

Journey of the soul

This History is about the journey of a [good] Christian soul from this world to eternal life [and] the journey of bad souls to eternal damnation and the death of their soul.

It is an important history which has been taught by teachers and monks since the time of our earliest fathers. This history is a guidance for all Christians to protect themselves from sin and be saved by doing good when they live in this world.

[A Christian] must learn the five secrets of [creation] and the thirteen sufferings of the cross to understand the one and three nature of the Trinity, resurrection and the existence of salvation and damnation. Our saviour, Eyesus Kristos has said, "...*He who listens to my words and believes in him who has sent me, [shall have eternal life] he will go from death to life and will not be condemned.*" [John 5:24]

This history was given under the Leadership of His Eminence Abuna Yesehaq with the understanding of its importance to Christians. January, 1984

If it is asked what is the Journey of the Soul? *It is this: When a human being is created [conceived] in their mother's womb, God assigns for the person two guardian angels to stand on their right and left. These angels whose duty is to write all the good and bad things which the person does in every hour and day of their life will stay on their right and left side until they die.*

When the person dies, the two angels will present the biography of the person they each wrote before God. The Angel on the right is from the Angels of Light and the Angel on the Left is from the Angels of Darkness. When the person does good, the Angels of Light will be closer to them, and the Angels of Darkness stay 40 Kind [about twenty meters] behind. When the person does bad, Angels of Darkness stand closer to him and Angels of Light stand 40 kind [about 20 meters] away from him.

The Angel on the right advises him to learn religion, to do good, to observe Senbet Sunday, to go to church, to pay tithe (to the church) proudly, give hospitality to strangers, to fast the seven fasts and pray, not to go to blasphemous magicians, to love your brother and sisters, to be polite, not to kill, not to cut [legs] not to burn a house, not to steal, not to fornicate, not to take by force, not to break boundary, not to tell a lie and not to tell a lie as a witness, and do not discriminate a person.

[He tells him] to confess his sin on the day it happens. As the book of Sabbath [Sunday] says..... he advises him to give alms while he is alive for his money will not follow him when he dies. If the person does what the Angel of Light [the angel on the right] told him, he will write his good deeds in the book of life.

The angel on the left [the angel of Darkness] will advise him: not to do the things which the angel on the right, the Angel of Light, has told him to do. He makes him work on Sabbath [Sunday] by telling him that he will not be rich just by working on regular work days. Again, he tells him not to go to church by convincing him that he is tired from hard work and he needs to sleep, rest and relax.

From the time of childhood until old age, he advises him not to give alms by telling him that he needs the money for himself and that if he gives to the poor or needy, he would end up poor himself and begging. Instead he tells him to save his money.

Again, the angel on the left tells him, you say you confess your sins to your confessor but if he tells you to fast and pray, you cannot fast; if he tells you to prostrate [bow], you have no strength; and if he tells you to give alms you have no money.

Instead, he tells him to tell all his sins to his father confessor when he dies and let him worry about it. Thus by doing so, he prevents him from repenting. If the person does all he is told not to do by the angel on the left, the angel of darkness, he will write it, record it, in the book of life.

Believing in the name of the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we shall now briefly write about the ordeal and suffering of an condemned man's soul [*which is separated from the body by death*] as it travels..... As one always returns to his home at the end of a day, so shall he die at the end of his life either by accident or by illness.

If the man had worshipped in witchcraft, betrayed God, has not fed the hungry, has not given drink to the thirsty, has not given clothes to the naked, has not received guests in his home, and has not visited the sick, three angels of darkness will be sent to him when his soul is close to separate from his body. These three angels of darkness will sit on the dying person's head, heart and leg. The angel of darkness sitting on the dying person's heart will bite him with his teeth from above and the angel of darkness sitting on his leg will bite him from below.

The angel of darkness sitting on the dying person's head will write the dying person's sins telling him it was him who had prevented him from Worshipping God, who made him worship in witchcraft and who made him commit sins in his life time. As King David said... "*when the dying person sees the sin he loved as the milk from the breast of his mother written before his eyes, he shall hate it*" Again, the soul trembles when it sees the angel of death standing tall from horizon to horizon with his mouth wide open teeth showing and his eyes glowing.

