

Translation: *Passion of St. Eustace and His Companions*

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This is the 30th of the works of *Ælfric's Lives of Saints*, which Ælfric (c. 955 - c. 1010), the abbot of Eynesham on the Thames near Oxford, translated from Latin originals such as, mainly, *Vitæ Patrum*. This work, "Passion of St. Eustace and His Companions", is in the second volume edited by Walter W. Skeat, whose first volume contains 23 homilies and whose second volume has 15 homilies. I began to work on the translation, from Old English to Modern English, of the first volume in 1998. I continued the work while at Illinois State University during the period between October 20, 2000 and March 20, 2001 as a Visiting Scholar funded by the Ministry of Education and have just recently completed the translation of the second volume. The completion of this lengthy work was made possible thanks to the great help of Dr. Susan Kim of the Department of English, ISU, with whom I have been exchanging translations weekly, as we continue to do with other works of Ælfric. This modest contribution is done as an expression of my gratitude to the people who helped me to do the syntactical research of Old English here and in the US.

1. The First Part of Old English Text

PASSIO SANCTI EUSTACHII MARTYRIS SOCIORVMQUE EIVS

ON TRAIANTES DAGVM ðæs caseres rixiendum deofol-gilda big-genga. wæs sum cempena ealdor-man þæs nama wæs placidas. æfter worulde swiðe æþelboren. and swiþe þeonde on his weorcum. and ealle ofer-hlifigende on wurð-mynte. Wæs he soðlice on rihtwisnysse weorcum. and on eallum godum weorcum. swiðe gefrætwod. ofþryhtum he gehealp. and gemundbyrde þa ðe fordemde wæron. and eac swilce he for wel manega þe unrihtlice fram yflum demum genyþrode wæron alyhte. Nacode he scrydde. and swa ic soðlice secge. ealle nyd-behæfnysse he wæs dælende. þam þe þæs behofodon. and eac swilce his wif þa ylcan godan weorc beeode. ac hi swa-þeah hwæðere butu þa git hwæðene wæron. for-þam þe him nan man þone godcundan geleafan ne tæhte. Hi hæfdon twægen suna þa hi tyhton þæt hi him geefenlæhton on godum willan. Wæs he witodlice swiðe æþele on rihtwisnysse. and strang on gefeohte. swa þæt þa hæþenan wæron fram him swiðe gewylde. Wæs he eac wel gleaw on huntunge. and þæt singallice ælce dæge beeode. Ac se mild-heorta and se welwillenda god. þe simle ælghwær to him þa þe him wurðe beoð gecygd. ne for-seah his godan weorc. ne he nolde þæt his wel-willende mod. and gode...

2. Heathen Placidus the Chief of Soldiers

In the reigning days of Trajan the Emperor, who was a worshipper of idols, was a chief of champions whose name was Placidus. According to the standard of the world (he was) of very noble birth and greatly thriving in his works, and exceeding all in honor. Truly was he exceedingly adorned with works of righteousness and with all good works; the oppressed he helped and protected those who were condemned and also he relieved very many who were unjustly condemned by evil judges.

The naked he clothed and as I truly say he kept dealing out all (the) necessities to them who needed them and also his wife practiced the same good works but they both, nevertheless, were yet

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heathen, because no man taught them the religious faith.

They had two sons whom they taught them to imitate them in good will. Truly was he very noble in righteousness and strong in fight so that the heathen were completely subdued by him. Also was he well skillful in hunting and engaged in it continually every day. But mild-hearted and well-wishing God who always and everywhere calls to Himself those who are worthy to Himself, did not overlook his good works, nor would He that his well-wishing and good heart, very worthy should be neglected without reward and be covered over with the darkness of devil worship, but according to that which is written, that in each nation he who works righteousness is agreeable to Him, He came then to this well-wishing mercy and healed him with such a measure.

3. The Huge Hart with the Holy Rood Between its Horns

It happened one day that he went out on hunting with all his company and array. Then he saw a great flock of harts and then he (disposed) his company as was customary with him how they should catch (by) hunting. When they were all busied about the hunting, then appeared to himself an immeasurable hart that was of tremendous size above all the others and beautiful and then it turned from the flock and rushed into the woods where it was the thickest.

When Placidus saw it, then he wished to catch it and went eagerly after it with a few companions. Then at last they (all) got tired and he alone, untired, followed after it. Indeed, through God's predestination neither the horse nor he himself was exhausted, nor did he cease for the difficulty of the path, but he went long after it and then departed far from his companions. Then the hart, indeed, climbed on a high rock and stood there. Then Placidus stood long and beheld the hart and wondered at its size and stopped his pursuit.

Then God stated to him that he should not fear such judgement nor should wonder at its miraculous size. Indeed between the horns glistened the likeness of Christ's holy rood brighter than the ray of the sun and glistened the likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ. And He sent human speech into the hart and called to Placidus, thus saying, "Alas, Placidus. Why do you persecute me? Behold! I have come for your sake now, that I might show Myself to you through this animal. I am the Christ whom you worship without knowing. The alms which you give to the poor are before Me and I have come that I might show Myself to you through this hart and, instead of it, might hunt and take you with the nets of My mercy.

It is not right that the beloved servant of Mine should serve unclean devils and stupid idols despite his good works; because of that, I came to the earth in this form such as you now see Me, that I might heal mankind. When Placidus heard this, then was he afraid with the greatest fear and fell off his horse to the earth and lay there for certain time of day and arose then again and wished to know more certainly about the apparition which appeared to him and said to himself, "What is this vision that appeared to me here? Dear Lord, explain to me what you spoke to me, that I can believe in You."

Then Christ said to him, "Listen now Placidus. I am Jesus Christ Who worked heaven and earth out of nothing and caused the light to spring up and divided darkness and I am He Who set days and seasons and year and I am He Who fashioned man out of earth and I came to the earth for the salvation of mankind and received flesh and was hanged and buried and arose from the dead the third day."

When Placidus heard this, then fell he again immediately on the earth and said, 'I believe, Lord, that You are He Who worked all things and brings back the stray and resurrects the dead.' Then said the Lord to him, "If you believe in Me, go to the city to the bishop of Christians and ask him for baptism." Then said Placidus, 'Dear Lord, I can tell my wife and children that they should believe in You.'

Then said the Lord to him, "Go now and say to them that they should receive baptism and (that) 'You will be then purified from defilement of idolaters,' and come here again and I will appear to

you fullier and tell you those which are approaching and reveal the holy mysteries.” Lo! Placidus departed for home from there at night and told his wife all that he had seen. As soon as she heard it, then said she, ‘My lord, you saw the God Who was hanged Whom Christian men worship. He is really a true God Who through such a one of signs calls to Him those who believe in Him and on this night I saw Him and He said to me, “Now, tomorrow you and your husband and children, come to Me,” and now I understand that He Himself is ever Jesus Christ.

4. Placidus (Eustace) and His Family Convert to Christianity

Indeed, He wished to show under such a form, a wonderful spectacle, through the hart, that you might wonder at His might the more and believe in Him. Let us set forth on this night and receive for ourselves the holy baptism of Christian men. Therefore, truly those who believe in Him will be His own. Then said Placidus to her, ‘He Whom I saw said the same. Then indeed at midnight they departed, so that their men would not know, to the priest of Christian men and told him all the things which were shown to them and that they believed in God and entreated him to baptize them.

The bishop was then filled with great bliss and praised God Who wishes that all men will be sound and come to the way of truthfulness and then he christened them and instructed them of the mysteries of the holy faith and baptized them in the name of Father and Son and of the Holy Ghost and named Placidus Eustachius and his wife Theophistis and one of his sons Agapitus and the other Theofistus and gave them the holy mysteries of Christ’s body and blood and let them go, thus saying, ‘Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, be with you and give you the eternal kingdom. Truly I perceive that God’s blessing is with you, Enjoy ye God’s paradise and remember me, John, I pray ye.’

Then certainly again on the early morning did Eustace take a few companions and went to the place where he had seen the vision before and dispersed his companions as if for the sake of hunting and he remained alone and approached that place and saw the same vision which he had seen before and fell down on his face and said, ‘I entreat You, Lord, and I know that You are Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God and now I have come here and pray (to) your immortal divinity that You may reveal what You promised me before.’

Then said the Savior to him, “Blessed are you who have received the washing of My favor and have clothed yourself with immortality and now you have overcome the devil and have trodden him who deceived you, and undressed the clothes of the mortal man and clothed yourself with the immortal who lives on ever world without end. Now the works of your faith will be shown and the devil’s grudge will be stirred up against you, because you disowned him and he will also hasten to do every evil about you.

