

# Monasticism

History, Literature and Spirituality



**PRE MONASTICISM**

# Background

- Asceticism existed before Monasticism as we see in the lives of Old Testament figures such as the Nazarites, Moses and Elijah and so on.
- The Essenes and Therapeutae were an ascetic Jewish sect it is known as the group St John the Baptist was from.





# Early Christian Martyrdoms 2<sup>nd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> Century



# **THE MONASTIC ERA**

# Monasticism Considered Martyrdom?

The era of Martyrdoms in the Church was ending and a new era of those who desired to die for Him emerged. These men sought a Spiritual Martyrdom—They are the Monks



# The Gospel of St Matthew's Teaching on Chastity

- His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with *his* wife, it is better not to marry." But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only *those* to whom it has been given: For there are eunuchs who were born thus from *their* mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept *it*, let him accept *it*."— *Matthew 19:10-12*

# St Paul's Teaching On Chastity

- Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: *It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment. For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. – 1 Corinthians 7:1-9*



# St Antony the Great (252-356)

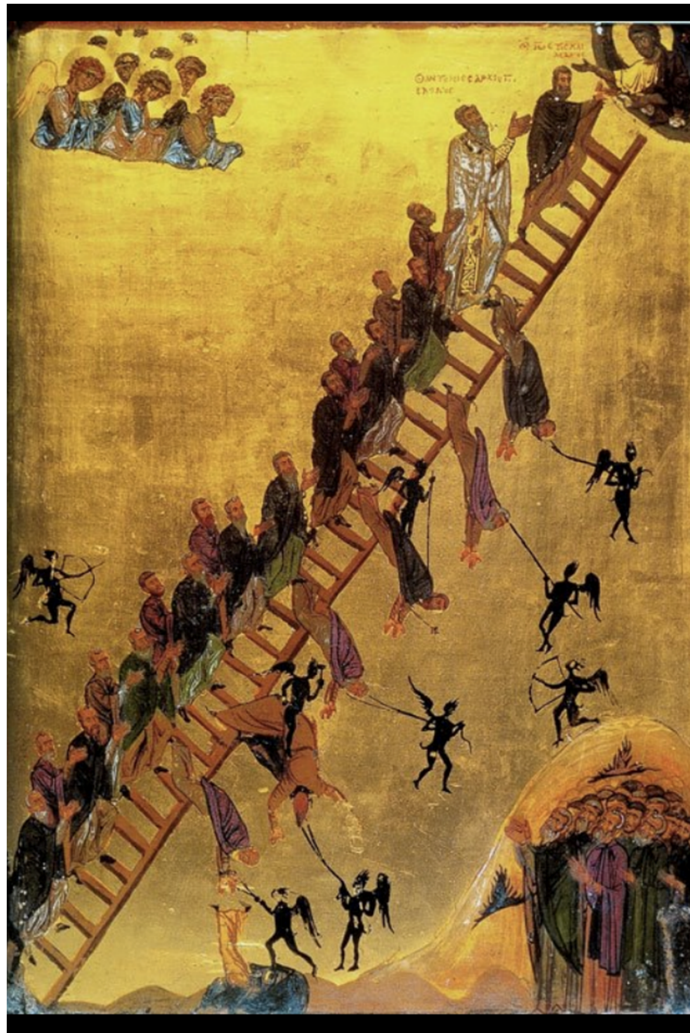


- *Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” – Matthew 19:21*

# Excerpt from the Life of Antony

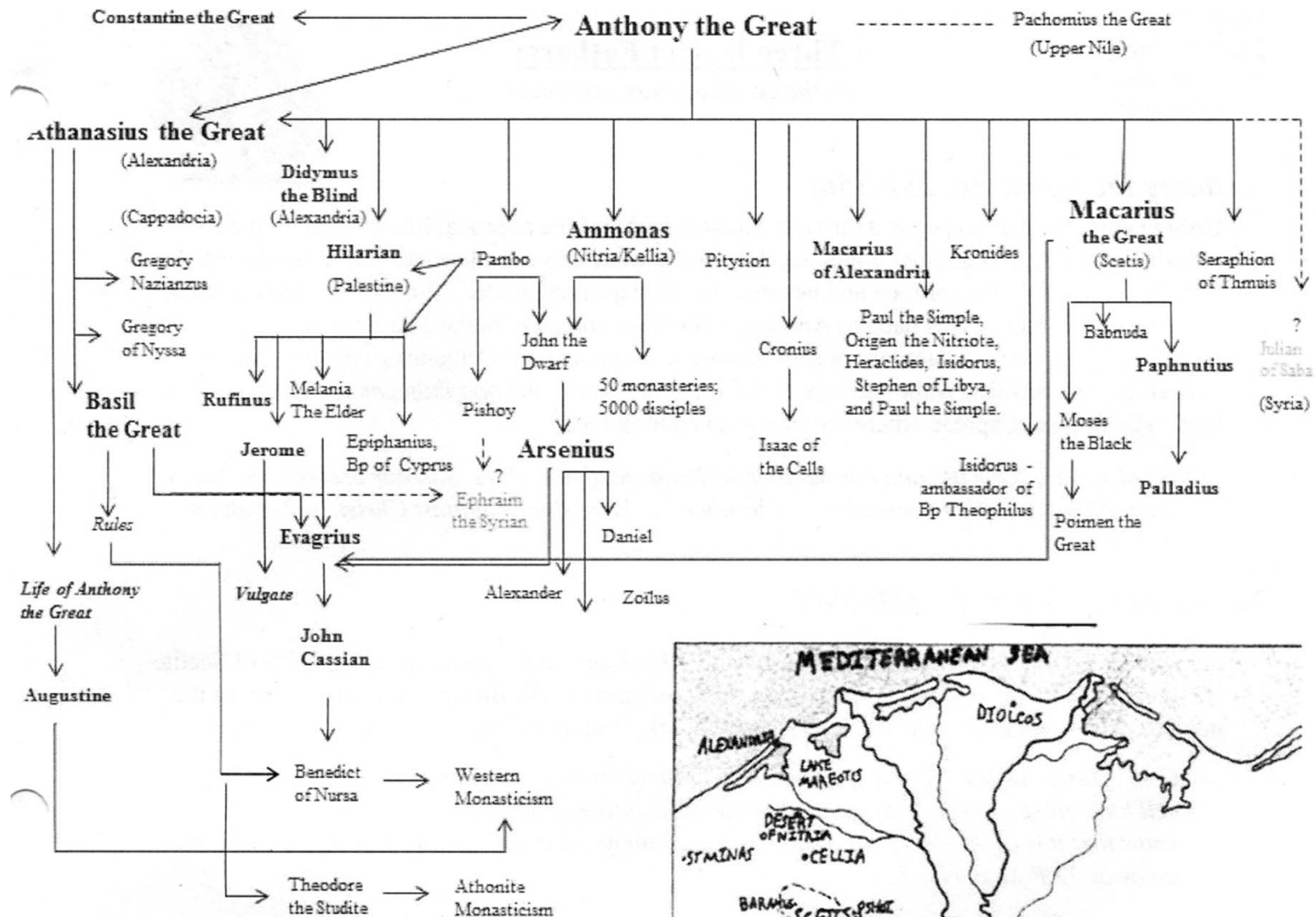


