

PEARLS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

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Paradise of the Holy Fathers,
tr. Budge, Vol. II, p. 11, # 30

ABBA MACARIUS said unto the brethren when the service in the church was ended, “Flee, O ye brethren”; and one of the old men said, “Father, whither can we flee farther than this desert?” Then Macarius laid his hand upon his mouth, saying, “Flee in this manner,” and straightway he went to his cell, and, shutting the door, sat down.

Ibid., p. 13, # 43

ABBA Poemen used to say, “A man will be always tripped up by that thing which he will not cut off from himself.”

Saint Macarius the Great,
Fifty Spiritual Homilies,
tr. Mason, *Homily xxxi*, §3, p. 230

ALL WELL-PLEASING and all service are in the thoughts. Therefore endeavour to please the Lord, always looking for Him within, seeking Him in thy thoughts, and forcing and constraining thine own will and purpose to stretch upwards continually towards Him. Then see how He comes unto thee and makes His abode with thee. In proportion as thou gatherest up thy mind to seek Him, He is far more constrained by His own tender compassion and kindness to come to thee and give thee rest. He stands contemplating thy mind, thy thoughts, thy intentions, observing how thou seekest Him, whether with thy whole soul, not indolently, not carelessly.

Paradise of the Holy Fathers,
tr. Budge, Vol. II, p. 194, # 181

AN ELDER ASKED Abba Poemen, saying, “Whence hast thou gotten such humility that whensoever it happeneth that there be trouble in the cenobium thou dost not speak, and dost not interfere to put an end to contention?” And the old man having pressed the brother, Abba Poemen answered and said unto him, “Forgive me, father. When I first entered the cenobium I said unto my mind, *I and the ass are one*. As the ass is beaten and speaketh not, and is cursed and maketh no answer, so also act thou, according to what the blessed David said, ‘I was a beast with Thee’.”

