

THE HOPES OF A MAN VOID OF UNDERSTANDING ARE vain and false: and dreams lift up fools. Whoso regardeth dreams is like him that catcheth at a shadow, and followeth after the wind. The vision of dreams is the resemblance of one thing to another, even as the likeness of a face to a face. Of an unclean thing what can be cleansed? and from that thing which is false what truth can come? Divinations, and soothsayings, and dreams, are vain: and the heart fancieth, as a woman's heart in travail. If they be not sent from the most High in thy visitation, set not thy heart upon them. For dreams have deceived many, and they have failed that put their trust in them. The law shall be found perfect without lies: and wisdom is perfection to a faithful mouth.

The Wisdom of Jesus, the Son of Sirach 34:1-8

A DEMON IS OFTEN A PROPHET to those who believe him, but he is always a liar to those who despise him. ... He who believes in dreams is completely inexperienced. But he who distrusts all dreams is a wise man.

The Ladder of Divine Ascent, Step 3:28, 29

IT IS BETTER FOR US NOT TO BELIEVE IN DREAMS AT ALL, because many have gone astray on their account. There are three kinds of dreams: those from God, those from our thoughts, and those from the enemy. If they are from God and we don't believe them, God does not take offense, because we don't believe them out of fear, lest we be led into deception. If I should come in the night and knock on your door, and you don't open to me because you do not recognize my voice, I am not offended. So it is with God, He is not angry when out of fear of God we don't believe dreams. Wine and vinegar have the same appearance. From the taste you understand the difference. If the dreams are from God, they bring calm; if they are from the enemy, they bring turmoil. Beware of deceptions. Better to protect ourselves and not believe anything outside of what our Church teaches.

The Elder Ieronymos of Aegina, p. 223

SECOND WEEK OF DECEMBER 2007

PEARLS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS