

THE SYNODICAL DEPOSITION OF NESTORIUS

Sources

The process of deposition as held at the First Session of the Council of Ephesus, June 22nd 431.
Texts: Acta Conciliorum Oecumenicorum , Edited by E. Schwartz, Leipzig 1927, Vol 1,2 Pages 45-64
F Loofs, Nestor and His Place in the History of Christian Doctrine, Cambridge, 1914, page 227
J MacGuckin, Saint Cyril of Alexandria and the Christological Controversy, St Vladimir's seminary Press, 2004, Pages 367 and 376.

[The priest Peter of Alexandria, senior notary, said: 'We also have [our hands] the books of the blasphemies of the Very Reverend Nestorius. From one of them we have selected excerpts. If [holy synod] so desires we shall read them.'

Bishop flavian of Philippi answered: 'Let this be read and inserted the Acts.'

From: The Book of the Same Nestorius. Quaternion 4 On Dogma:

[Similarly from the same Book, Quaternion 4

Listen, then, and pay attention to the words, for scripture says: '**He who eats my flesh**' (Jn.6.56). Remember that this is said about the flesh, and that this word 'flesh' is not added by me --so then I cannot be accused by them of misinterpreting. He says: 'He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood.' He did not say, '**He who eats my Godhead and drinks my Godhead,**' but '**He who eats my flesh and**

drinks my blood abides in me and I in him.'

And in another place:

[But to sum up, 'He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him.' Remember that this is said about the flesh. 'Just as the living Father has sent me' (Jn.6.57), me whom you see. But in case I am misinterpreting let us listen to what follows: 'Just as the living Father has sent me' -- well, my opponent says that this refers to the Godhead. I say it refers to the manhood. Let us see who is misinterpreting here. 'Just as the living Father has sent me' -- the heretic says that here it is talking about the Godhead, meaning that he has sent God the Word. So, 'Just as the living Father has sent me, so I live (and according to them that means the divine Word) through the Father'. But after this there follows: 'And whoever eats me shall live' (Jn.6.58). **In that case what is it we are eating? The Godhead or the flesh?]**

The same words and the same teaching of Anba Shenouda and his bishops, Youssef and Serapion.

Friday, November 12, 2004

Your Grace Bishop Youssef

Your Grace Bishop Serapoin

I have furnished you with essential documents which prove to both of you that you and His Holiness have embraced the heretical teaching of Nestorius. Bishop Serapoin you are not innocent because after you have defended the Heretical Teaching and quoted from the letters of St Cyril of Alexandria you have indicated that you have some knowledge of theology.

Now prove that you know enough to write another article for the Orthodox News to confess that we receive the One and Undivided Christ and that we partake in the His Life which is both Divine and Human when we receive His Holy Body and His Holy Blood.

You have 40 days to do so according to the Canon Law. After that period, we will denounce you publicly with your heretical patriarch and the whole to Orthodox Churches will join us. We give you time and we allow those who defile the Orthodox Faith to repent for we do not fall on them like butchers.

In Christ our Lord,

Robert Shaw

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