

July 23, 2022

Father asks to have it passed on to all who have remained faithful to him and to those on whom they might have influence, that they not avenge him; he has forgiven and prays for everyone; and not to avenge themselves, but to remember that the evil which is now in the world will become yet more powerful, and that it is not evil that conquers evil, but only love.

Royal Martyr Olga Romanov

*Grant us, Thy patience, Lord,
In these our woeful days,
The mob's wrath to endure,
The torturer's ire;*

*Thy unction to forgive
Our neighbor's persecution,
And mild, like Thee, to bear
A bloodstained Cross.*

*And when the mob prevails,
And foes come to despoil us,
To suffer humbly shame,
O Saviour, aid us.*

*Master of the world, universal God,
Bless us in prayer
And grant to our humble soul
In this unbearable, dreadful hour.*

*And when the hour comes
To pass the last dread gate,
Breathe strength in us to pray,
"Father, forgive them.*

Royal Martyr Olga

My Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ:

Last Sunday, the Church celebrated the memory of the Royal Martyrs of Russia. Their glorification was a truly momentous and profoundly historical event in the history of the Russian Orthodox Church. At the same time, it was a controversial decision in the eyes of many people. Some refused to accept it, having a very negative opinion as to what kind of people the Tsar and Tsarina were. Others did not necessarily view them in a negative way, but did not consider them to be saints. Therefore, they understood the glorification to be simply a politically motivated act. Only a few deeply believed and never doubted.

This controversy is due to the incredibly immense amount of evil, lies, slander, and outright character assassination the royal family had to endure during their lives and which continue to this very day. The Church boldly went ahead with the glorification despite this slander, and printed much material on the lives and the worthiness of these saints. But in the minds of people, even good and faithful Orthodox Christians, questions remained and were not fully answered, and doubts persisted.

Finally, a truly incredible book has been published, which should clear any doubts and confirm everyone in the full understanding of the times that the royal family lived through, their truly most profound piety throughout their lives, and the indescribable suffering and evil that they had to endure. The Church glorified them not simply because they were killed as the God-anointed rulers of Russia. The Church glorified them because of the faith that they possessed; their profound piety; their humble acceptance of the will of God in everything that happened to them, both good and bad; and the great love that they had for Russia and the Russian people. For all this, God rewarded them with a martyr's death.

The Royal Martyr Nicholas has been slandered as a weak, stupid, and bloodthirsty tyrant. The book will reveal to you how far from the truth this is. It will present to you through documents, personal observations of eyewitnesses, and international historical accounts of the time, that he was in fact a most talented and capable leader. One only needs to read how during the First World War, when Russia was being badly defeated by Germany, the tsar personally took over the command of the military and corrected all that was being done incorrectly. The result was a complete turnaround which put the enemy into full retreat.

To view Tsar Nicholas correctly, it is necessary to understand that he personified a true Orthodox Monarch, not the type of autocrats that ruled the western world. He humbly accepted that through a Church mystery, he was entrusted by God to care for the spiritual and civil welfare of his huge nation. The Russian people were his children, for whom he would answer to God as to how well he cared for all of their needs.

He loved Russia and her people so deeply that he considered it to be a betrayal to abandon them in order to save himself when offered a chance to go into exile. He was ready to sacrifice himself as a means to save his nation. The previously shared and even prophetic statement announced by his daughter Olga on his behalf vividly reveals what kind of monarch and person he truly was.

The Royal Martyr Tsarina Alexandra was not a cold, haughty German whose first allegiance was Germany and not her adopted nation. She was not a loose woman cavorting with Rasputin. She accepted her Orthodox faith with complete acceptance, lived and raised her children in full love and faithfulness to God. What she saw as the will of God governed her in all of her decisions. She continued to see herself as the mother of the Russian people even after they had turned slanderously against her.

To understand the true nature of the royal children, one only needs to read and meditate on the profound poem attached above written by Olga. This poem was in her notebook among the things found in the "House of Special Purpose" after their execution. It was written during the

most diabolical terror that the royal children had to endure, which ended only when they were slaughtered.

My dear brothers and sisters, I was one of the people who did not fully understand the true nature of the sanctity of our martyrs. I believed in them and when the Church glorified them, I even named my children in their memory. But I did not fully comprehend how profoundly holy they were. This book changed all that. While spending this week at my daughter's house, I saw the book. My daughter told me to read it. I started and could not put it down until I finished it.

It is a big book full of documents, photographs, accounts by witnesses to their lives. It even gives us personal testimonies of the profound effect and change of heart that the martyrs produced even on those who started out with intense hatred against them, but who were converted by their gentleness and kindness.

This book is also so important to us because of the description of Russia that is given in it. A lot of what we see starting to happen in our country now was what happened in Russia and ended in the holocaust of the Communist dictatorship and the slaughter of millions of people. It could wake us up to the reality that we are living in potentially very dangerous times.

THE ROMANOV
ROYAL MARTYRS
WHAT SILENCE COULD NOT CONCEAL
AUTHORED BY SAINT JOHN THE FORERUNNER MONASTERY OF
MESA PATMOS, CYRPOS
MESA PATMOS PUBLICATIONS
2020

With Much Love in Christ,
Archpriest Serge Kotar