

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.

The Holy Offering of St Nestorius

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.

The Holy Offering of St Nestorius

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.

The Holy Offering of St Nestorius

(*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 censes 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.

The Holy Offering of St Nestorius

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.