It beseems you to suffer many that you may receive a crown of glory. You had been until now just exalted in this world’s possessions and transitory works. Now it beseems you to humble yourself from your high vanity so that you will be exalted hereafter in spiritual riches. Let not lose your virtue. You, do not look upon your earlier glory, but just as you had wished that you were pleased by men and the mortal king through your victorious fight, so it also beseems you to hasten to keep your truth to Me, the immortal King and to be tried through sufferings and labor at this time like my beloved servant and devil’s vanquisher Job, through patience. Take heed, nevertheless, that no cursing and murmuring will arise in your thought. Truly when you are humbled, I will come to you and lead you back to your own glory and honor.”

Then after this speech, ascended Christ to heaven and said to Eustace, “Whether it is the dearer to you that you should receive the temptations now or nearer your end?” Then said Eustace, ‘I beseech Lord Jesus, unless it be not permissible to obtain the things which are fore-ordained for us from You, let us now receive the temptation and give us patience to (endure), lest the accursed fiend may incite us to say and think any thing against Your will. Lord said to him, “Eustace, fight back. Verily My grace is with you and keeps your souls.” Eustace then returned home and related to his

wife all that had been told to him by Lord and they bent their knees and prayed (to) God, saying, 'Lord Savior, be it as Your will be.'

5. Patience of Job

Then it happened after a few days that his household was attacked by a tormenting disease and both his male and female servants were dead. Then did Eustace perceive that the afore-said trial was upon him and thankfully received it and asked his wife not to be tired nor grieved. Then again after a little space of time became his all horses and every kind of animal dead and he received those trials gladly and secretly went away with his wife and his two sons, then evil men perceived that they were so bereaved, then they went to (his home) and took their gold and silver and all that were there and so (they) lost all their possessions through the devil's treachery. In those days it happened that all people were celebrating a festival with the emperor because of the victory which he gained by fighting against the Persian people. It was also the custom that Placidus should be first in the festival, because he was the master and chief of the champions. Then was he looked for and none could find him.

Then all the men wondered why in so little a space of time no man could find him nor anything which belonged to him and the emperor and all his thanes were very sorry for his sudden disappearance. Then said his wife to him, 'how long shall we remain here? Let's take our two sons and go from here, otherwise we will be the object of reproach and scorn to all who know us.'

6. The Misadventures of his Family

Then at night they took their two sons and went to the land of Egyptians. Truly two days after they departed, then did they come to the sea and there they found a ship remain and they went on board it and sailed in it. Then the master of the ship saw that Eustace's wife was very fair, then he wished to own her and demanded the passage-money but they, then, had nothing to give, then he demanded the wife for the passage-money. When Eustace found that (out), he would not lose her. Then the ship-master beckoned his men to throw him out. When Eustace grasped their treachery, then he left his wife and took his two children and went, bewailing and saying, 'Woe to you and me! because your mother is carried away over to an all-foreign man. He went, then, so lamenting until he came to a certain stream. And he dared not go in with the two children because of the size of the river, but carried one child first and set him on the other side of the place and went back to fetch the other. When he was in the middle of the river, then saw he that a lion took the child and went to the woods with him. He then despaired of the child and returned patiently having hope in the other child, but when he was going thither he saw that a wolf took the child. Then he tore his lock lamenting and wished to drown himself in the river, but the heavenly grace strengthened him with patience, so that he did not do so.

The lion indeed held the child unhurt according to God's providence. Then the shepherds of the land, seeing the lion carry the child thus alive, ran after it and rescued him and, likewise, the husbandmen rescued the other child from the wolf. Indeed, both the shepherds and the husbandmen were from the same shire and they fed the children with them.

Eustace, their father, indeed, thought that they were devoured by the wild beasts, went then lamenting and saying, 'Woe! Alas! How I have now grown as the tree which is beautifully adorned with fruit and I am now like the twig that is cut off (from) the tree and thrown away in great storms and tossed everywhere. Woe on how greatly abundant I was once and am now deprived like a captive.

I was formerly chief of champions and was surrounded by a great (company): now I am abandoned. I don't have even my children. But You Lord do not abandon me, nor despise my tears. I remember, dear Lord, that You said that I should be tried just like Job, but in some things I am suffering more than he.' Truly, as for him, nevertheless, the possessions were lost to him; then his

dung-hill was left to him so that he could sit upon it.

