

[Metropolitan Neofytos of Morfou: "The Presence of Angels in Our Lives" - YouTube](#) - Transcript

...**Angels are figures of the church...and about whom I feel we haven't paid the necessary attention.** When I became aware of this, first on my own... and then in the context of conversations, confessions, discussions with people of the church, or those that were lesser concerned with the church I realized that **we made a huge mistake** and these beings that God created before man before the visible creation, and **they are beings, and entities, meaning that they are not fictional but realities of heaven who, however, have a continuous relationship with the earth and with people and they are our dependable helpers during our life** as in the opening speech Fr. Christophoros very succinctly and poignantly said: "He will have them as our helpers." He said "antiliptores" (means "helpers" in ancient Greek) the liturgical term for them, **in this life and in the other one meaning the eternal life.**

**Therefore, is there anything more beneficial than having a good relationship with our angels?**

How much anxiety do you feel when you are to meet a friend, [desiring that] this friend be a loyal friend? To be able to trust him, to be able to open up your heart to him to be able to expect help from him at difficult times? Who doesn't want this?

Most people today speak to us, come to confession to us, trust us enough to tell us that they have anxiety - stress as it is called in contemporary terms, they have fear, they have phobias, they have sorrows, they have depression, they have loneliness. Regarding all these things **if people made good use of all the gifts of Christ... I believe the greatest gift of Christ after His Body and His Blood, which He offers to us in every Holy Liturgy, after His Mother, our Most Holy Theotokos, the Mother of Light, after the saints, are the angels.** And **many times our relationship with the angels is what lead us to the saints or to the Most Holy Theotokos, or to Christ.**

**It is a scale, a ladder through which the angels descend towards us and we ascend towards Christ, through the angels.**

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Now I will tell you about some moments from my own life that have to do with angels.

I am from Pano Zodia, an occupied village (by the Turks portion of the island of Cyprus) of our province the Metropolis of Morfou. It is close to Astromeritis the first occupied village as one heads towards Morfou. My home is directly next to the church of Archangel Michael and my father was the par-excellence man of Pano Zodia and my mother was from Kato Zodia and at that time the men would build their own houses and since my father's first wife happened to die very young, twenty-seven years old she left him two young children, orphaned. Then he married my mother and he brought her to the house of his first wife to live there in order to raise his orphaned children, and he had with her other children and out of the many other children he had

with my mother, only four survived. So, two from his first wife, and four from his second wife. We were six children altogether. I am the youngest one.

My father was a very old man, meaning that if he lived now (he died in 1970) he would be... my father was born in 1907... he would be over 100. I say this so **you can see what a close relationship the older Cypriots had with the angels, especially to us, since our neighborhood was Archangel Michael's church, and my father who was a very faithful man** had a habit. It was during the time that the people in the area of Morfou started planting orchards; meaning orange, tangerine and lemon trees, trees that require much water. During winter things were easy. In the summer though, due to the heat, it was necessary for people to water them at night. So, my father had to water his own orchards but later because of need he started accepting the responsibility for other orchards and watering them at night. Because he stayed up at night a lot he even had come up with a way that allowed him to sleep standing leaning on a tall shovel inside the orchards. However, he wasn't the only one that was having a hard time because of staying up many nights so that he could water the trees; he also was leaving behind a large family all alone every night and we were five boys and a sister, which sister was close to the older children, she was the third child. Our mother would say to him: "You can go do your watering at night but when we are offering hospitality to strange people that spend the night over, you shouldn't go. I am a young woman; our daughter is a young lady; it isn't right for us to have strange men over at our house with you not there."

Reasonable request.

My father had another habit: he was very hospitable; meaning, he would go to the village's cafe and if he found a stranger there, he would ask: "Where are you from my friend?"

"From Farmaka or Moutoula" (stranger's response).

"Where are you staying tonight?"

"At the village's coffee shop."

"No, you will come to my home.... and I have a special room for strangers" and at some point, we did build a special room to offer hospitality to strangers, and all this because this was my father's wish.

And my mother, who saw that we had a stranger in our house every other night especially during the summer, would tell him: "Please let's offer the hospitality; but when we have strangers over, do not go to the orchard to water the trees."