The length of his teeth is 68 arms [*about 34 meters*] in the arm of an angel. The length of his length of the angel's one arm is equal to the length of 44 human arms. It will take three and half years to travel from one side of the angel's one eye to the other side, and two and a half years to travel from one side of his other eye to the other side. Together, the width of his eyes will take 7 [sic] years to travel from one corner of his eye to the other corner of the eye. After that, the angel of death will take three steps and stand in front of the dying person..... when, with eyes open and his teeth reaching out, the angel of death tells the soul to come and receive the prize of the sin she has done while she was alive, she begins to tremble.

She will then jump out of the body and sits on top of the corpse. The angel of death will then stick his nails in her and brings her to his mouth to chew. After chewing her three times, he then spits her out. He does this to tell her that she has not recognized the one and three nature of the Trinity.

When the angels of light come to see the condemned soul, they will find her being seven times darker than the darkest bird. She will not allow them near her. The angels of light will feel sorry for her and stand far from her saying "*Oh, soul, you were created for heaven but you ended up in hell with Satan*". The angels of death will take the condemned soul to the ocean of fire. The ocean of fire is like this: *the right side is an ocean of fire and the left side is the abyss cliff of fire*. Between the two is a road narrower than a thread which allows only one foot to stand on it.

The angels of death will tell the condemned soul to cross between the ocean of fire and the abyss of fire by walking on that narrow road. The condemned soul replies the angels of death thus "*...my lords, the right side is an ocean of fire and the left side is an abyss of fire, how can I cross between these two walking on a road narrower than a thread which does not have enough space to stand or something to hold?*".

[The angels of death say to the condemned soul that] she should have been a good person when she had the chance by feeding the hungry, by giving drink to the thirsty, by providing hospitality to the needy, by giving clothes to the naked, by visiting the sick, by helping the release of a prisoner and keeping the laws

of God. They will push her to the ocean of fire. The condemned soul walks on the road which is narrower than a thread by falling into the ocean of fire and the abyss of fire by burning itself like a [wax] in a fire. After passing between the ocean of fire and the abyss of fire, she will wake thinking about her expulsion from heaven and worried about her condemnation to hell like a rebel who worries about his fate when he is being taken in chains to face the king after his capture. The Lord; who alone cuts, hangs and kills will wait for her with a frightening reverence. The condemned soul will come and stand before him. The guardian angel will tell her to bow to God who has created it in his likeness.

Since the beginning of creation, from the time of Adam and Eve (Hewan) and the time of the Fathers and Saints, the Principles of Marriage has been greatly honoured and it has been recorded and respected in both Old and New Testament. It is not something that is new, but an on-going principle. All Christians should respect the Principle of Marriage and keep its regulations and must live in faith of our Lord Eyesus Kristos.

Where were you? Who were you? What have you done? What have you created? and what donation [to the poor] have you made?" The condemned soul replies thus: *"Oh my Lord, I thought I would die and end up being dirt and soil on earth. Had I known that I would rise from the dead and face these sufferings, I would have [done good] even if I had to cut my body into pieces and give it to another person or feed it to the birds".*

"...Why haven't you done at least one of the three?" The condemned soul will have no answer. God will say to the condemned soul: ***"I gave you eyes to see, ears to hear, teachers to teach you, books to learn, church to pray as I have given the righteous, why have you then failed?"***

The condemned soul will curse the day she was born saying *"...I wish I was not born, I wish I was not created, I wish I became water in my mother's womb and I wish even my mother was never born".* After that, God will tell the angels of light: ***"..This soul has come preferring Satan to me and hell to heaven, Take and show her heaven for seven days and return her to hell where she will stay until I rejoin her with her body and throw her in the everlasting fire in hell."***

The angels of light will take her on a seven-day visit of heaven. They do this to show her how she has missed and to make her regret. On the eighth day, the angels of darkness will take the condemned soul like cattle being taken to the slaughterhouse.

[When they arrive at the gates of hell], they will call Tibliacos who is the guard at the gate of hell, and will tell him to take the soul. Tibliacos will take the condemned soul from the angels of darkness and will bounce her thirteen times from earth to the sky on a pan of fire like a child who plays with a bouncing ball. The meaning of bouncing her thirteen times on the pan of fire is to remind her that she heard but did not cry for the thirteen pains of the cross which Eyesus had suffered on Good Friday.

