

Metropolitan Cyprian

# Eldress Myrtidiotissa

The Ascetic Struggler of  
Klissoura (1886–1974)



Translated by  
Hieromonk Patapios

Center for Traditionalist  
Orthodox Studies

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The Ascetic Struggler of  
Klissoura (1886–1974)

by  
Metropolitan Cyprian  
of Oropos and Fili

Translated by Hieromonk Patapios

Edited by  
Archbishop Chrysostomos



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## “A Small Entrance” into the Miraculous World of a Contemporary Saint

I have now been in the shadow of the Athonite Icon “*Axion estin*” (“It is truly meet”) for many months. Her vigil lamp has been burning continuously. I asked for her Grace, and she did not neglect me.

I worked for such a long time, but I did not grow tired. I was continually inundated by Heavenly Grace, and I was anxious to complete what I had undertaken.... I was in a “Garden of the Graces.” The fragrance of the virtues of the holy Eldress made me forget the fatigue and the difficulties.

I had before me some small pieces of her Relics: a few of her hairs; earth from her grave; a portion of her kerchief; her entire apron; one of the walnuts that she used to give out as a blessing; a photograph of her; and a postcard with the Icon and the Convent of the *Panagia* of Klissoura.

My acquaintance with the Eldress was a stop on my spiritual journey. Since her repose, in 1974, I have had a fervent desire to write down what I know about the miraculous world of this contemporary Saint.

It was perhaps by God’s providence that, almost twenty-five years after she entered into eternal rest, I have now at last succeeded in offering this work to God-loving souls.

The delay has enabled me to collect enough new material to shed light from every angle on the sanctified personality of the servant of God, Myrtdiotissa the Nun.

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At the close of the second millennium after the Incarnation of our Savior, the world around us threatens to crush us between the “Clashing Rocks” of arrogance and carnality.

Let the figure of this valiant struggler be our guiding light on the path that leads to our own Cross and Resurrection, a path

characterized by inner contrition, joyful sorrow, patience, hope, and compassion.

I have attempted to penetrate the inner recesses of a miraculous world and to approach what lay hidden beneath the external insignificance of a woman who was treated with disdain.

“Thou hast achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty....”

She was a treasure concealed in rags, unkempt and coarse, who lived in unending obscurity, so that God might manifest Himself; she was a place in which God revealed Himself to the humble.

She was honorable before God and a precious vessel of His wonders.

A purveyor of our sanctified Tradition, flowing in the gold-bearing stream of an everlasting holiness, she lived already in the present life the glory of the Kingdom.

She belonged to that familiar choir that enraptures us with its radiant beauty and gives us courage with its “paradoxes” and “contradictions.”

“Humble giants”: breathtaking in their glory and simplicity; compunctionate in holiness and repentance; valiant in asceticism and gentleness; innocent in compassion and forgiveness; free in obedience and purity; sparkling in their countenance and weeping; noble in word and in deed. Our fellowship with them is communion with our Lord, with Him Who is our Hope.

As long as there are Saints in our midst, even if unknown to most people, there is hope; and since there will always be Saints to “reveal” Him, there will always be hope. And we are so much in need of hope, a hope that “cannot be put to shame....”

Let her be our consolation on the threshold of the third millennium.

† *Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili*  
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*Translation of the Relics of Saint John Chrysostomos*

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by METROPOLITAN CYPRIAN

“My acquaintance with the Eldress was a stop on my spiritual journey. Since her repose, in 1974, I have had a fervent desire to write down what I know about the miraculous world of this contemporary Saint. It was perhaps by God’s providence that, almost twenty–five years after she entered into eternal rest, I have now at last succeeded in offering this work to God–loving souls. The delay has enabled me to collect enough new material to shed light from every angle on the sanctified personality of the servant of God, Myrtidiotissa the Nun. ...Let the figure of this valiant struggler be our guiding light on the path that leads to our own Cross and Resurrection, a path characterized by inner contrition, joyful sorrow, patience, hope, and compassion. ...Let her be our consolation on the threshold of the third millennium.”

*The Most Reverend Cyprian*



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