My father was simple-minded; his mind would not go to wicked things and he'd say to her: "My wife, are you being childish, my girl? **When I leave the house, I cry out to the Archangel; after all he is our neighbor. We have the most powerful neighbor, Archangel Michael, and you are afraid? You are afraid of all the people that come from the village to receive hospitality at our house? I cry out to the Archangel and I tell him: 'My Archangel I am going to my job, come down from your icon and come to do your job, to protect my house.'** "

My mother would tell him, moving about her hand like this "both you and the Archangel if you are doing these things... this is a sin." She would cross herself and say: "I have sinned O Lord."

"But we have children, Nikola. We have to be careful."

**"My wife, we aren't the ones guarding our children. Our Archangel is the one that is guarding our children."**

**Just imagine that his man did not know what worry is, what anxiety is, he entrusted his entire family to his neighbor, Archangel Michael. And he believed this, with all his whole heart, with all his might, with all his power.**

So, what does this Archangel do to persuade my mother that what master Nicholas is telling her is true?

One night, a man from Armenia asked to receive hospitality at our house. This Armenian wasn't Orthodox; he was Christian, but they have their own version of faith. My father didn't discriminate. He offered equal hospitality to the people from Armenia, Maronites, the Turkish-Cypriots. In the same way. He didn't make distinctions, he didn't discriminate. The results? He asked the Armenian:

"Where are you spending the night tonight?"

"In the coffee shop."

"Come to our house, we have a bed and a room for you. I cannot stay; I have to do my watering, but I trust you, and the Archangel will be beside you and will be keeping an eye on you."

The Armenian said to himself: 'We'll see about this... he may be a crazy one to be saying these things.' "Alright, master Nichola. Let me come to spend the night at your house. "

My mother had to make the bed that the stranger would sleep in and to bring him food to eat. If my father was at home, the stranger ate with us; if my father was absent, he ate alone. This was our typikon. So then, on that night my father was absent. My mother brought dinner to the Armenian, he ate alone and my older brother brought a plate with some fruit and my older brother kept him a little company and then we all went to sleep.

Right after the Armenian fell asleep, he sees an enormous man behind the head of his bed without a beard, though. He was radiant and dark-skinned. He seizes his right arm holding it this way and kept hitting it against the wall.

"Let me go!", the Armenian shouted immediately. "Let me go!" He wouldn't let him go. He kept hitting his arm on the wall and the result was that he hurt his elbow....

"Who are you?" [inquired the Armenian.]

And the man said "Tomorrow you need to confess what you did in the early evening to Nichola and whatever Nicholas says, you will do."

What had the Armenian done?

**The man who appeared to him was Archangel Michael.** The Armenian, when he heard the church bell ring for Vespers, he went to Vespers with the other people. The Christians were looking at the priest and the chanters, the Armenian went to the pangkari. There was a bad habit at that time not to put the money inside the pangkari but inside a round tray. So, the Armenian went there, and since nobody was looking (this is what he thought), he took the money and put it in his pocket and then went to our house to sleep. Then Archangel Michael had seen him and he

appeared to him at night in our house and all night long he was hitting his hand that stole against the wall.

My father came in the morning and they found the Armenian disheveled, sitting at the door of the room, and my father says to him: "What's wrong, my friend?"

"Last night, this tall man didn't let us sleep."

"Which tall man?" my father responds.

"The... what can I tell you? I sinned a little, and it seems that he is your Archangel. He was severe. "

"What did you do?" he asks him.

He told my father; he confessed what he did, that he "went to Vespers, and I saw there some money that the people put in and I stole it. And I thought that nobody saw me. But your Archangel saw me and all night long he was holding my arm and he was hitting it against the wall."

[The angel] was hitting his arm so hard and for so long that he made a deep impression on the wall of our house and my father and mother always told us: "Do you see what the Archangel does to those who are careless, to those who are thieves?"

So, we were always worried and afraid not to steal so that the Archangel who is austere, Michael, does not appear to us.

My father listened to him. On one hand he felt sorry for the man on the other hand he remembered what my mother had said: "Where are you going every night leaving every strange man in the house alone with us?"

He called my mother, and our older siblings. I was very young then. This was narrated to me at a later time; I didn't hear it, I didn't witness it at that time. And he tells her: "**Wife what did I tell you happens when I leave? That the Archangel comes and protects our house.** Listen to the Armenian's words." And the Armenian told his story again.

