

The twenty Ninth Day of the Blessed Month of Thout

On this day also of the year 446 of the martyrs (750 A.D.) St. Febronia was martyred. That was during the papacy of Pope Khaeil (Mikhael) I, the 46th Pope of Alexandria and during the reign of Abdal al-Malik ibn-Marawan who persecuted the Christians. Abu el-Abbas fought against him, so he fled with his army to Upper Egypt. On his way he ordered to destroy the churches, the monasteries and to kill plunder and steal their valuables.

Nearby Akhmeem, there was a convent with 30 nuns dwelt in it. After they plundered the convent, they found among the nuns, one was very beautiful, called Febronia. They wanted to take her and offer her as a present to the Sultan. When she heard that, she came forward to their leader and asked him for a respite. She went to her cell and prayed to God crying asking Him to save her.

Soon she came up with a way out, she entreated them to leave her for her worship for a favor that she will do for them. That favor was a secret that she learned from her forefathers. It was oil that she had if any one anointed any part of the body the sword will not harm. To convince them she anointed her neck with the oil and asked the leader of the soldiers to let the strongest of them to strike her neck with all his might with his sharp sword. Once he did that the head of this chaste virgin was cut of her body and she received the crown of martyrdom.

Great fear fell upon all the soldiers and in haste they left the covenant leaving behind all that they have plundered. Her sisters the nuns took her pure body, shrouded her and buried her with great veneration.

The blessing of her prayers be with us all and glory be to our God forever. Amen