

ELDER EPHRAIM DISPERSES THE DOUBTS OF A YOUNG BOY FROM GREECE

—The testimony of Athanasios Siagris—

One year, me and my friend Nikos Sotiropoulos had gone to Saint Anthony's Monastery in Arizona to see Elder Ephraim. One day after the evening meal, we exited the dining hall as Elder Ephraim was standing at the entrance and blessing everyone. We came out of the dining hall and waited for Elder Ephraim to pass by so we could hopefully kiss his hand. Next to us was a young man, approximately 25 years old, who was from Greece. As Elder Ephraim approached us, he unexpectedly stopped in front of us, turned to the boy from Greece and asked him: "Did you get your answer?" The boy was stunned. He uttered, "Yes, Elder. I did." Elder Ephraim then turned and continued walking away from us. The boy then started to mutter under his breath: "I can't believe it... I can't believe it...." My friend Nikos Sotiropoulos who witnessed all this along with me nudged me, wanting me to speak to this boy to inquire as to what exactly happened.

So I approached the boy, started speaking to him, and he told me the following: "I am from Greece. I kept hearing that in Arizona there is this Elder who is holy and performs miracles. I would always say: 'yeah, whatever...'" and I had many doubts about this. So I decided to come here to Arizona to see whether or not this is the case. And right now as the Elder passed by us, I smelled a very powerful incense-like fragrance emanating from him. And as I was surprised by this, he stopped and asked me if I received the answer."

One thing that I want to add is that neither I nor my friend Nikos Sotiropoulos smelled any fragrance when Elder Ephraim passed by. Only the boy from Greece sensed this fragrance.

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