

Dearly beloved, *avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written,*

# Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Romans 12:19

**B**RING TO MIND Him Who upholds all things, and how the deeds of every man are before His eyes, and they stand out before Him more clearly than the sun; and remember that by the mere breath of His mouth He is able to destroy all men if He so wished. You, however, have not been appointed to decree vengeance upon men's deeds and works, but rather to ask for mercy for the world, to keep vigil for the salvation of all, and to partake in every man's suffering, both the just and sinners.

St Isaac the Syrian, *Ascetical Homily 64*, p. 457

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**A**CERTAIN BROTHER committed an offence in Scete, the camp of the monks, and when a congregation was assembled on this matter, they sent after Abba Moses [the Ethiopian], but he refused to come; then they sent the priest of the church to him, saying, "Come, for all the people are expecting thee," and he rose up and came. And he took a basket with a hole in it and filled it with sand, and carried it upon his shoulders, and those who went out to meet him said unto him, "What meaneth this, O father?" And he said unto them, "[The sands are] my sins which are running down behind me and I cannot see them, and I, even I, have come this day to judge shortcomings which are not mine." And when they heard [this] they set free that brother and said nothing [further] to him.

*The Paradise of the Holy Fathers*, Vol. II, pp. 122–23, #542

**O**N ONE OCCASION the brethren were gathered together in Scete that they might enquire into the history of Melchisedek, and they forgot to invite Abba Copres to be with them; finally, however, they did call him, and they enquired of him concerning the matter. And he smote three times on his mouth, and said, "Woe be to thee! Woe be to thee, O Copres, for thou hast left undone what God commanded thee to do, and thou art enquired of concerning the things which God hath not demanded of thee;" and they all left the place and fled to their cells.

*The Paradise of the Holy Fathers*, Vol. II, p. 63, #279

PEARLS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

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