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# LIGHT FROM THE EAST

JUNE-JULY 1952

**VOL.5**

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**NO. 4**

SERMON DELIVERED BY HIS HOLINESS, MAR ESHAÏ SHIMUN ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONSECRATION OF ARCHDEACON MANSOUR ELISHA DARMO, AS METROPOLITAN OF MALABAR AND INDIA, ON MAY 4, 1952, IN THE CHURCH OF MAR ADDAI SHLIKHA IN TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA. THE SERMON WAS BROADCAST TWICE ON THE LOCAL RADIO.

The consecration of the new Metropolitan of India which we witnessed this morning is a continuation in the unbroken apostolic succession dating back to our Lord and Master Himself, Jesus Christ, Son of God.

The history of the Christian priesthood of the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East predated Christianity, and the faith of the Old Testament as revealed through Moses. It heralds back to Melechisidick, which means "The King of Righteousness", to whom Abraham paid tribute in Arah D'Kaldaye (Ur of the Chaldees). In the words of the psalmist: "Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melechisidick." It therefore contains a threefold meaning; namely, historical, spiritual and symbolical. The priesthood of the Old Testament was a forerunner of the New Testament. In the words of St. Paul: "The former was the shadow and the latter reality." The one followed succession through blood and anointment with oil. The latter, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, on any one who may possess the qualities commanded by Our Lord, irrespective of race, language or colour.

The priesthood of the Church of the East is therefore based upon the Petrine promise: "To thee I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever you release on earth shall be released in heaven." Its completion and perfection is in the commission given by our Lord to His Apostles; "He breathed upon them and said, receive ye the Holy Spirit, if you forgive a man his sins they shall be forgiven and if you hold a man his sins they shall be held." Its attribute is therefore intermediary between God and man with authority to forgive and to hold sins.

Upon this foundation the Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East has based its nine orders of the church, as it received them from the hands of the Holy Apostles themselves; namely, Mar Patros (St. Peter) who wrote his epistle from Babylon, Mar Toma (St. Thomas), Mar Adai (St. Thaddeus) Mar Bar-Tulmai (St. Bar Tholmew) and Mar Mari of the seventy; symbolic of the nine orders of angels in the following order:

Patriarch, Metropolitans and Bishops, occupy the place of Cherubims, Seraphims and Thrones; Archdeacons, Chorapiscopy and Priests, the place of hosts, dominions and powers; deacons, subdeacons and readers, the place of principalities, archangels and angels. In other words, the church on earth is one with the Church above and not separate.

This morning we have witnessed the consecration of one of the first ranks. It holds, that without the Apostolic succession, there are no sacraments of the church and without the sacraments there is no Church, and, therefore, no operation of the Holy Spirit. To quote Chapter 8, Verses 14-17, of the Acts of the Apostles:

"Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the Samaritan people had accepted the word of God, they sent to them Simon Peter and John, who, when they went down, prayed over them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet it had not come on any one of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit."

The Church of the East faithful to the command of our Lord, and the teaching and practice of the early church, has maintained this apostolic succession throughout the trials and tribulations of its nearly twenty centuries long history.

### **Foundation Of The Church**

The history of the foundation of this ancient Christian Church dates back to the life time of our Lord Himself, when he commanded His disciples saying: "But above all, go to the sheep which are lost from the House of Israel." These are the Jews that were led into exile by Sargon, King of Assyria, in the year 722, B.C. and the second by Nebuchadnazer, King of Babylon, in the year 597, B. C. In the time of Christ, these Jews of the diasporas had grown into opulent and influential communities in Babylon and Assyria.

It is recorded that soon after the resurrection, the Jewish church in Jerusalem sent one Ananias to counteract the spread of the gospel of Christ within the great Jewish community in Celeucia-Ctesiphon, the capital of the Persian Empire.

Prior to this event, the conversion of Ogar, King of Urhai, had taken place, Urhai, later called by the Greeks Edessa, is a city in northwest Mesopotamia, and which stands to this day. This little kingdom of Urhai, was tolerated as a buffer state by both the Roman and Persian Empire, and remained the centre of Aramian culture after the fall of the Assyrian Empire. The feast of Palm Sunday which is now universally observed was first observed in Urhai.