My father's wife, my mother, crossed herself, told him: "Nichola, forgive me; **your faith is greater than my logic. You are right. The Archangel protects our house.**"

But my father also, despite the fact that he was very kind and very lenient, when he saw big sins he was strict. What did he do? He walked with him to church, he called the priest and they opened the door and as the doors of the church opened, he told the Armenian "Kneel."

"Why should I kneel?"

"You will go to the Archangel's icon on your knees."

In our village we had an enormous wall painting just as there is one down here in the church if you noticed the Archangel Michael, here in Lampadistes Monastery same way, large church, as we had it.

And the poor man went to the icon on his knees crying for a while on the way and then he took out the money that he stole and put it back. My father gave him a penance. He told him: "Mister, when you pass by this village you will be making the sign of the cross, (you know how) but you will not dismount again, nor come to my house again. You will keep going to spend the night in

the next village: this also has an Archangel. If you think that the Archangel is only here you are wrong: **the Archangels are everywhere and they see what we do.**"

And in this way my father, and my mother afterwards when my father died in 1970, made the angels present in our lives and they taught us since we were very little children to say: 'Going down to bed, crossing myself I have an angel by my side. I am counted as one of God's friends and I am not afraid of anybody.'

**Notice how the older people knew to drive away their children's fears and phobias. Now we are full of psychologists and psychiatrists and the phobias have increased, not lessened, because what is absent is the faith of the parents. The unfortunate parents now are expecting to do everything by themselves. What can a father and mother do when they cannot inspire faith in the holy angels, who are our first protectors.**

**From the time that a baby will get baptized, he receives a guardian angel. From that moment! Every Orthodox has a guardian angel. And in the same easy manner with which an angel will come to us to watch over us and to inspire us, and to guide us, and to give us good thoughts, good thinking, good desires in our heart he can leave just as easily when he sees that we cultivate the opposite: bad thoughts, profane desires, malice towards our fellow men then the angel stays away. He waits for us to repent, to go to confession, so that he can return.**

And, something that we are not aware of: **angels are not corporeal beings. They are incorporeal. So, they are able with great ease to enter inside of us.** This is something we have to grasp. **They can get inside our heart and to place there good desires with great ease, to get inside of our brain to place good thoughts there, to enter into our body to heal sicknesses, which many times are not apparent meaning that they are hidden, we haven't become aware of them yet. So long as we call them.**

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Let me tell you another story. This story has its own meaning, its own message. I got older. I became a Deacon in Larnaka at St. George, the Kontos near Larnaka which is why he is called "Kontos" (means short or little). I remember a fashionable young man. At that time, for a man to have an earring this was not common as it is today. Today you would be old-fashioned if you have an earring. Then it was cool. It was a big deal for a young man, and specially one not as young as you are, a twenty-five year old man to be wearing an earring or to wear his hair up in a bun. And I remember, I will not reveal his name, let's call him Andreas. And Andreas that came with his earring, with his hair up in a bun wearing a pair of strange boots, and he tells me "I want to go to confession." We sent him to father Symeon, our elder. Later, we spoke, and he himself told me what happened with his guardian angel.

Listen to this; it is very powerful. This man, the one that we called Andreas, got married. He also had a child. His mother was a very good woman. I used to know her, she was a holy woman, a praying woman, a woman that prayed on her knees. She lived in a village outside of Larnaka.

Their village was, let's say, almost 20 kilometers outside of Larnaka. Little by little, this man started deviating from the straight path: he was staying up all night, leaving his wife alone at home despite the fact that he was a newlywed, not an old man and his mother would get upset and prayed at her house because she saw that her son was gradually ruining his life: he would go to cabarets, to other women, he got involved with some hotshots, who led him away from church, away from his family, so, he turned into a man of the night and a man of the drink.

So, when he went a Saturday night after he had stayed up all night (he was drinking) and all alone he got on his way back to his village: he started from Larnaka to return to his village which, I repeat, was twenty kilometers away. One moment, he fell asleep on the wheel. He was drunk and worn out from staying up all night. How much beating could a body take? He fell asleep.

Normally, what should have happened after he fell asleep? After the first run he should have had an accident and more than likely he should have died.