I am indeed suffering from the sorrow of exile. He had friends who comforted and sympathized with him. But I have in this wilderness the wild beasts which took my sons. He had his wife with him who cheered him though he lost his children. I am indeed unhappy without offspring, nor even a spark of my family was left to me, but I am like the boughs which are thrown away in the storms in every way in the wilderness. Dear Lord, you may not detest Your servant's manifold words. I am sorry indeed that I speak more than it is fit. Place, Lord, a guard on my mouth so that my heart will not yield to the evil words lest I be cast away from your presence. Dear Lord, give me now rest from my manifold distresses' and with these words he went weeping into the town called Dadissus and there remained and earned his living with his work. Then after a great time he asked the lords of the town if he could possess their fields and earn his reward and he led a life there fifteen years and his sons were fed in the other town and neither of them knew that they were brothers.

7. Former Soldiers Seek Eustace

Verily the heathen master of the ship who took the wife of Eustace brought her to his native place and (God) protected her with His grace that he would not defile her while she was with him just as she desired from Him and after he was dead she was his heiress. After this there was a great invasion in the land where Eustace had been before and they laid waste many of the Romans' lands. Then was the emperor excessively distressed and got mindful of Placidus and very much lamented his unexpected disappearance. Then he assembled all his army to him and asked eagerly about him and commanded that men should go as widely as his monarchy was and seek for him zealously, and promised those who would find him great honor and profit.

Then went, truly, two warriors who were named Antiochus and Achaius. They had before been under the hand of Eustace and passed through all the lands, which belonged to Rome, until they came to where he lived. Then Eustace, beholding them from far, recognized them by their familiar way of walking and, vexed in his heart, he prayed and said, 'Lord our God, You Who protect from each hardship those who trust in You, help me so that I can see Your handmaid, my wife, still as I now see those closely who served me once. I, indeed, know that my children are devoured by wild beasts for my sins. Grant me, Lord, that I at least may see them in the day of resurrection.' His speaking thus, then, came a voice from upon to him saying, "Faithful Eustace, indeed, in this present time you will (re)turn to your former honor and you will receive both your wife and your children. Truly you will see much greater things at the resurrection and you will receive the delights of eternal good things and your name will be eternally made famous.

Eustace then, hearing this, was struck with great fear so that he could not stand, but sat. He rose then up again and looked at the way and saw that the men were on the way to him and he recognized them well, but they did not recognize him. Then they said to him, 'Hail, you brother.' He answered, 'Peace be with you, brothers.'

Then said they back, 'Tell us, O Sir, whether you know here any stranger who is called Placidus, with his wife and his two sons. Truly, if you tell us about him, we wish to give you a good reward.' Then said he, 'For what reasons do you seek him?' They said, 'He was a very dear friend to us and we would see him if we could inquire after him after so many years.' Then said he, 'I don't know, here, any such a man; truly I am a stranger myself.' Eustace then led them into his guest-house and, going out, bought them wine and poured out to them for their great hardship and then said he to the master of the house, 'These men are known to me and therefore they came to me. Give me now food and wine and I will give it back to you from my wages and he gladly gave those to him and he then, Eustace, served them and remembered how they had served him before and could not bear not to weep but went out and washed his eyes and came in back and served them. They then eagerly beheld him and perceived in part and said, 'This man is like the man whom we two are seeking. It perhaps could be him.' Then said the other, 'I know that he had a wound scar on his neck that

happened formerly in the fight. Shall we take heed to whether he has the mark of the wound?' When they beheld him eagerly, then they saw the wound scar on him and they embraced him immediately and kissed and wept for joy and asked him whether it was he who was their master of warriors. Then he denied that it might be he. Then, they again made him known by the mark which was on his neck that it was he and they asked him about his wife and his children how they fared. He then said that it was he and that his wife and his children were dead. Then this was immediately known to all in the land and they came thither with great wonder and the men who went after him told all the men about his former honor. When they heard this, then did they all weep, saying, 'Alas! that such great sublimity as that man served us. Then the warriors made him known about the emperor's order and clothed him in the best garment and guided (him) forth with them and then brought him further to fellow-natives and he provided them with peace. Eustace, then, on the way told them how Christ had appeared to him and how he was named Eustace in baptism and how all happened to him about his wife and his children.

