

Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili
President of the Holy Synod in Resistance



“Do You Have a Ticket?”

Concerning Repentance and Confession

A Humble Guidebook to Aid Us on the
Journey Back to Our Father’s House

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*A Humble Guidebook to Aid Us on the
Journey Back to Our Father’s House*

Translated by
Hieromonk Patapios

Second Edition



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◆ *Icon on the front cover:*

The Good Shepherd

Embroidery on an Archiepiscopal *Sakkos* from
the Workshop of the Holy Convent of
the Holy Angels, Aphidnai, Greece

◆ *Icon on the back cover:*

The Preacher of Repentance, the Venerable Forerunner

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“Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance.”
St. Luke 3:8

*To the Preacher of Repentance,
Saint John
the Forerunner and Baptist
of our Savior
Jesus Christ*

*+ Metropolitan Cyprian
of Oropos and Fili*



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Prologue

“I acknowledged my sin, and hid not mine iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess mine iniquity to the Lord against myself’; and Thou forgavest the ungodliness of my heart.”¹



SINCE the sin of disobedience caused the first-formed human beings to be cast out of Paradise, there is no other way for us to re-enter it apart from **Repentance** and obedience to the Divine commandments.

Unjustly do they labor, who sow good works in the field of this vain life and make sacrifices for their neighbor, at the very same time that they are not possessed of real and living **Repentance**, the only bridge that unites us again with Heaven.

This is why the Holy Prophet David cried to God:

“For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I should have given it; Thou delightest not in whole burnt-offerings. A sacrifice unto God is a contrite spirit; a contrite and humbled heart God will not put to shame.”²

Our sins, because of disobedience to the commandments of God, have created a “*great chasm*” between the All-Good Father and ourselves. Heaven has turned away its countenance; the Holy Angels are grieved; because of us the Creation has been disrupted; the irrational animals have turned against us.

¹ Psalm 31:5 (LXX).

² Psalm 50:18–19 (LXX).

Let us run, then, my brother and fellow sinner, to be reconciled with our longsuffering Father, Who awaits our return and does all that He can to help us.

Let us bridge the “*chasm*,” which sin opened up, with the safe and sure bridge of **Repentance** and **Confession**.

I have come to help you, my brother, in this attempt to return with repentance to your **Father’s House**, the Church, as concisely and simply as I can with this little book that you are holding in your hands.

I recognize that you are just now taking your first steps in spiritual life, that is, that you are a beginner in Christ; for this reason, I am offering you “*milk*,”³ namely, easily digestible food, as befits “*infants*.”⁴

I pray with all my heart that this book may assist you and become a spiritual support both for you and for others to whom you offer it, with the help of our All-Holy Mother, the *Theotokos* and of all the Saints.

“Paradise blossomed in my heart from the very moment that I confessed.”

Fyodor Dostoyevsky

³ 1 Corinthians 3:1–2.

⁴ *Ibid.*



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