The story of the conversion of Ogar is as follows: It begins with the famous letter of Ogar, king of Urhai to Christ. The historical event is recorded in the book called the Doctrine of Adai, and also by Eusebius of Caesaria, a fourth century historian who says that he saw the original correspondence with his own eyes in the Church of Urhai and made a copy of it and recorded it in his ecclesiastical history. Ogar, who died in the year 50 A. D. sent an embassy to Sabinas, the Deputy of the Emperor Tiberius in Palestine. The embassy consisted of the nobles Mar-Yabil and Shamshagram, with a scribe called Khannan. On the way home they stayed in Jerusalem ten days, where they saw and heard Jesus. When Ogar heard he wished to go himself to Palestine, but was afraid to pass through the Roman domains. He, therefore, sent a letter to Jesus by Khannan, the scribe, which read:

"Ogar Ukama, ruler of the country, to Jesus, the good deliverer, who has appeared in Jerusalem peace. I have heard of thee and the cures wrought by thy hands, without any medicine or herbs. For it is reported that thou makest

the blind see, the lame walk; thou healest those who are tormented with chronic diseases, and raisest the dead. And when I heard of thee, I settled in my mind of two things; either thou art God come down from heaven, or the son of God. I request of thee that thou wouldst trouble yourself to come to me, and cure the disease which I have. I have also heard that the Jews murmur against thee, and wish to do thee harm. But I have a city, small but beautiful, which is enough for both of us." When Jesus received the letter, he replied to Khannan the scribe: "Go and say to thy Lord that sent thee unto me, blessed art thou, that believest in me, though thou hast not seen me, for it is written of me that they which see me will not believe in me, and they which see me not, they will believe and be saved. How touching what thou hast written to me that I shall come unto thee, it is meant that I should fulfill that for which I was sent hither, and I shall go up unto my Father that sent me, and when I shall have gone up to Him, I will send thee one of my disciples, that whatever disease thou hast he may heal. And all that are with thee he shall bring to life eternal, and thy town shall be blessed."

This promise was fulfilled soon after the resurrection by the visit of Mar Adai, and thus Urhai became the starting point of the Church of the East and the centre of early christian life and literature. Perhaps even more than Jerusalem, Antioch and Celeucia-Cteseiphon, in Babylon, for while in the former three christianity was persecuted, in Urhai it was tolerated and encouraged by the example set by the king himself.

Among the apostles that worked and established churches in Assyria and Babylon, Mar Toma (St. Thomas) sped on his way to India, and Mar Adai went to Phars in the heart of Persia. M'Shikha Skha, an Assyrian historian of the sixth century quoting previous authorities says: "Mar Adai went so far into Phars till he smelt the scent of St. Thomas in India."

Among the first Patriarchs of Celeucia-Cetesiphon listed are Abris, a relative of the Virgin Mary, and Jacob, related to Joseph, her spouse. The Patriarchal See was therefore established in Celeucia-Cetesiphon and there it stayed until the rise of Islam, when it was moved to Baghdad and through the vicissitudes of history now moved to the United States of America.

To be continued

#### PRICE OF PAPER REDUCED

The subscription price of the "Light from the East" for our Middle East and India subscribers has been reduced to \$1.00 per year. The price of gift subscriptions paid by subscribers in the United States for their relatives and friends overseas is \$2.00 per year. The price for the United States and Canada remains at \$3.00 per year.

This is the only paper that carries messages and news from the Patriarch to the churches, and thereby informs people throughout the world of the events and progress of the Church. Many of our readers are now sending the paper as a gift. Why not get a subscription now? Send your remittance to the "Light from the East" and we will handle the mailing.

## **News From India**

By. M. O. Thomakutty

Trustee, Chaldean Syrian Church of the East, Trichur (Editors Note)

The following telegram and resolutions from the Church of the East of India had been sent to His Holiness while he was in Turlock, California. The editor did not have the opportunity to obtain them in time for the April-May issue. We regret the delay in publication, but still feel privileged to print these messages which exemplify the reverent faith and loyalty of our fellow church members in India.

