that the authorities of Iran have given their approval to this magazine, which can therefore be circulated freely in all parts of the empire.

Cordial relations have been established with the imperial government. A cablegram from the emperor assured the Assyrians in Iran of the response awakened by their action in decreeing a day of prayer and thanksgiving for his escape from the attempt at assassination.

Thus the policy of direct approach, initiated by the Patriarch during the past year, has borne very great fruit of goodwill and renewed fellowship.

Establishment of a second theological school in Urumia is under way. This, with the school on the Khabour, will within a few years assure the Church in Asia of a steady supply of trained priests.

The fact that Iranians will be trained for the priesthood of the Church in Iran has been most favorably received by the Iranian government.

HIGH AVERAGE IN FIRST TEST IN SEMINARY

First examination papers in the theological school at Tell Tamer, Syria, have been forwarded by the Rev. Yohanan Ishoo, principal of the Patriarchal Theological School.

Examinations were held in theology, catechism, composition, history, grammar, geography, penmanship, arithmetic, the Aramaic language, colloquial Syriac, English and Arabic. Conduct and regularity in attendance at worship were also reported.

One student has been conscripted for the Syrian army. He responded to the call, but it is hoped he can be released to pursue his studies.

All reports show a very high average made by the students in these various and difficult fields of study. The Church can be confident of the scholarship of its future priests.

\$151 FOR PENCE
from New Britain

A check for \$151 has just been received at the Patriarchate for the Patriarchal Pence, making \$153 from this church so far for the schools in the Middle East.

Just received from India
a new shipment of
**The Story of
A CHURCH ON FIRE**
Nestorian Missionary Enterprise
By THE REV. JOHN STEWART
History of the Church of the East and its conquest
of Asia. An amazing story of an
amazing enterprise.
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THE STRENGTH OF A CHURCH

The strength of a religion or a denomination lies not so much in its buildings, wealth, and other material things which it possesses, but rather in the truth and sound doctrines which it represents. Money is lost, cathedrals and church buildings are burned and destroyed, but the truth endures forever. In other words, truth is the foundation upon which a religion or a denomination rests, and when this foundation is weakened by the introduction of doctrines and teachings contrary to the teaching of Jesus Christ, sooner or later the whole structure falls down. Therefore, truth is more valuable than cathedrals, church buildings, silver and gold, and when one finds it and possesses it, he will sacrifice everything for it.

When the gospel of Jesus Christ was preached in the East, pagan religions, their magnificent temples and their wealth gradually disappeared. They gave way before the light of truth which shone in a dark world. They melted and drifted, as wax melts and drifts before the fire. Indeed, not even the power and the wealth of the pagan emperors could stem the advancing power of Christian religion and make the pagan institutions resist the radiant truth of Jesus Christ. This is because when truth comes, falsehood disappears and when a correct solution of a problem is found the wrong one is discarded.

Unfortunately, today the strength of a Christian denomination or a religion is reckoned by its wealth, endowments, church properties, and the number of its communicants. Today, a very few men and women stop to consider the doctrines and teachings of their denominations and the foundation upon which they rest. A few Christians realize that in the last two decades thousands of Churches and cathedrals have been either destroyed or converted into workmen's clubs, and that the silver and gold, which the churchmen had collected and stored as a means of future security, have been plundered or lost.

The Church of the East, even though the oldest Christian institution in the world, possesses neither money nor cathedrals, nor endowments. From the very beginning, this Church was not interested in the building of cathedrals and the accumulation of treasures of gold and silver. The gospel of Jesus Christ was and still is its primary objective. From the very outset its missionaries navigated the known seas and traversed the far off lands converting people and establishing Christian missions. This is why in the first, second, and third centuries, nation after nation bowed to the Cross of Jesus Christ. This is why the great pagan empire, the Roman Empire, made the Cross of the man she had crucified the emblem of its farflung dominions. This was a triumph of Eastern Christianity over paganism and imperial despotism. It was a victory of the forces of good over the forces of evil.

THE STRENGTH OF A CHURCH...cont.

Throughout centuries, the Church of the East has continued to cling to the principles and doctrines of Jesus Christ and the teachings of His Apostles. Indeed, despite many persecutions and much suffering this ancient church has never bowed to dictators, nor accepted the teachings which were forced by heretical emperors on other Christian Churches. Today this once great Church has been bereaved of millions of her members, thousands of her Churches and monasteries have been seized or destroyed, her books burned and lost, and her mission enterprises in India and China abandoned.

