

Saint Mina: A Hero of Martyrdom

15th Hator
24th November

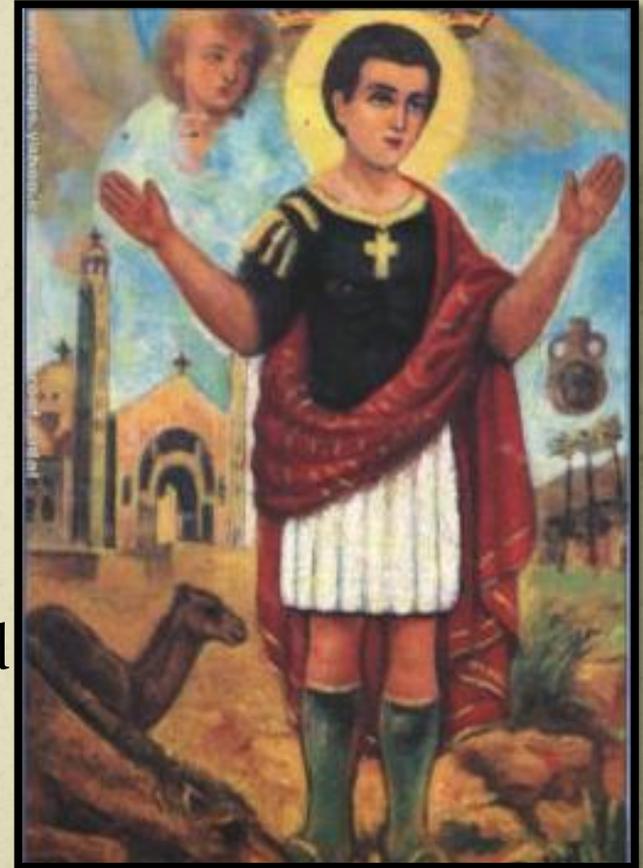
St. Mina's birth

- Born in Egypt in 285 A.D in the city of Niceous which lies in the vicinity of Memphis.
- On the feast of St Mary, his mother Euphemia prayed to the icon of the Virgin St Mary asking for a child. At the end of her prayer, she heard the words “Amen”, which is why she called him Mina.



His teenage years

- His parents taught him reading and writing and they brought him up in a Christian manner.
- At 11 years old, his father, Eudoxius (Governor of the city) departed. His mother departed three years later.
- St. Mina devoted his life to fasting, praying and to living a Christian life.
- At the age of 15, St Mina joined the army. Because of everyone's love towards him and his father, they placed him in his father's position. But he never stopped worshipping God.



Reign of Diocletian

- At the age of 18, he left the army to devote his life to God.
- He lived in the desert as a hermit for 5 years.
- At the time, Emperor Diocletian was forcing everyone to worship idols and was persecuting the Christians.
- St Mina, while in the desert, saw the heavens open and heard this: "He who toils for the Name of the Lord Christ shall receive these crowns"
- He went back to the city and confessed the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Many people tried to persuade him against it due to his high rank and promised him honours and gifts but he refused.
- They then threatened and tortured him but he did not give in.

St Mina's Martyrdom

- After torturing him and not succeeding, they cut off his head with a sword. The Governor ordered to have his body cast into fire for three days then have his ashes scattered in the wind.
- Nevertheless, after three days, St Mina's body did not burn and remained intact.
- St Mina's sister paid a huge amount of money to retrieve St Mina's body and take it to Alexandria.

Miracles involving St Mina's relics

Burying St. Mina's body



- When St Mina's body arrived in Alexandria and it was time to bury him, the angel of the Lord appeared to the honorable Patriarch, Anba Athanasius, the Apostolic. The angel informed him of the Lord's command which was to place the body of St. Mina on a camel and to take it out of the city without letting anyone lead it, but to follow it from a distance until it stopped at a place that the Lord had designated.
- They walked behind the camel until they arrived at a place called Lake Bayad, in the district of Marriot. There they heard a voice saying, "This is the place where the Lord wishes the body of his beloved Mina to be placed." They lowered the body and placed it in a coffin, then they situated it in a beautiful garden and many miracles happened through the body.

Miracles involving St Mina's relics

- There was a war and the Governor of Alexandria secretly took the body of St Mina to be his protector and deliverer. Through the blessings of St Mina, they won the war and the Governor then wanted to return it.
- As they came to return it, they passed by Lake Bayad, St. Mina's original place. The camel carrying the body knelt down and would not move in spite of frequent beatings. They moved the body over another camel, but again this second camel did not move from its place. The Governor finally realized that this was the Lord's command. He made a coffin from decay-resistant wood and placed the silver coffin in it.



Miracles involving St Mina's relics



Healing of the sheep

- One day there was a shepherd who had diseased sheep and one of his sheep slipped into the water of a well near St Mina's body. When the sheep came out, it rolled in the sand and was healed. The shepherd then rubbed water and sand from where St Mina's body was and healed all his sheep. News of these miracles spread across the city.

Healing of Emperor Constantine's daughter

- Eventually news got to Emperor Constantine, whose daughter had leprosy. When his daughter went to the place, she took some of the sand, moistened it with water, smeared it on her body and slept the night.
- In her sleep she saw St. Mina saying to her, "Arise early and dig in this place, and you will find my body." When she woke up, she found herself cured. She began digging as she was told and she found the holy body. She sent word to her father, informing him of the news. The Emperor rejoiced exceedingly, thanked the Lord and glorified His Name. He then sent men and money and built a church in that place and it was consecrated on the fifteenth day of the Month of Baounah.

Saint Mina Monastery

- A church was built there but when the Arabs came to Egypt, some of them attacked the city and the church was destroyed, only ruins remained.
- When His Grace, the late Pope Abba Kyrillos the Sixth was ordained Patriarch over the See of St. Mark, he took interest in building a large monastery in this area (Marriot) in the name of St. Mina. He spent a great deal of money in establishing it.



QUIZ!!

1. On which Saint's feast did St Mina's mother pray for a child?

St Mary's feast

QUIZ!!

2. Where did the name “Mina” originate from?

The word “Amen” which St Mina’s mother heard after she prayed

QUIZ!!

3. At what age did St Mina choose to devote his life to God?

18 years old

QUIZ!!

5. How was St Mina martyred?

His was beheaded and his body was to be burnt in fire for three days

QUIZ!!

4. How many years did St Mina spend in the desert?

Five years

QUIZ!!

6. Where was St Mina's body buried?

Lake Bayad, Alexandria

QUIZ!!

Refer to the picture:

7. What is the significance of the two camels?
8. What is the significance of the well?

The camels would not move from the place where St Mina's body should be buried

The sheep slipped into the well's water then rolled in the sand before it got healed.



QUIZ!!

9. How was the Emperor's daughter healed from leprosy?

With water from the well and the sand near to where St Mina's body was buried

QUIZ!!

10. Which Saint can we use to intercede on our behalf?