"Pray permission to convey humble gratitude of Church in India for consecrating new Metropolitan for India after all the troubles undergone in connection STOP We rejoice at this great event and also join the ceremony."

### Resolution Adopted by the Church of the East in India

Resolved:-

(1) On this day of fulfilment of the earnest prayers of the Church of India for the last seven years for a successor to His Grace, the late lamented Mar Thimotheus, our beloved Metropolitan of India, we raise our eyes to Giver of all mercies in thankful reverence and place on record our gratitude to His Holiness Maran Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, the 119th Catholicos Patriarch of the East through whose continuous and unshaken perseverance the Almighty has answered our entreaties.

(2) Resolved further:-

To send greetings and felicitations to His Grace Mar Tooma on the occasion of his consecration as the Metropolitan of Malabar and India and pray that Lord Almighty be pleased to shower on him His choicest blessings in the performance of the manifold and onerous duties in this far-off land to the Glory to the Lord and the Church of the East.

### CONSECRATION DAY OBSERVED IN INDIA

"I am glad to place before Your Holiness that the occasion of the Consecration of the Metropolitan for us was observed with great joy and happiness. We believe that the day was observed there with due grandeur as per programme.

"We had all night vigil from 10 P.M. on Saturday. At 5 A. M. on Sunday, Qurbana Qaddisha was celebrated in all the parish churches. Afterwards at 8:30 A.M. the Metropolitan flag was hoisted in front of the Big Church at Trichur in the presence of the clergy and the congregation. The Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides presented a guard of honour. Thereafter Qurbana Qaddisha was celebrated at the Big Church at which Kasshisa C. I. Antony officiated. All the Kassishas and deacons took part in the service. After Qurbana Qaddisha a general assembly of the whole congregation was held in the Porch of the Big Church under the chairmanship of Kasshisa C. I. Antony, at which resolutions of felicitation and thankfulness were adopted unanimously and I was authorized to communicate the same to Your Holiness. After the general assembly the Patriarchal flag and the Metropolitan flag were hoisted on the flag staff in front of the Big Church."

## **Departure Of Mar Tooma**

His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun, Patriarch of the East, and His Grace, Mar Tooma, Metropolitan of Malabar and India, returned on May 28 from their historic and eventful trip to Turlock, California.

His Grace left for Flint, Michigan, the following day to pay a final visit to his many relatives there. The Church of the East of Flint honored him with a banquet attended by 250 persons. He returned from Michigan on June 11.

The following evening the Church of the East of Chicago honored Mar Tooma with a farewell dinner. Many of our Flint friends were present. Gabriel Sargis, chairman of the Church committee, welcomed the guests and introduced the toastmaster, Narsay J. Serges. Speakers were Rev. Isaac Rehana, Rev. Harry Sutcliffe, Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker, Envia Hormis and His Grace. Movies of the Turlock, California trip were shown. His Grace was presented with gifts from the Church and the Daughters of the Church of the East; and also the Youth Organization.

On Saturday, June 14, approximately 50 people met at the Patriarchate to escort the Metropolitan to the airport. Fourteen cars formed a convoy which was preceded by two motorcycle policemen from the Chicago Police Department. The group arrived at the airport one hour before the plane would depart, and TWA granted the party a private room until flight time. Before His Grace left, everyone had the opportunity to take his blessing. On June 18, His Holiness received a telegram from Mr. M. O. Thomakutty, Trustee of the Church of the East of India, stating that His Grace had arrived in Bombay.

## **Church Of India Welcomes Mar Tooma**

May it please Your Grace:

On this auspicious occasion of Your Grace's arrival in our midst as the Metropolitan of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Church of the East in India, we, the clergy and laity of this ancient and historic church, beg leave to tender Your Grace a hearty and respectful welcome, and present this address as a humble token of our deep and abiding faith in Your Grace's guidance, and our unwavering devotion and allegiance to His Holiness, Maran Mar Eshai Shimun, the Catholicos Patriarch of the East.