Do you know what this means? He told me himself weeping. After much time elapsed, he woke up and he saw that the car was moving, it was turning. And he said: "But who is driving?" And he said to himself: "How long has it been since I've been like this?" **And he saw, he says, hands, two hands full of light, to hold the steering wheel, turning at the turns and keeping the car straight on the straight stretches of the road.**

So he says that the car arrived that way outside the village "Meaning that for 20 kilometers Father Neophyte, **my car was driven by this invisible man and all I could see was his shining hands.** I was overcome by such awe that I told him 'Who are you, that you love me so much and you didn't let me get killed?'" And he heard a voice 'I am your guardian angel, be careful and do not sin.' And he said that he immediately grabbed onto the steering wheel and the luminous hands disappeared.

Do you know what the amazing thing was? That he didn't go to the house of his wife and daughter: he went to his mother's house. In his confusion or maybe enlightened by the angel he went up the stairs and found his mother praying on her knees. He says to her "Mother, what are you doing?"

"What are you doing, son?" she asks. "Why are you talking to me this way? My son, what happened to you?"

[The man told me] "I started crying and told her, 'I didn't bring the car back to the village, my guardian angel brought it back. I saw his hands, full of light, to drive the car. Why are you not sleeping?'"

**"I was sleeping, my son but your angel came and woke me up, and he told me 'Dina, wake up. Andreas is in danger. He needs praying' and from this moment I have been here on my knees waiting for you."**

**Do you see what a mother can do? A praying mother?** Before I told you about my father, the praying Nicholas now you are listening about a praying mother. **How closely linked is her prayer with the angel and how powerful it is. This young man changed his life.** Now at his

village (he is a very good soccer player), he is older now and he is the village's coach. For a period of time he was the village's Churchwarden and we've had this warm friendship since then, and when I see him I remember that man whose angel brought him back to church he who was given to him as a guardian angel at the time of his baptism.

I tell you these stories so that you don't think that all that you heard these past days, or what you may hear about later are made up by the priests or exaggerations.

**What does that mean to us? We have an angel.**

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You already heard two examples. Should we mention a third one? It's well-known that while I was a Law student I met some saints, modern day saints. One of them is the recently included with the saints **St. Iakovos from Evia, with the surname Tsalikis.**

**He would see angels while he was celebrating the Holy Liturgy.** "I see, my Neophyte," he'd say to me "young men diving down from the dome of the church inside the holy sanctuary especially during the time of the Cherubic hymn. At the moment that the chanter begins 'We, who mystically represent the Cherubim...' the chanters are mystically representing the Cherubim and I see them openly, with my eyes, diving down, during the Holy Liturgy and as I get older and age and I am unable to give communion to the people I have two angels by my side who help me."

I just remembered the other thing he used to tell us that he wanted to go to the cave of Osios David, and he couldn't see. They didn't have flashlights back then. Now even your phones have a flashlight. There wasn't technology of that kind back then. He wanted to go at night to pray inside a cave the distance from here to the nearby village of Oikos but without light. How could one go? It was pitch black. So, he lifted his hands up and said, "My Christ, you made all the stars of heaven; I want to go to pray, to speak with you at night in the cave of Osios David. Please, give me, out of the many stars that you made, give me one so that it can light my way so that I can go to the cave of Osios David to pray." And he told me, "Our Christ, out of the many stars that He made, He gave me one. It would go ahead of me, and I would follow behind it. As we would reach the cave of Osios David, I would say: "my star, you can go out now, but please on the way back to turn on your light again." I would get inside, pray for a couple of hours and then when I would leave the star would turn its light on and the star leading the way with me behind it, he'd bring me back to the monastery." This happened, one night, two nights, twenty-two nights, one hundred and two nights. Father Iakovos started thinking 'Are the stars able to communicate with us? Can we lower them down from heaven when we want? Can they lead the way for us to follow them? What sort of star is this, that is obeying me?' And as I said "what sort of star is this" **I saw that the star acquired wings and I knew then that he was an angel in the likeness of a star who took the shape of a star, in order to lead simple Iakovos to the cave so that he can pray.'**

**Do you see here how the guardian angel can take any shape [for the] people of faith? To some he appears as a man, to others with wings, to others as a star, to others as a cloud.**

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A woman from the villages of the plain used to tell me whom you know, now that I see some of you from the plain you know her very well, she doesn't miss a single all-night-vigil. When I was first ordained a Bishop in 2000, we decided, Father Christophoros to anoint with Holy Myrrh to dedicate the church of Apostle Andreas in Nikitari.... And we thought to dedicate the church in commemoration of the two thousand years from the birth of Christ (2000). The woman that I told you about was there also whose eyes God has opened, and, she is not from Nikitari she is from another village, and she told me, she came to see me, listen how well she described it, she was a very simple woman... and she told me the following... Now that I think about it, she told me two incidents involving angels: **"You know, my bishop, when you celebrate the Holy Liturgy, you are not alone."**

"I know," I said, "I am with the chanters, with priests, with deacons."