When the pain is too much, the soul will beg for a rest in the name of the Holy Trinity. But they will increase her pain and suffering saying that she should have remembered the Holy Trinity before and held feast in their name. When the pain becomes too much, she will again beg in the name of the holy and righteous, to be given a small rest.

They will increase the pain saying again that she should have remembered the holy and righteous before. For the third time the condemned soul will say...*"in the name of the Saviour on the cross, please give some rest."* They will say to her that she should have known the Saviour on the Cross and done good in his name, and will further increase her pain and suffering.

For the fourth time, the condemned soul will beg for rest in the name of the Virgin Mary. When they were about to increase her pain as before after saying that she should have known the Virgin Mary before and done good in her name, the Virgin Mary who hears whenever her name is called, will quickly go to God and kneeling before Him, saying: *"..My son as You have promised to save whoever calls my name, please save this soul [who calls my name] too."*

God will say to Mary, **"...This is a soul who has betrayed me and wronged you, she is a rebel a soul which has committed murder, how can I save her?"** Mary will say to him: *"You have promised to save anyone who calls my name... and this soul is calling my name from hell"*

Since a Mother's mediation is respected, God will order for a small relief to be given to the condemned soul in His Mother's name.....After giving the soul a small relief for the sake of the Virgin Mary, they will again take her hitting with a hammer of fire and throw her to hell. This is the place of a condemned soul until the coming [of Christ].

Whoever wants to know, hell is located in the *West* where the sun sets; Further, the meaning of hell is a bottomless pit. The meaning of fire of hell is a place of fire and darkness which has nothing to stand on or nothing to look at. It is a place which swallows everything that goes into it, a place of suffering and pain. The meaning of Diablos is filth and foul. Satan means he who is fallen, humiliated, whose honour has been taken away, jealous and mischievous. The angels of darkness means the representatives of darkness, the authorities of malevolence. The suffering of a condemned soul is like this. May God save us from this. Amen.

The Good Soul

Believing in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we shall **briefly** write about the reception for a holy man's soul as she travels on the journey to Zion.

The Lord Eyesus Kristos has ordered to learn religion and **to do good while in this world**. He said this, because as one returns to his house at the end of a day so shall one return to earth when he dies, then shall one be questioned before God.

Every person will die either by accident or from sickness. When he is dying, if he is a holy man, the angels of light will descend to stand on the right and the left side *[of the dying person]* even before the soul separates from the body. They will find the Holy man's soul wearing a dress made of light, wearing a crown made of light, *wearing a shoe made of light*, holding a stand made of light, *shining seven times more than the sun*, being seven times more frightening than thunder, and **completely** resembling, Eyesus Kristos the Saviour *in her grace*. She will burn the angels of darkness like a fire, and reflect on them like the **sun**. They will be afraid of her, *run* and stand away from her.

They [the angels of darkness] will call from a distance to ask her thus:

"...who do you believe in? Who do you worship? Have you learned the one and three nature of the Trinity, their depth, width and distance? Have you learned the coming of the Lord, his birth, His being the Son of the Father and Mariam, his suffering, crucifixion, the five secrets and thirteen pains of the cross? Have you received the guest of God and observed the Sabbath [Sunday]?"

And the Holy man's soul will tell them in pride that she had done and learned all about those and that she has never before seen a foul creature like the angels of darkness. When the angels of darkness realize that the soul does not belong to them, they will go away saying that...*"you have inherited the heaven which we have lost"*. And the angels of light will bring flowers of perfume from heaven to her. They will stand by her side and ask her. They will ask her thus: *"...In whom do you trust? Whom do you worship? Do you know*

the one and three nature of the Trinity? The coming of the Lord and His birth from God the Father and Mariam, His suffering and death on the cross?" And since the soul of a Holy man's word is a word of truth, she will answer them [affirmative]

They will ask her again if she had learned the five secrets of the cross, the thirteen pains of the cross and if she observed Sunday and received the guest of God. She will answer them that, yes, she has done all they ordered her to do. She tells them that she recognizes them as her friends and relatives. She recognizes them as friends and relatives because, she was giving thanks to her Creator the Lord, ascending and descending from heaven on the side of the angels of light while she was still alive on earth. After the angels of light finish examining her, they will tell her that they know her and that they asked her those questions only to hear the answers from her word.

After that the Lord surrounded by thousands of angels, holy souls, saints, virgins and monks will descend to reward her and honour her for her deeds. After this he will ascend to the heavens of heaven. The Divine Lord does not have to ascend and descend but he does that for our respect and because of the human flesh he wore.

