

The Donkeys of the Bishop

Some of the Arians discussed with each other what they should do toward an elderly bishop who was known for his holiness, simplicity and conviction.... they feared him going to the council of Nicea to silence Arius. They waited until he and his disciple rode 2 donkeys and went after them. When the evening came, the bishop and his disciple stopped on their way at a hotel to spend the night, and left the 2 donkeys in the hotel stable. In the middle of the night, the men went to the stable and slaughtered the 2 donkeys to stop the bishop and his disciple from traveling to Nicea.

Early in the morning, the disciple went to the stable and found the donkeys' heads cut off...so, he rushed back to the bishop with a great panic. The bishop asked him, "Why are you in a great panic, my son?" ... "The donkeys were slaughtered, father, and we don't have money to buy 2 donkeys to replace them", said the disciple. The bishop said, "Don't worry, my son...God has many solutions!"... The disciple asked, "What do you mean, father?" ... the bishop said, "God who called us to join the council will take care of our travel, my son". The bishop walked with his disciple to the stable, carrying a lamp with them, as the night was still dark. There, the bishop asked his disciple to bring one of the heads closer to the body. The bishop prayed saying, "Lord, you know that we don't have money to buy 2 donkeys.... if you want us to attend this council, allow now that a breath of life come back to the 2 donkeys".... so, the first donkey moved and came back to life...and the same thing happened with the second donkey.

The bishop and his disciple continued their journey to Nicea, while the followers of Arius had already arrived to Nicea thinking that the bishop and his disciple could not finish their journey. As soon as the bishop and his disciple entered the City of Nicea, everyone welcomed them in great amazement, and they were staring at them while they were riding the donkeys. The father the bishop asked, "Why are you looking at us in a great amazement ?!" One of the people asked, "Father, what happened?!" He said, "Nothing" ...the person asked, "What is this ????" The bishop said, "I don't know what you mean!!" The person said, "Don't you see that the black donkey has a white head and the white donkey has a black head ?!!!"

The bishop realized that his disciple made a mistake when he brought the head of each donkey closer to the body of the other donkey...so, he told the people what happened !!!

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