Then in fifteen days they came to the emperor and then the warriors told all to him how they found him and the emperor went toward him and kissed him and asked why he wished to go so far from his native-place. He, then, related to him and all his nobles in an orderly manner all his, his wife's and his children's experiences. The emperor, then, and all men were very glad of his return and prayed him that he should take to the dominion which he had before and he did so. He, then, commanded an army to be gathered. When he inspected the army, then did he know that there was not army enough against their enemies. He bade, then, more warriors be gathered from each borough and towns. Then it happened that the town council which fed his sons was ordered to strengthen the army with two warriors. Then they chose the two children, because they were brave and intelligent but unfamiliar to the military service.

8. Return to his Old Army and Two New Soldiers

Then was all the army gathered before him and he, then, provided them with arms and garrisoned as his custom was. Then saw he among others the young warriors, that they were handsome in appearance and tall in stature, assigned them the foremost in his service and became inspired in the love of them and after he had arranged all his army as his custom was, then he set out to the fight and conquered the lands which the heathen had taken away, and subdued them to the emperor. He then went forth over the river that was named Idispis in the inner lands of the heathen and overcome them and laid their native place waste. He yet wished to go further inside. Then through God's predestination he came to the land where his wife was. She had dwelled in an enclosure of herbs and she was, as we said above, unhurt from the pagan's intercourse through God's protection. Then came Eustace with his army to the town that she was at, then. The dwelling place was very winsome, to encamp in and his tent was pitched near her dwelling. Then it happened also that the two warriors, her sons, accepted (to be) in it with their mother. They did not know she was their mother, nor did she know they were her sons. Then one morning-time they were talking between themselves therein about their childhood and the mother sat eagerly listening to their tale. Then said the elder brother, 'What I can remember earliest is that my father was the chief of warriors and my mother was very beautiful in appearance and they had two sons, me and the other younger, and then at night they set out and took us and went to the sea and sailed out. When we came up, then our mother was not with us, I don't know why, then our father took us and carried us forth, weeping, in his way, then we came to a river, then went he into the water and carried my younger brother and left me. Then he turned back again, wishing to fetch me, then came a wolf and caught my brother and before he could come to me, suddenly came a lion from the wood and attacked me and ran to the woods and the shepherds who were there near at hand saved me and I was, then, brought up in the town just as you know and I don't know how my father and my brother fared. When the younger brother heard this all from the elder brother, then arose he and grasped him

by the neck and kissed and embraced and said, 'By the God Whom Christians worship, I am your brother by your tale, because to me said those who rescued me from the wolf.' When their mother heard those words, then was all her heart and her stomach stirred up and thought whether it would be their sons, because he said that their father was the chief of warriors and also that their mother was left at the ship.

9. Eustace Meets his Wife

Then the next day sought she the chief of warriors, thus saying, 'I pray you, dear lord, that you take me to my native-place. I am truly a Roman, and I was taken hither in custody.' Meanwhile she beheld him very eagerly and perceived the marks which were on his neck and could not suffer to conceal it long, but fell to his feet and said, 'I implore, you dear lord, not to be offended at your handmaid, but for your mercy hear me and say to me what you are. I ween, dear, that you are Placidus, the chief of warriors, and were afterwards named Eustace at baptism whom, likewise, the Saviour Himself was humbled to name, through the heart of His mercy, so that he believed in Him and he, then, through manifold trials which came on him has taken back his wife that is me and his two sons, Agapitus and Theophistus and went to the land of Egyptians and when we sailed, then did the ship-master take me forcibly from him, because he was heathen and he detained me at his native land and Christ is my witness that he did not defile me nor did any man until this day, but Christ the living (God) held my cleanness.

Now that I have said all this as it happened, now I beg you through the great main of our Lord that you will tell me whether you know this.'

When Eustace heard this, then did he behold her and perceived her by her countenance and wept for great joy and kissed her and thanked God who consoles all those who believe Him and rescues from all troubles. Then said she to him, 'Lord, where are our sons?' He answered, 'Wild beasts caught them and he then told her how they were caught. Then said she, 'Let's give thanks to Christ. I really believe that just as God allowed us that we met each other, He will also allow that we two know our children.'

Then said Eustace, 'And did I not say that wild beasts caught them? Then said she, 'Yesterday I sat in my vestibule, then I heard how two young warriors talked between themselves about their childhood. Now I know truly that they are our children. They did not know that they were brothers except that through the narrative that the elder brother told to the younger brother. Understand now how great it is as to the mercy of God who allowed them that they could recognize each other so that they are brothers.'