May we be permitted, on a memorable occasion of this kind, to recapitulate with pardonable pride, the glorious part our Church has played in the history of Christianity in the East. The foundation of the Syrian Church in Malabar by the great Apostle Thomas, the subsequent establishment of a Syrian colony headed by Thomas of Cana and the generous reception and respectful treatment meted out to it by the rulers of Malabar, the grant by Cheraman Perumal of certain civic and political privileges, the relentless and merciless persecutions suffered at the hands of the Portuguese, the historic assertion of the faith of our forefathers at Coonan Cross-these are epoch making events in the history of our church. We had to struggle long without a Metropolitan to guide us. In spite of religious persecutions and political maneuvers, we remained faithful in our allegiance to the Apostolic See of the East. We were exceptionally fortunate in securing at this critical period, about forty-four years ago, His Grace, Mar Thimotheus, Metropolitan, as our shepherd, as a result of the benign care of His Holiness, Mar Benjamin Shimun, Patriarch of hallowed memory, in his solicitude for the shepherdless Syro-Chaldean flock in India.

His Grace, Mar Thimotheus, by his intense spirituality and inspiring teachings, enriched the lives of all those who came into contact with His Grace, and his demise, sudden and unexpected, cast a deep gloom and sorrow over the entire flock which he shepherded with parental care and solicitude. To add to our distress, we had to undergo a period of long waiting, perhaps inevitable, but nevertheless unfortunate for us, for the consecration of a new Metropolitan. The absence of a personal spiritual supervision by a Metropolitan did not however shake our faith in, and our devotion to the Church. We waited patiently and hopefully till this day, with confidence in the benign care of the Almighty, through our Spiritual Head, His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun, Patriarch of the East, and at long last, our prayers are granted.

It has been given to us now to render our respectful felicitations to Your Grace, in that God in His bountiful mercy has chosen Your Grace to succeed the late lamented Metropolitan. We have no doubt that Your Grace will succeed in full measure, in spreading the name and fame of the Church of the East, and that under Your Grace's inspiring guidance, this ancient Church of the East confided to Your Grace's care will rise to its full stature and continue to be, with its sacred gospel of love and devotion to God and Peace and Good will among all men, a beacon light of spiritual inspiration to all people in this part of the world. Great tasks lie ahead of Your Grace in this direction generally, and particularly in the direction of cementing the ties of unity and concord among the flock entrusted to Your Grace's care, and in continuing and completing the works of charity and public utility undertaken and proposed to be undertaken by the Church for the alleviation of mercy, wherever found and the betterment of the lives of men all around. We feel sure that Your Grace's intense spirituality and deep learning will enable Your Grace to successfully achieve these noble objects; and in that sacred endeavor, we, the sheep of Your Grace's pasture, beg to assure Your Grace of our full and loyal co-operation.

Our profound and abiding gratitude, love and devotion are due to His Holiness, Maran Mar Eshai Shimun, Patriarch of the East, for the paternal care and solicitude His Holiness has been showing for the welfare and progress of the church. A church which was diffused from China to Jerusalem and Cyprus had to face the severest persecution ever heard of in history, resulting in the loss of material possessions and prosperity, even the Patriarchal Seat. But the divine fervor has continued unabated. The blood of martyrs has only enriched the soil, and by the Grace of God, the church is now on the revival in all centers in Asia and outside. We are fully aware that but for the sagacious and statesmanlike handling of the situation, the consecration and arrival of Your Grace would have been delayed still further. We avail ourselves of this occasion to re-affirm our unswerving loyalty and allegiance to the Holy See. May His Holiness be gifted with strength, courage, and inspiration to lead the church to greater and greater glory all the world over.

We will be failing in our duty if we do not express our deep debt of gratitude to the benign Governments of the Travancore-Cochin State, India, the United States of America, and Great Britain for the encouragement and support being extended to the Church of the East from time to time. In this connection, we have great pleasure to place our special gratitude to Sri, Jawaharilal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, for the personal interest he has been evincing in the well-being and progress of the remnants of this historic church in India, and we pray for the continuance of the same in the future also.

