

A CERTAIN BROTHER said to an old man, “If a brother bringeth me news from the outer world, dost thou wish me to tell him not to bring it to me?” The old man said unto him, “Nay,” and the brother said unto him, “Why?” The old man said unto him, “Because not even we are able to flee from this. For having told our neighbour that he must not do this, we ourselves afterwards may be found doing the very same thing.” And that brother said unto him, “What then is the right [course of action]?” Then the old man said unto him, “If we take upon ourselves to hold our peace, the example alone will be sufficient to make our neighbour do the same.”

Paradise of the Holy Fathers,
Vol. II, p. 14, #51

A BBA AGATHO used to say to himself, whensoever he saw any act or anything which his thought wished to judge or condemn, “Do not commit the thing thyself,” and in this manner he quieted his mind, and held his peace.

Paradise of the Holy Fathers,
Vol. II, p. 80, #356

THEY USED TO SAY that the thoughts of a certain old man used to say unto him, “Let today go by, and repent tomorrow”; but he would say, “Nay, not so, for I will repent today, and tomorrow shall be as God willeth.”

Paradise of the Holy Fathers,
Vol. II, p. 140, #612

Pearls from the Holy Fathers

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