

THE MOTHER OF GOD GRANTS STRENGTH TO AN ELDERLY MONK

—from the book *The Salvation of Sinners*—

When Britain was still an Orthodox nation, in a certain monastery there lived a most sanctified monk who greatly honored the Most Holy Theotokos. He revered her to such a degree, that whenever he heard her venerable name being mentioned by another person or whenever he himself encountered her name in one of his readings, he would straightaway bow down on his knees and prostrate himself to the floor. As the years passed, this virtuous and faithful servant of the Most-Holy Theotokos grew old, and eventually became so weak that he could no longer raise himself out of bed. Consequently, the abbot assigned a certain monk to be his cell attendant and serve him in any way necessary.

One day, the elder was in need of getting out of bed, but his cell attendant was not with him at that moment. The elder prayed and made several attempts to sit up, but he was unable to do so. In tears, he then turned to his icon of the Panagia, and said the following to her with faith: "My sweetest Panagia, help me." No sooner had he uttered this phrase when the Mother of God appeared to him and comforted him with the following words: "On account of the extreme reverence and love you have for me, I am granting you another thirty years in this present world. Your way of life is pleasing to me. And since you honor my name to such a degree, henceforth, may you regain the strength you possessed when you were thirty years old." Having said this, the Ever Virgin disappeared.

Elated, the monk arose and walked on his own, and ever since he was restored to perfect health and physical strength. All the monks were astonished when they saw him and heard of the miraculous healing he had experienced, and henceforth held him in great esteem. As for the elder, he hymned and lauded the Virgin Mary even more, constantly remembering the motherly compassion she had shown him, up until he fell asleep in the Lord. To Him is due all glory unto the ages. Amen.