**"Not only the people you can see. There are others that you cannot see in the Holy Liturgy."** I tell her, "How did you know?"

"I see them."

"How do you see them?" I ask her. "What do you see?"

She tells me, "Well, the deacon comes and the Holy Gifts come out, the Holy Gifts come out, after the Cherubic hymn is finished and the deacon begins saying in a loud voice 'May the Lord remember all of us in His Kingdom always now and ever and unto ages of ages.' Afterwards, the priest says the same thing. You are in the holy door," she says. "And at that moment," she says, "You come out with the censer and first cense the deacon and he tells you 'May our Lord God remember your Episcopate in His Kingdom always now and ever and unto ages of ages.' **You," she says, "pick up the holy diskos; you think that you are picking it up."**

"Meaning?"

**"Close to you gather up a good deal of little angels; Very many; and there are two other angels, belonging to the order of powers; one of them holds you by your one hand, and the other one by the other hand."**

Listen to what the woman could see! **"And at the time that you are picking up the Holy Gifts, Christ is behind you and He is the one that is picking up the Holy Gifts. And at the time you place them down on the Holy Altar I see Christ who is placing them on top of the Holy Altar.** After that the priest comes and says 'May the Lord God remember your Episcopate...' More angles round about you," she says, "and they hold you. You pick up the Holy Cup; the two angels, the powers, hold you, and Christ comes behind you and He picks up the Holy Cup and places it on top of the Holy Altar."

I asked her, "When did you see the angels leave?"

"As soon as you say 'By the prayers of our Holy Fathers...' froo froo the Holy Angels leave."

This is something that Geron Eumenios used to say also "froo froo, the angels depart."



**Think, therefore, that our life, our Liturgical life but also our everyday life, even in our sinful moments as was true of this young man that I told you about in Larnaka, our angel, even if one person is praying for us, is close to us.**

**This man was leaving a cabaret, he wasn't leaving an all-night-vigil and the angel, in order to have the right to interfere in his life, in order to help him so that he doesn't kill himself, as he was sleeping at the wheel, asked his mother to pray so that he, the angel, would have the right to hold on to the steering wheel.**

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So, another woman with many children used to tell me - again from our area - she had a lot of children; today most women after they give birth to two children stop having children; she had seven children, and good children. She told me that on the day that she would be giving birth (always in the house; not in a clinic) she would lay down and would pray to her guardian angel. And, after her prayer to her guardian angel a light would come from above and overshadow her on the very day she was to give birth, a day on which a woman is very weak and scared, because many times, the time of birth is difficult it is possible that a woman can even die on that day. So, on that day after the woman knew that she was about to give birth, she would go lie down and her guardian angel would come over her in the form of a light. This light, she said, would begin to give out drops, big drops of light, and this light, these drops of light would get inside of her, inside her abdomen, inside her legs, her arms, and she told me that "I gathered such strength from my angel, my most brilliant angel" if you could hear her begin to speak about her guardian angel you'd think that she is in love with her angel!

She said that "this angel gave me such light, the light entered my body, my entire body, from head to toe, and I gathered such strength that I'd get up and start cooking for my husband who'd come home from work for my young and my older children, and one of them was at university" and start a wash from the first day after she gave birth.

**Imagine how powerful is the power that our communication with our angel gives us! What power it is, what health it is! I told you enough incidents/examples, and each and every one of them has its meaning and its importance.**

One last thing: **What we do, what you do before you become mothers, what you do before you become fathers: we have good contact with our guardian angel, and if we don't have, we must gain it. I feel that, from the moment of our baptism we have a friend, we have a supporter one who strengthens us, and we don't make good use of him and in other respects we grumble and we say, "I am all alone," "I have anxiety," "I don't have any means," indeed we say, "I don't know people, yes, I don't have connections."**

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Once somebody called me from Astromeriti. He tells me: "You know we are from the same village, from Zodia. My daughter is applying to the Ministry of Finance and she is about to take some exams and she has the credentials needed to get hired. You are a bishop. Do you know a minister so that we can use somebody we know to get my daughter hired?"

