"Interventions"

One Who is Truly Spiritually Wise (c)

A spirit of **love and forgiveness** towards our brother, even when he is our enemy, is what liberates us from our egocentrism and our self-love. It also enlarges our heart, "making room" for God, and in this way we come to resemble Him and become "sons of the Most High."

"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful" (St. Luke 6:36).

Read below a wonderful example of forbearance and forgiveness.

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During the Armenian Genocide by the Turks (1915), an Armenian nurse was captured along with her brother. Her brother was killed by a Turkish soldier before her eyes. She, however, somehow managed to escape and later became a nurse in a military hospital.

One day, she was stunned to find that the same man who had killed her brother had himself been captured and brought wounded to the hospital where she worked. Something within



her cried out, "Avenge your brother." But an even stronger voice called for her to love. She listened to that voice and nursed the man back to health.

When the recuperating soldier finally realized who she was, he asked her, "Why didn't you let me die, or better yet, why did you not kill me?"

Her answer was, "I am a follower of Him who said, 'Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you' (St. Luke 6:27)."

The young soldier replied, "I never heard such words before. Tell me more, because I want this religion for myself."

> Presented by † Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle

September 8, 2024 (Old Style) † Nativity of the Theotokos

