

ASCETICALLY SPEAKING, pp. 47-48

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FROM THE GOSPEL OF THE HEBREWS RE JAMES THE JUST

Blessed Jerome quoting from the Gospel of the Hebrews

And when the Lord had given the linen cloth to the servant of the priest, He went to James and appeared to him. For James had sworn that he would not eat bread from that hour in which he had drunk the cup of the Lord until he should see him risen from among them that sleep. And shortly thereafter the Lord said: 'Bring a table of bread!' And immediately it is added: He took bread, blessed it and brake it and gave it to James the Just and said to him: 'My brother eat thy bread, for the Son of Man is risen from among them that sleep.'

THE LOGOS IS ALWAYS IN THE FATHER AND THE FATHER ALWAYS IN THE LOGOS

St. Athanasius

That the Son is not only like to the Father, but that, as his image, he is the same as the Father, that he is of the Father, and that the resemblance of the Son to the Father, and his immutability, are different from ours: for in us they are something acquired, and arise from our fulfilling the divine commands. Moreover, they wished to indicate by this that his generation is different from that of human nature; that the Son is not only like to the Father, but inseparable from the substance of the Father, that he and the Father are one and the same, as the Son himself said: 'The logos is always in the Father, and, the Father is always in the Logos,' as the sun and its splendour are inseparable.

THE POWER OF TRADITION IN PREACHING THE HOLY TRINITARIAN TRUTH

St. Irenaeus

Although the Church is dispersed throughout the whole inhabited world, to the ends of the earth, it has received faith in *one God the Father Almighty*,... and in *one Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God*, Who was incarnate for the sake of our salvation, and in *the Holy Spirit* Who has proclaimed the economy of our salvation through the prophets... Having received such a preaching and such a faith, the Church, although it is dispersed throughout the entire world, as we have said, carefully preserves this faith as if dwelling in a single house. It believes this (everywhere) identically, as if it had a single soul and a single heart, and it preaches it with one voice, teaching and transmitting it as if with a single mouth.

Although there are many dialects in the world, the power of Tradition is one and the same. None of the leaders of the churches will contradict this, nor will
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anyone, whether powerful in words or unskilled in words, weaken the Tradition (all emphases supplied).

ST. ATHANASIUS STOOD FOR THE UNADULTERATED TRINITY

C.S. Lewis

He stood for the Trinitarian Doctrine, 'whole and undefiled,' when it looked as if all the civilised world was slipping back from Christianity into the religion of Arius - into one of those 'sensible' synthetic religions which are so strongly recommended today and which, then as now, included among their devotees many cultivated clergymen. It is to his glory that he did not move with the times; it is his reward that he now remains when those times, as all times do, have moved away.

DIVINE JUSTICE ILLUSTRATED

St. Isaac the Syrian

... Be a herald of God's goodness, for God rules over you, unworthy though you are; for although your debt to Him is so great, yet He is not seen exacting payment from you, and from the small works you do. He bestows great rewards upon you. Do not call God just, for His justice is not manifest in the things concerning you. And if David calls Him just and upright (cf. Ps. 24:8, 144:17), His Son revealed to us that He is good and kind. 'He is good,' He says, 'to the evil and to the impious' (cf. Luke 6:35). How can you call God just when you come across the Scriptural passage on the wage given to the workers? 'Friend, I do thee no wrong: I will give unto thee this last even as unto thee who worked for me for the first hour. Is thine eye evil because I am good?' (Matt. 20:12-15) How can a man call God just when he comes across the passage on the prodigal son who wasted his wealth with riotous living, and yet only for the contrition which he showed, his father ran and fell upon his neck and gave him authority over all his wealth? (Luke 15:11 ff). None other but His very Son said these things concerning Him, lest we doubt it; and thus He bare witness concerning Him. Where then is God's justice, for whilst we are sinners Christ died for us! (cf. Rom. 5:8). But if here He is merciful, we may believe that He will not change.

'JUST' MEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Dr. Alexandre Kalomiros

When we say that God is just, we do not mean that He is a good judge Who knows how to punish men equitably according to the gravity of their crimes, but on the contrary, we mean that he is kind and loving, forgiving all transgressions and disobediences, and that He wants to save us by all means, and never requites evil for evil.