I told him "I know a minister but I also know your daughter's guardian angel." He couldn't understand. He wasn't aware of these things. I said, "Do you want me to ask her angel for them to hire her or do you prefer for me to speak to the minister that I know the regular minister, the man?"

"Do you mean," he tells me "that if you speak with the angel you are certain that my daughter will get hired?"

"Why don't you think about it?" I said. **"Who has more power? The minister that was appointed by the President, Klirides or the minister of God, the angel?"**

He tells me, "Speak to whoever you want to speak so long as you speak to someone."

"Smart man." I went and lit up my Geron Iakovos' tall candle where I have it for lighting, I said the girl's name, the father's name, I crossed myself, and added: 'Geronta and my angel, do not let me down.'

After some days, we met with the man at a fresh fruit market. He tells me "She got a job! I don't know who you talked to, but they hired my daughter - another ministry hired her!"

Listen to this!

"You see?" I said. **"The angel knew that she wouldn't have a good time at the ministry that you wanted her to get hired, and they hired her at another."**

**Therefore, we have this guardian, who reinforces our faith because he is not there just to satisfy our wishes. This is wrong. He is there to help us become truly faithful people.** That is to say, our worry should not be: My guardian angel, protect me so that we don't fall off the bridge or at another day to ask the Archangel help us so that we can go hiking tomorrow.

This could be also what we say. But rather, **if you notice that you harbor some ill feeling towards another person tell him "My guardian angel, remove from me that ill feeling that I have towards Roula, who I cannot tolerate even the sight of her. I cannot heal this ill feeling inside of me. You take it from me" and persist in that prayer.**

**If I am jealous of someone, with father Kostas over here to tell him: "Please, my guardian angel, remove that jealousy from me; give the father good thoughts and give me good thoughts also."**

And some saints of God used to tell me that the following thing happens: **when we ask our guardian angel about other people, not about us, about other people;** you have an angel, the other one, Marianna, what's her name she has an angel, the other young lady has an angel, you have an angel. **Imagine that I am praying about all four of you girls. You have four angels. Your angels, when I am praying using your names, they love me, they pray for me. Do you understand? So it is to our advantage a hundredfold to pray for our fellow men.**

**Let's say that we have a bad relationship.** Today most married people have problems with their marriage. **What if someone said to his angel 'My guardian angel, please go illuminate my wife because I cannot speak to her.'** What if the wife said to her angel "Please, my angel,

go illuminate my husband?" **How much different would the life of people be, how much finer if we involved our angels in our lives.**

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Young children up to five or six years old see angels; they see their guardian angels. I remember as well as I can remember now, when I was young, I remember my mother and I was very, very young, and my mother was a holy woman and I remember one evening, father, that I saw a curly haired, tall man with his hair down and he was dark-skinned (this is how Archangel Michael appears) and he was talking with my mother. I was a very young child and I would stick my head out of my head, look at him and I would go hide under the bed. It made me happy to look at him. Then he would leave, and I would ask my mother: 'How long have you been talking with this handsome dark-skinned man?'

"You saw him too, my son?" asked my mother.

**But after that I got older, I forgot. See what life and sins can do? When I started repenting for my mistakes, to weep, to go to confession to continuously ask God, the Most Holy Theotokos, our angels, my guardian angel for forgiveness then I started to remember specific things that happened before I was five.**

**Whereas a man is not on the road to repentance, is not careful, does not weep for his past, his past is dark, he doesn't remember it, and the evil one takes advantage of this and he brings lethe, which means oblivion, which is where alitheia (truth) comes from. What is truth? Where there is no lethe, there is alitheia: The negating 'a' and 'lethe' (forgetfulness).**

**This is why angels are not just important because we have a protector to guard us; he also helps us in our relationships, so that they can improve and most importantly, our guardian angel helps us little by little to gain knowledge of ourselves to gradually get to know myself, so that I can truly repent for my mistakes, and on the other hand... to get to know my God.**

The angel has this reflective property: his light to descend from the ranks up above, to the lower ranks, to the even lower ones, and then to reach us. His light to be knowledgeable, containing awareness, cohesiveness, creative, cleansing, illuminating, and in the end sanctifying.