# The Ladder of Divine Ascent By St John Climacus Early 7<sup>th</sup> Century (Eastern Monasticism)



# **POST MONASTICISM OR CONTEMPORARY**

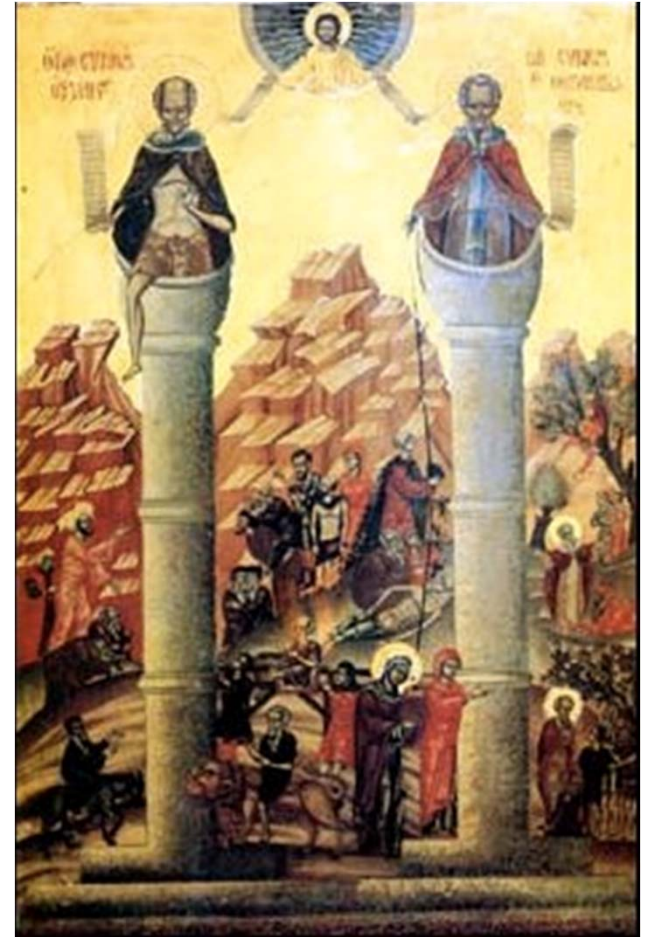
# Monastic Genealogy





# Types of Monastics

- Solitaries or Hermits
- Anchorites or the Spirit borne
- Stilites
- Fools for Christ
- The Silent Ones



# The Three Monastic Orders

- 1 The Order of St. Anthony
- 2 The Order of St. Shenouda
- 3 The Order of St. Pachomius—The Kinonia

# The Three Pillars of Monasticism

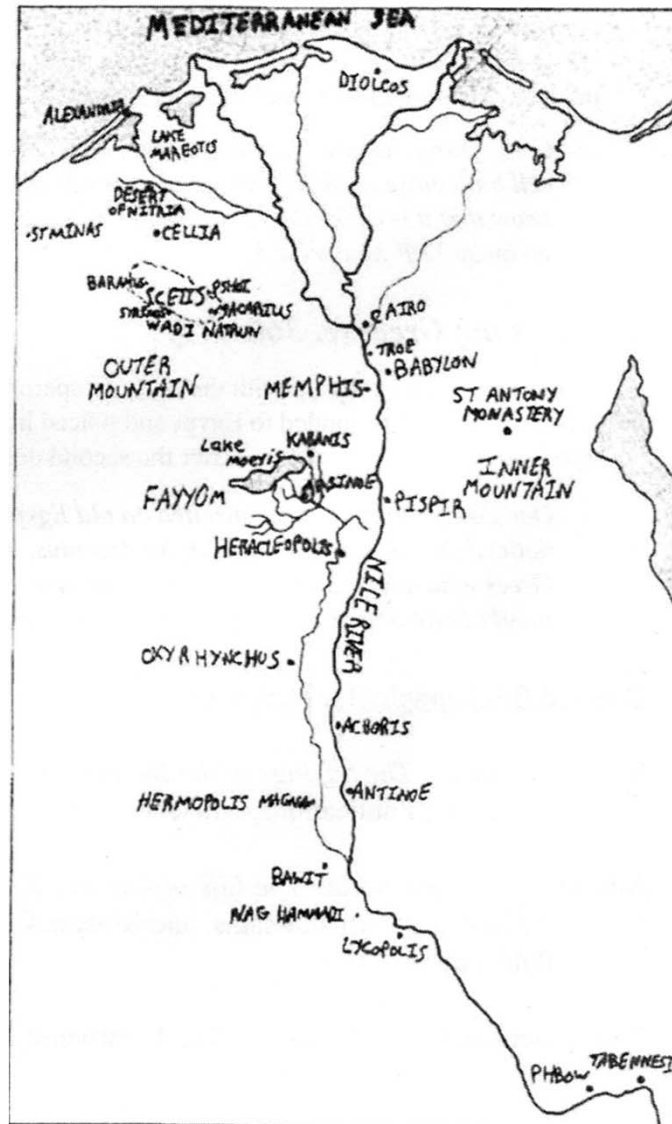
- 1 Obedience
- 2 Chastity
- 3 Voluntary Poverty



# The Day of a Monk

- 4-6am Midnight Praises (Tasbeha)  
Matins/Book of Hours(Agpeya) & Divine Liturgy
- 6-8am Divine Liturgy
- 8-noon Work and Prayer
- Noon-

# Monasteries





**QUESTIONS ?**