Then bade Eustace them called to him and asked who they were and they related to him immediately just as we said above and he then knew that they were his sons and took them to himself and embraced and kissed them and they then all bent their knees to Christ and with crying and ardor gave thanks for their meeting from the second hour of the day until the sixth hour. Then indeed the rumor spread throughout all the company and they all together wondered and rejoiced at their meeting and much the more merrily because they had overcome the heathen.

Then the next day they gave the greatest feast and thanked God for His great mercy. Then after that they conquered all the lands of their foes and they returned home with great victory and brought with them much plunder and many captives. Then it happened that the emperor Trajan was dead before Eustace came from the the fight and there was another king called Adrian appointed who was heathen and worse in cruelty. When Eustace came back from the fight, then went the emperor to meet him as it was the custom with the Romans and celebrated a great festival for the victory which he had gained and asked him about the fight and about his wife and his sons how he discovered them. Then the next day the emperor went to the temple of idols and Eustace would not go in with him, but stood outside. Then the emperor called and asked why he would not offer to the gods for his victory and especially because he had found his wife and his children.

Then said he, 'I worship and pray to my Lord Jesus Christ and offer everlasting prayers to Him who shows mercy to my meekness and led me out of captivity and gave me my wife and my children. I do not know other god indeed nor worship any other but the heavenly God who created all creatures, both the heavenly and the earthly, and performs many wonders. Then the emperor became filled with a great rage and ordered him ungird and disarmed and stood before his presence along with his wife and his children as if being a transgressor his lord's commands and he, however, would not turn a little from his belief and the true God.

10. Tortures and Glory

Then the emperor saw that he could not turn him through anything from the belief of Christ. He then ordered him led with his wife and his children into a dungeon and ordered a strong lion let out to them so that it should devour them. Then the lion ran and stood near the blessed man, Eustace, and bent down from the head and fell to his feet and prostrated itself to him and arose again and went out of the dungeon. In truth, the emperor saw this wonderful sight, that the lion did not touch them. Then bade he a brazen ox fetched and heated and the saints put on it.

Then came a huge host of folk of Christians and the heathen to this scene, that they would see how the saints suffered. Then asked Eustace him to allow first them to pray to God. They then stretched out their hands to God, saying, 'Lord God of all creatures, Creator visible and invisible, You Who are invisible to all in Your glory.

From us, indeed, You have been visible as Your will has been. Hear us now, dear Lord, praying to You. Behold now our desire is fulfilled that we might come together and merit to receive the company of the saints as the three youths who were tried by the fire and nevertheless did not forsake You. Let us now, Lord, end us through this fire and give to those who will be mindful of us on earth the reward of Your glory with us in heaven and give them abundance on the earth and if they are endangered on the sea or on land and they call you through our name, then may they be released from each danger and if they fall in sins and they then entreat You through our humility, give them, Lord, pardon to their sin and give them support and help them, all who hold a memorial service of us and praise you and grant, Lord, that the heat of this fire be turned into wet dew and let us end in this and may You be pleased about our bodies that they will not be separated, but let them be placed together.'

When they said this, then came a voice from heaven, thus saying, "So it be as you ask and much more so, because you have been struggling for a good life and you have been enduring in manifold trials and yet have not been overcome. Come now in peace and receive the crown of glorious victory and in place of this temporary evils enjoy the eternal goods world without end."

When the blessed saints heard this, then they gave themselves to the fire and thereupon the heat of the fire grew cold and they then praised the powerful and laudable Trinity and sang God's hymn and gave up their ghosts to Christ in peace and the fire did not touch them nor even one of their hair on their heads. Indeed, after three days came the impious emperor to that place and bade the brazen instrument of torture opened so that he might see to what saints' bodies had turned to. When he found them sound, then he thought that they still lived and bade them thrown out on the earth. Then all those who were there wondered at the fact that the fire had not touched even one hair on them, but their bodies were whiter than snow. Then was the emperor terrified and away went to his dwelling and the company who remained cried out, 'Great and splendid is the God of Christian men and a true God Jesus Christ and there is no other but Him. He caused that fire not to destroy even one of their hair and the Christians took their bodies secretly and buried and built a chapel when the persecution abated and celebrated their memorial on November the First. This is the life of holy martyrs and here is an end of their glorious strife. Indeed, all those who merit and praise their memory and call them for help, (they) shall receive the good which are promised to the saints through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. To Him be glory and might world without end in

eternity. AMEN.

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