Nevertheless, the Church has been faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ. She has never accepted any other gospel than that which was preached to her people by the Apostles.

Paul tells us that even if an angel should teach us anything different than that which was imparted by the Apostles, we must not accept it. The Church of the East has rejected and repudiated every doctrine which is alien to the teaching of Jesus Christ.

Today even though the Church of the East is poor and without large church buildings, it is rich in its apostolic doctrines and the pure Christian leaven which she has jealously guarded. For nearly two thousand years its members have never bowed their knee to images and idols, nor have they worshipped human gods.

Her authorities have never blessed the implements of war, nor oppressed or converted by force members of other denominations or religions. Today as of yore, the members of the Church of the East pray for their enemies, love those who hate them and respect and honor the authorities under whom they live.

They pray for both Christian and Moslem rulers; they know that these rulers and their governments are ordained by God.

As long as there is life there is hope. I believe the time will come when this ancient Christian church will rise again and fulfil its great mission to the world.

Many other religions have suffered the same fate, but they have risen again. There was a time when the Hebrew religion was almost lost, its priests had sold out to the priests of Baal, its temples were filled with idols and images, its sanctuaries abandoned its prophets persecuted, some murdered, others driven away. There was a time when there were only seven thousand Hebrews who had not bowed to Baal. But these seven thousand represented the true leaven of monotheism. In the course of time Baal worship was overthrown and the true religion of Israel established once more.

The true prophets of God never gave up hope but they continue to fight for justice and a true religion.

I am sure the members of the Church of the East will display the same courage and loyalty to their Church. The Church of the East will rise again to her former glory.

- Geo. M. Lawson

RAB KHAILA
AND LADY HELEN
FLY TO CHICAGO

On Monday, March 21, Rab Khaila David d' Mar Shimun, former commander-in-chief of the Assyrian armies, and the Lady Helen d' Mar Shimun, his daughter, arrived in Chicago by airplane from New York. They had reached New York Saturday March 19, direct from Cyprus.

The Rab Khaila--in English, the Commanding General -- is the father of the present Patriarch, Mar Eshai Shimun, and the brother of two former Patriarchs, Mar Benyamin and Mar Paulos.

He attended Mar Benyamin on the fatal visit to Simkho Agha, Kurdish chieftain, in 1917. While the Patriarch and 100 leaders of the nation were guests of the Kurdish chief, they were slaughtered in cold blood. Only David and one or two others escaped.

Then Armenian Christians found him. He was hidden by them until he could escape.

General David commanded the Assyrian armies during World War I. At the time of the disturbance in 1933, he, together with the rest of the Patriarchal family, was taken to Cyprus. There he, with all his family except the Patriarch, his son, were detained for sixteen years.

His admission into this country was arranged by the Patriarch in personal visits to the state department at Washington.

While here, the General will undergo treatment for his eyes.

Since arriving in Chicago, the General has been visited by a constant stream of veterans who fought under his command. With them he delights to recall experiences of that disastrous struggle, now happily far in the past.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE
EMPEROR OF IRAN

On receipt of news that the Emperor of Iran has been attacked by an assassin, and had escaped serious injury, the Patriarch Mar Shimun sent him the following communication:

Feb. 9, 1949

"His Imperial Majesty
The Shah of Iran
Through the Ambassador for Iran,
Washington, D.C.

"We thank God for preserving Your Majesty in the cowardly attempt made upon your life, and we pray for a happy and prosperous reign.

PATRIARCH MAR SHIMUN"

On the same day this reply was received:

"His Holiness, Patriarch
Mar Shimun, Chicago.

"Your thoughtful message, just received, will be communicated to its high destination. We rejoice with you in the preservation of the life of His Imperial Majesty.
ALA, Ambassador for Iran"

On Feb. 24, the following cablegram was received through the Iranian embassy:

"Your kind message, transmitted by the embassy, expressing indignation at the attempt on his Imperial Majesty, the Shah-in-Shah, and your good wishes for his majesty's reign, have reached their high destination. His Majesty has graciously ordered me to convey to you his appreciation, and his best wishes for the prosperity of your community.

MAHMOUD DJEM,
Minister of Court"



לחלוקה בין המדינות והמדינות
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