

THEY used to speak of a certain solitary monk who went out unto the desert carrying his apparel on his shoulder, and having gone a journey of three days, he climbed a rock, and saw beyond him an old man who was grazing like the beasts, and he came down secretly and gave chase to him. And the old man was naked, and his soul had been refined to such a degree that he could not bear the smell of men, and he was able to remove himself from them and to make his escape by flight. And when he had taken to flight, that brother pursued him, and he cried out to him and said, "I am following after thee for God's sake; wait for me." Then the old man answered and said unto him, "And I, for God's sake also, am fleeing from thee"; and finally, casting away from him the garment which was on his shoulder, he pursued him with all his might. Now as soon as the old man saw that he had cast away his garments, he waited for him, and when the brother came up with him, the old man said, "As thou didst cast away from thee the things of the world, I waited for thee." Then that brother entreated him, saying, "Speak to me a word, that I may be saved thereby"; and the old man said to him, "Flee from the children of men, and keep silence, and thou shalt be saved."

The Paradise of the Holy Fathers, tr. Budge,
Vol. I, pp. 235-36



IT IS BUT LITTLE for a monk to have once made his renunciation, i.e., in the early days of his conversion to have disregarded the present world, unless he continues to renounce it daily. For to the very end of this life we must with the prophet say this: "And I have not desired the day of man, Thou knowest." Wherefore also the Lord says in the Gospel: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

Jer. 17:16

St John Cassian, Conference of Abbot Abraham, Chapter III,
NPNF, Vol. XI, p. 533

PEARLS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

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