

THE REPOSE OF SAINT NEKTARIOS

As he neared the end of his earthly life, Saint Nektarios developed an infection of the bladder, which he endured patiently and with thanksgiving to God for fifteen consecutive months. Despite the unbearable pain, he initially did not want to receive any medical treatment; however, he eventually agreed after much pressure from the nuns. Thus, accompanied by two nuns, he went to Athens and was admitted to the Areteion Hospital, where he remained for more than fifty days, during which he ceaselessly praised, thanked, and glorified God. In the final week he developed a fever that took a toll on him, and having received Holy Communion, he gave up his soul peacefully to the Lord at 10:30 pm on November 8th, at the age of 74.

A few hours before the Saint passed away, the monastery on Aegina received a message via telegraph indicating that there had been an improvement in his health, something that brought much joy to the nuns. When the Abbess Xeni was informed of the telegraph, however, she told the nuns that they were rejoicing in vain because His Eminence was in fact not well, and that he may have even died already—for, she had seen him that same evening with “the eyes of her soul” in the monastery’s courtyard bidding her farewell with the following words: “I came to say goodbye. I am leaving now. Farewell.” The nuns became unsettled, not wanting to believe the Abbess’ words. The truth of her prophetic statement, nonetheless, was confirmed a short while later when a second telegraph arrived announcing that the saint had departed from this life.

While he was hospitalized in Athens, a nun from his Holy Monastery had the following vision: She found herself in a beautiful, open field where there was a newly constructed palace, built with finely chiseled stones. She then noticed that an aristocratic young man was inspecting the structure for potential imperfections. Having ascertained that it had been completed to perfection, he began to lock up the entrance. As the nun stood wondering who this palace could possibly belong to, the young man turned to her and said, “It belongs to Nektarios.” However, because the nun thought to herself, “Where did His Eminence find such a palace? He is poor...” the young man replied to her query in a serious tone, “It belongs to Nektarios.” One week later, the nuns learned that the saint had fallen asleep in the Lord in Athens.