

I CAME TO KNOW YOU ON GOLGOTHA

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The Elder used to say that the deepest and most intense knowledge that he received of our Saviour was in the crucifixion, in that suffering and voluntary passion. "I came to understand because, of course, we are made of God in His divinity, Who in His humanity suffered."

Our Saviour had His Pathos and voluntary Passion. It is only in this voluntary passion, voluntary constraining, denial, voluntary taking up of the cross, voluntary crucifixion, that we come, therefore, to know in depth the unity of the God-Man, the Incarnation, and the Mystery and His bond to us, our unity with Him. To see angels, to see visions, to see the Resurrection--that is God. When God opens the Heavens, then you see the visions. When God closes the heavens, then you don't see the visions, the visions pass. The visions are inside because the Kingdom is within-open, closed. To know yourself is much greater than to see angels. But *you will come to know yourself through suffering, through the cross, and death on the cross, by crucifixion*. The Elder said that this knowledge is greater than all of the others. Other knowledges' will record themselves. Through sin, etc., they can be blurred and forgotten, as another distant world.

But that which you come to know through suffering and crucifixion for the sake of the Kingdom, for the sake of the love of our Saviour, that which you come to know on Golgotha, never will be obliterated. In the worst of sins, that experience and knowledge is right in the marrow of the bone.

Therefore, it is so necessary to deny ourselves in a heroic spirit. We are to be crucified through the cutting of the will, obedience, struggles, love of God, patience and longsuffering. At the end of his life the Elder became like the crop that is ready for harvest, like the fruit which is ripe and mellowed. He had been through the mill and like St. Ignatios, was ground like fine flour to be that bread on the table in the Kingdom. He was ground through much patience and longsuffering.