I told you many, and great, and heavy things. However, let everybody retain what he can according to [the size of] his soul's vessel. **The most important thing that I want you to keep my good children is this: to learn how to open your heart and to speak to your closest friend, to your closest relative, who is your guardian angel.**

Let's understand, my children, that you will grow up and I will grow older one day and become an old man and you will grow up and I hope that you become older people. **We don't know when we will die. The time will come, though, and we will die. Our soul will be separated from the body. Our body will abandon us; our angel will not abandon us. He will be together with our soul. Our soul will not die. Nobody's soul will die: the soul is immortal, meaning it doesn't die. Therefore, it is very important, since our soul will not die and I will continue to feel and experience even after the eyes of my body will close then it is to my**

**greatest advantage during my last hour and moments likely days, to have my guardian angel beside me and for him to have the courage to come to my defense because the soul when it exits the body it goes and passes through demonic powers and everything we haven't confessed, everything for which we haven't repented the demons shout about it and they lay claim on the soul, to take it with them in hell. The only one that the soul has beside her is her guardian angel.**

That's why I ask you to please form a relationship with your angel now. **Our body leaves, is lost, is erased, it turns into dust but the angel doesn't leave. He will appear before Christ after we pass through the light of the Theotokos, of the Mother of Light and before Christ, there is where our angel will deliver us to the One who fashioned us, to the One who brought us into life the Lord of life, the Lord of Resurrection, Jesus Christ.**

Do you see? **Our angel is by our side from the time of baptism until our soul appears before God. So, should we not have such a being, such a friendship?**

**Talk to him starting now: 'My guardian angel, please I am asking you to teach me how to love, to teach me how to believe.'** It's likely that some of you may not believe the things that I told you. I don't demand that you have my faith. **Tell him: 'My guardian angel, give this faith that the bishop is describing.'** **And he will give it to you.** He will give it to you. **And this way you will have on this earth and in heaven in our temporary existence, and in the eternal life a shining angel, faithful guide, guardian of our souls and bodies.**

And in church, pay attention. The deacon says this that we talked about just now or the priest. At every Holy Liturgy. We are talking about our angel. This isn't by accident. May God strengthen you...

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Questions

**During the time of confession, does the angel take our sins away?**

The angel beside us, erases [them]. Likewise, you know, your priest when you give him names to commemorate during the liturgy in the prothesis he has an angel beside him, and he continuously erases during the time that he commemorates the fallen asleep or the living he erases at the time also. There are many moments when our angel is beside us like an eraser. Let me put it this way: what we haven't confessed we will either repeat it or God will allow, if we are not truly repentant, to do it again, so that we can repent.

**How will God judge those who are not Christian?**

According to his conscience, answers the Apostle Paul in his Letter to the Romans and he says that on one hand with us Christians, especially us Orthodox, who have all the fullness of truth he will judge us in a strictly (because we know so much, and we didn't do anything or we did very little), but on the other hand the people of other religions who have a conscience (everybody has a conscience) He will judge them with the law of conscience meaning according to what their conscience was telling them. [The answer to this question is given by] Apostle Paul [when he]

says that God will judge them according to the law of their conscience. These people, you see if they act according to their conscience, according to St. John Chrysostom they attract an angel. This means that an atheist, well-intentioned man who in his lawless and flavorless/bland and false religion listens to his conscience and says 'Let me not lie, let me not steal, let me not kill, let me not abort my child even though the doctor is telling me that I have to do it.' these people have a conscience too. These people attract an angel, actually a very powerful angel and they are not left unprotected. However, we have this great advantage: to have our guardian angel before our conscience even becomes activated from the time of our baptism. Right?

### **Does God create our angel at the time of our baptism?**

No. All the angels have been created before the planets, before the stars, before plants, before the light. They are infinitely large in number, countless. God is not short of angels. Praise be to God! Therefore, there are angels, and an angel, who is not looking after a soul anymore because the man has died, he takes over the newborn more correctly the newly illumined. Like so!