Praying for Your Grace's paternal and Apostolic blessings on ourselves, and raising our voice in one accord to sing "Glory to God in the highest."

The Chaldean Syrian  
Big Church, Trichur.

May it please Your Grace  
We beg to subscribe ourselves,  
Your Grace's most obedient  
and devoted children in the Lord.

Clergy and Laity.

### **Brazil Hoax Continues. Warning To Assyrians.**

The following photostat copy of a letter from Loco Shlimon Badawi, written to his friend and associate Yusuf Malek of Beirut, Lebanon, will be of interest to all those who are acquainted with the "Brazil Hoax."

It was hoped that these men, having robbed the poor Assyrians of Syria of thousands of dollars by false pretenses, and obtained considerable sums of money from other sources by the same method, would finally cease from these practices. Unfortunately this is not the case. As will be observed, powers of attorney are still being issued, the only difference being that the scene has been changed, but not the tactics.

It is regrettable that these men still continue to use the name of the Syrian government in their fraudulent enterprise, on the basis of a resolution passed by the Syrian Council of Ministers in 1947, authorizing the immigration of Assyrians from Syria. This resolution long since has been revoked.

The Assyrians on the Khabour, in Syria, are greatly appreciative of the kindness of the Syrian Government. It is a tragedy that such unprincipled men should continue to use the good name of the Syrian government in their practices, which have actually taken the form of an international swindle, as will be observed from a statement emanating from the Vatican, published in Light from The East, in the issue of June-July, 1951.

Mar Yosip Ghanima, Patriarch of the Uniate Chaldaeans, on his return from Rome stated, referring to the Brazil hoax;

"All that story is false, and is only intended for the deceiving of men. Our Lord the Pope also was very much annoyed by propagation of such rumors about the Assyrians, stating that they were to become Roman Catholics, and that Our Lord the Pope was helping their emigration to Brazil. All that affair is a lie. Do not believe it." It should be noted that the names appearing on Loco Badawi's letter, purporting to be members of the Bogus "Assyrians Overseas Settlement Committee" have long ago been withdrawn by the persons concerned who stated that they were obtained on false pretenses, and used without their knowledge. It is high time that these Assyrian chiefs took legal action to prevent the future misuse of their names.

It is interesting to know that both Daniel Malik Ismail and Leon Dinkha Shimunaya have refused to associate themselves with Yusuf and Loco in their latest attempt to defraud.

The letter also speaks about the feverish attempts of Yusuf and Loco to prevent the return of Shamasha Mansour Elisha Darmo to Syria. There is apparently no limit to the mischief these unprincipled men are willing to perpetrate --- they entertain high hopes that they will continue to mislead the Syrian government, even to the point of debarring one of its own citizens from returning to his country!

As is well known Archdeacon Mansour Elisha Darmo was recently consecrated by His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun, Catholicos Patriarch of the East, as Metropolitan of Malabar and India, receiving the titular name of Mar Tooma. His Grace recently arrived in India, and has begun his work in his diocese.

The Assyrians should realize that these people are not only the enemies of their nation, but also enemies of the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East, the church for which their forefathers made such great sacrifices throughout its long history.

Assyrians should therefore in the future have no dealings of any kind with these men.

## ASSYRIAN OVERSEAS SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHED SEQUEL TO RESOLUTION No. 528  
DATED SEPTEMBER 3, 1947, BY THE  
SYRIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Till Hormisd  
May 6-1952.

All communications should be addressed to:

**MALIK LOCO SHIMON BADAWI**  
Director of Immigration  
P. O. Box 26  
HASSAKE - Syria  
or  
P. O. Box 857  
Beirut - Lebanon.

My dear Yusuf Malek,

Have received your letter No. 145 dated April 5-52 for which I thank you.

Writing pads have been received too and again I thank you very much.

Much I regret about your health which is still not normal. Dear Yusuf, you have to take great care of yourself to put your health in normal condition otherwise may it become serious. I pray almighty God that he will help you and cure you from this disease.

