

# ELDER JONAH OF KIEV

A Brief Account of His Life and  
Struggles (*ca.* 1794–1902)

Hieromonk Ioannikios



CENTER FOR TRADITIONALIST  
ORTHODOX STUDIES

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Etna, California 96027

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VDUBETSKY MONASTERY, KIEV, UKRAINE

*Founded in the late eleventh century by Prince Vsevolod Yaroslavich, Elder Jonah came here to live in 1860. While living at Vydubetsky Monastery, he was granted two visitations by the Most Holy Theotokos, who instructed him to build nearby what was to become the Holy Trinity Monastery.*

## INTRODUCTION

With the blessing and prayers and at the urging of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, President of the Holy Synod in Resistance of the True (Old Calendar) Orthodox Church of Greece, this brief account of the life and struggles of Elder Jonah of Kiev was compiled, primarily from the current edition of his life, *Старец Иона (Elder Jonah)* (Moscow, 1995), which reproduces, with some additions, the most complete of the pre–Revolutionary editions, the first of which was *Строитель Кіево–Свято–Троицкаго общежительнаго монастыря архимандритъ Иона (The Founder of the Kievan Holy Trinity Cœnobitic Monastery, Archimandrite Jonah)* (Odessa, 1902).

The unique feature of this life is that the greater portion of it was written by the Elder himself in his last years, primarily as spiritual instructions for his disciples. These accounts, from which we quote at length (adding in brackets the page numbers in the above cited current edition), were supplemented by a later editor who filled in other events in the Elder's life and added relevant accounts by his spiritual children.

The Holy Trinity Monastery of Kiev, founded by Elder Jonah, was reopened in the beginning of the 1990s, when the Elder was officially Glorified as a Saint by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Patriarchate of Moscow). The Elder's Holy Relics are open for veneration in the crypt of the monastery's Church, which survived the decades of atheist rule and is being restored by the present monastic Brotherhood.

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*Other selected publications by the C.T.O.S.:*

- *Concerning the Relics of Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra*  
by Antonios Markou
- *Constantine the Ethnomartyr: Last Emperor of Byzantium*  
by Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna
- *Fools for Christ: Sainly Paradigms of Ascetic Piety*  
by Antonios Markou
- *The Life and Conduct of Our Father Among the Saints, Saint John the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco*
- *Patriarch Gregory V the Ethnomartyr*  
by Antonios Markou
- *Saint Mark of Ephesus*  
by Constantine Cavarinos
- *Saints of England's Golden Age: A Collection of the Lives of Holy Men and Women Who Flourished in Orthodox Christian Britain*  
compiled by Vladimir Moss
- *The Significance of the New Martyrs in the Life of the Orthodox Church*  
by Constantine Cavarinos