**How do the angels look like?** A holy woman who lives in Crete told me... this holy woman who is now close to her end loves very-very-very-very much the Archangel Michael. So much, and all the angels! She sees the angels, and she describes the Archangel Michael to me. She told me that he is tall, and how tall he is; I won't say it (he is taller than I am). She told me that he is dark-skinned, in contrast with the Archangel Gabriel who is fair. You see, God embraces all colors. Therefore, the angels are able, because they are incorporeal spirits that do not have a body as we do, to take various forms... Uriel for instance who was seen by some, is terrible to look at... because he has a tremendous ministry to execute between Paradise and Hell.

### **Do angels have a gender?**

Angels do not have a gender. There is no female and male. Female and male is something that is present only in people. Angels have no gender; however, their form, when they appear is never feminine.

### **Does the guardian angel protect only one person?**

We said that there are angels that guard people who received Orthodox baptism; these have one angel. But there are angels, especially the Archangels or the Taxiarches, Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel and the Archangels as an order. These protect the nations. For instance, the Greek nation, has a special angel, for that nation to illumine its president to illumine the powers of the nation, the French nation has another angel, the Turkish nation has an angel: every nation has its angel. Therefore these angels have many people to protect. You know, I recently had a thought; a wish. I don't know if God will grant me this wish: to find out who is the angel that protects Cyprus; what is his name. All angels have a name. Imagine how many names there are.

### **Are there female angels?**

No. This we find only in Catholic theology. Are there female forms of angels? The Catholics, though, who have confused everything, they have confused this also to create angels that appear to be hermaphroditic (with the characteristics of both men and women).

**When someone is talking with his angel can the people beside him hear this conversation as well?**

If I am talking to an angel if the father beside me is able to listen? If God deems Fr. Christophoros who is beside me, to hear he will hear. **If God deems it so.** Most times, though, people cannot hear.

Let me tell you of an incident that I know firsthand. You have read it before in things I have said, or things others have said about St. Iakovos Tsalikis. He was inside the sanctuary, on his knees and he was talking with the Osios of the Monastery, Osios David (with his icon) for a long while. He was telling him please take care of Yianni, take care of Fr. Christophoro take care of Fr. Constantino, mentioning various things. Suddenly, the second priest of the monastery, Fr. Kyrillos heard him and went quietly inside the sanctuary and he saw something quite amazing!

He saw Fr. Iakovos on his knees to speak, he could hear him speak; he could see St. David standing, but also very big and tall beside the Holy Altar listening to the things that Iakovos said, and on the other hand Iakovos, as he was speaking to St. David, and St David was listening St David was talking to someone higher than them. Towards the dome, and higher was a light, light blue, which I felt that was listening to the conversation of Iakovos and David, and this light was answering also. He said, "I couldn't hear what this light said. I could hear St. Iakovos, and a little just a little bit of St. David." I asked him, "How long did you stay this way?" He said, "For three hours."

"Iakovos was talking like this for three hours?" He said, "Yes, on bended knees he was talking to Osios David and Osios David spoke to the light blue light."

And I asked him: "What was the light blue light?"

"It was the Most Holy Theotokos. But I wasn't worthy to see Her, or to listen to Her; I could just see Her light", he said. At some point, this stopped. Fr. Iakovos got up. He turned around and he saw Fr. Kyrillos by the sanctuary's side kneeling and weeping. And he says to him 'Fr. Kyrillos, were you here?'

'Yes, Geronta.'

"Oh, my child."

Listen to what he said to him **"To be allowed to stay here to listen and to see this means that you have to be in some sort of state yourself.** Won't you tell me, what exactly did you see?"

He said, "I saw you talking on your knees, mentioning people's problems I could see Osio David listening and I could just make out a little of what he said, and to speak to a light blue light."

"You saw the light also?"

"Yes, a light blue light."

"Were you able to see who was behind the light?"

"No, who was it?"

"It was the Theotokos, the Mother of Light. She comes frequently, and the three of us talk."

Listen to this! Fr. Kyrillos told me: "This is something that I saw once in my entire life. For Iakovos it's something that could be happening every day. Imagine what a great saint he was! To speak through Osios David, to our Most Holy Theotokos!"

The saints have enormous/great experiences; this is how they become saints: great experiences!

Seeing their angel is the easiest thing.

**St. Paisios... used to say: "You haven't seen your holy angel yet?" He considered it one of the simplest things. But, not only do we not see him we have forgotten about him. Even people that come to church.**

Let's not say any more. I think that we have said enough things...