We postponed the Mazbata to Mohafidh concerning Shamasha Mansur after we learned officially that he will be send to India.

Shamasha Eshai wrote to Maxut that temporary you had stop giving their lists to the Brazilian Legation in Beirut, is this true please? Maxut and his followers want to know what is the reason.

The inclosed is a copy of a letter received few days ago. I want to give an answer to it but as you know how weak I am in English writing. Therefore, I shall thank you very much if you will be in convenient to draft me such an answer to be send.

While writing this letter have received yours No. 151 of April 25-1952. Thank you very much for seeing Mr. Leavitt about Yonan.

The book in Brazilian language have received.

I don't know Shafiq Victor Sim'an Yacub but I will try to find out who is he.

Thanks to Prof. Dauvillier's remembrances. About power of attorney to him I had written you already that Daniel and Leon refused to give him. If I and some of my chiefs give him you think will be ok. If yes, we want a draft in Arabic.

With my best of wishes to your family.

Sincerely yours

*L. S. Badawi*

### PRINCIPAL COMMITTEE

**MALIK DANIEL d'MALIK ISMAIL**  
(A chief of Upper Tyari)

**MALIK LOCO SHIMON BADAWI**  
(Malik of Tekhama tribe)

**IFON DINEHA SHIMUNAYA**  
(Representative of Various Clans)

**CHOMERSCOPIUS M. KYRIAKOS P.H.D., D.D.**  
Vicar & Secy. of the Chaldean Bishoprty  
(Adviser)

**ABDULLA M. A. ... (Adviser)**

**YUSUF MALEK (Collaborator)**

### "KHABUR SUB-COMMITTEE

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» Shimon Yonan  
» Yuzil Yacub  
Malik, Sh'ho Spindlar  
Fati, Yoseph Yekhanan  
» Hormisd Yonan  
» Margil Sado  
» Sariso Tiya  
» Shimon Zomaya  
» Jind, Iwantha  
» Shaviv T. Bar  
» Barcham Daniel  
Mr. Maxut N. Ba'awi  
» Yoseph S. Sclomon  
» Esho Malik Yonan  
» Sadook Morfize  
Rais, Disha Pitha  
» Adam Oshona  
Mr. E.K. Sirta



## CHICAGO NEWS

The Youth Organization now has 40 paid and active members. The club meets every Wednesday. The meeting is preceded by one hour of Assyrian School conducted by Rev. Isaac Rehana. The group is having a picnic July 13. On August 23, a dance will be held at the Parkway Hotel.

On June 18, the Daughters of the Church of the East held a surprise party in honor of one of their most loyal and hardest working members. Mrs. Ingeborg Sargis. She was also presented with a gift. The Sargis' are planning to move to Turlock, California.

On June 24 a group of the Daughters of the Church of the East visited Mrs. Sadie Neesan and presented her with a farewell gift. Mrs. Neesan will join her husband, Rev. Saul D. Neesan, who was transferred to the New Britain parish several months ago.

At a recent election, the organization elected the following officers:

President	Regina Hosanna
Vice-President	Mirwat Pera
Treasurer	Nanajan Sargis
Secretary	Souria Sargis

## GARY NEWS

On June 22, the Church of the East of Gary, Indiana held a successful picnic.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

If you do not receive your paper regularly, kindly notify your representative so that we may rectify any errors. We try to handle the entering of subscriptions and mailing of the paper with conscientious care. Occasionally mistakes are made as no organization is infallible. Kindly co-operate by informing your representative of any delay or lost issues. The following are the official representatives in the United States.

### Turlock, California

Sam Badell  
P.O. Box 141

### New Britain, Conn.

Rev. S. D. Neesan  
71 Pearl Street

### Chicago, Illinois

Narsay J. Serges  
525 Grant Place

### Flint Michigan

Rev. B. Tamraz  
1613 Leith Street

### Yonkers, New York

Khoona Shumon  
75 Douglas Avenue

### Philadelphia, Pa.

Isaac Nona  
2912 N. 12th Street













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