After that, the angel of light with his likeness of light and grace will be sent to the soul of the holy man.

He is seen for her in this way so she won't be [*afraid*]. When the angels of light put the flower of perfume which they brought from heaven on the nose of a dying man, his soul separates from his body.... After that, the angels of light, surrounding the holy man's soul, from back, front, left and right and singing and praising the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, will take her to the Lord. When the Soul is being taken by the angels of light, the angels of darkness will follow her [*from a distance*] until they reach at the ocean of fire [*because they do not give up until they are ordered by the Lord to do so*].

The ocean of fire is located between the *tefer* (the space) and *hanos* (deep space) [*black hole*] The size of the ocean of fire is equal to the earth. Its right side is fire, its left side is ocean and its inside is a cliff [*bottomless pit*] At the center of it, there is a road narrower than a thread.

It is only the foot of a soul that can stand on this road, it is too small and narrow for the foot of a flesh (living person) to stand. The holy person's religion and good work [in this world] will become wings to his soul and help her pass across the narrow road. The angels of light will also put her on their wings and take her across the road. As the holy man's soul passes on the road, she will look down and ask the angels of light what the fire, ocean and cliff below the road is. They will tell her that it is the place through which those who have not done good and have not learned religion while they were alive must burn and suffer to pass.

When hearing this, the holy man's soul feels sorry for those who are still alive and who do not know what is waiting for them if he does not do good and learn religion. After passing over the narrow road, the holy man's soul will travel like a happy bride in this world to meet her creator. Her creator will prepare a place and spiritual food and drink for her as parents in this world do for their children, and wait for her. When the happy soul arrives at the presence of the Lord, she will bow. After that the Lord will ask her, if it is the soul of a man, he will not ask her about [her field work in this world]. And if it is a soul of a woman, he will not ask her about [her household work in this world].

But he will ask her in whom she believes, whom she worships, whether she [the soul] knows His one and three natures, His birth from the Father and Mariam, his sufferings on the cross, the five pillars of secret and the thirteen pains of the cross. The soul answers the question of the Lord ***[affirmatively]***

After that, as the word the Lord is truth, he will call the angels of light and tell them that the soul is the soul of a Christian who deserves a place in heaven.

He will tell them to take her and show her heaven for four days, show her hell for three days and return her to the Garden of Eden to stay with other Holy Souls until he reunites her with her flesh and reward her in heaven. After that, the angels of light will take the soul and for three days [sic], they will show her the happy place of holy souls and heaven.... They will also take her to hell to show her [how condemned souls live and eternally suffer from] the crown of fire, the thorn of fire, the fire snake, the fire lion, the fire tiger.

After that, they will show her the places of saints, virgins, monks, [and all the different places reserved for good people] and will take her to the Garden of Eden where she will live with other holy souls. The Garden of Eden is located in the east or from where the Sun rises. On its four sides are four mountains. Between the four mountains four rivers flow to her.

The first river is the Nile. Grapes flow in this river. It collects all the waters from the rivers between Ethiopia and Egypt and goes to nourish the Garden of Eden. After that it flows to Jericho.

The second river is Effeson and milk flows from this river. And this river takes all the waters from the rivers in India, flows to nourish the Garden of Eden and returns to the ocean.

The third river is Tigris and honey flows from it. It will take all the waters of the rivers in the country of Yonanlan to the Garden of Eden and returns to the sea of Eritrea [Red Sea].

The fourth river, Efratis, is oil. It takes all the waters from Europe, Persia and Babylon to the Garden of Eden and returns to the sea of Eritrea [Red Sea].

The holy souls in the Garden of Eden live by the smell from these four rivers without drinking and eating. Returning to what we began, that good soul will live in such a way in happiness in the Garden of Eden until the Second Coming of the Lord. After that she will inherit heaven. Heaven is located between Eyoar and the sky. What is called Heaven is Jerusalem. It is Heavenly [Jerusalem].

It was the city of Lucifer [Satan] before he was disgraced and expelled from it. After that, the Lord who created Adam in the place of Lucifer, has given heaven to Adam and his children. And briefly, this is what the fate of a good person's soul is. May the Almighty God give us this honour, Amen

Holy Trinity Ethiopian Orthodox Church New York - 1984: Abuna Yesehaq