



Bishop Mar Awa Royel, S.T.D.

5417 Ratto Way
Salida, California 95368

(+1) 209-416-4070

Qashadr@hotmail.com

The Sacrament of the Holy Leaven (*Malkā*) in the Assyrian Church of the East

SUMMARY

The most important liturgical anomaly in the East and West today is, by far, the Holy Leaven (or *Malkā*); it is a sacramental practice that is only observed by the Assyrian Church of the East.

In his *Liber Margaritae* (*Margānīthā*), Mar Abdīšō of Nisibis (d. 1318) enumerates the sacramental list of the Church of the East, five of which are in agreement with the Churches of both East and West. This list includes two sacraments that are not recognized as such by the rest of Christendom, namely, the Holy Leaven and the Holy Cross. The first of these is not recognized by any other Church at all, and the second sacrament is at best considered to be a “sacramental” in the Roman Catholic Church. According to the metropolitan of Nisibis, the Churches that *do not* have the sacrament of the Holy Leaven (*Malkā*) count marriage as the seventh sacrament.

The Holy Leaven is preserved in the liturgy Assyrian Church of the East with the utmost care and diligence. Because of the antiquity of this sacramental practice, its origins are hidden in the memory of the Church’s apostolic tradition and practice from time immemorial. It is highly venerated because of the direct link it bears to the very Eucharist which Christ instituted by celebrating for the first time. Therefore, it is to be understood in conjunction with that liturgical practice which is the summit of the Church’s prayer and offering, the Holy Eucharist.

1. EDUCATION

S.T.D. (Doctorate of Sacred Theology), Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome 2007

Concentration: (Eastern) Liturgy, Patristics, Church History

Dissertation: "The Lenten Liturgy of the Hours in the Assyrian Church of the East: A Historico-Liturgical Study"

S.T.L. (Licentiate of Sacred Theology), Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome 2001

Concentration: (Eastern) Liturgy

Thesis: "The Commentary of Mar Abraham bar Lipheh (VIIIth century) on the Liturgy and Hours: Syriac Text, English Translation and Liturgical Study"

S.T.B. (Baccalaureate of Sacred Theology), University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein 1999

Concentration: Systematic Theology

B.A., Loyola University of Chicago 1997

Major: Theology; Minor: Philosophy

2. PUBLICATIONS

ROYEL, David (2008), "East Meets East: Byzantine Liturgical Influences on the Rite of the Assyrian Church of the East," *Journal of the Canadian Society for Syriac Studies* 8 (2008) 44-59.

ROYEL, Mar Awa (forthcoming), "Christian Relations in the Levantine: The *Memrā* of Patriarch Mar Sabrišō' V ibn Masīhī (1226-1256): *Against the Heretics*," *The Harp* 2011.

ROYEL, Mar Awa (forthcoming), *Mysteries of the Kingdom. The Sacraments of the Assyrian Church of the East* (in publication).

3. ECCLESIASTICAL APPOINTMENTS AND EXPERIENCE

Ordained deacon on January 19, 1992 by His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, Chicago

1992-1999 Appointed to the "Literary Committee" of the Assyrian Church of the East, Chicago

Ordained priest on May 23, 1999 by His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, Chicago

Associate Pastor and Parish School Chaplain at St. Mary's Parish, Los Angeles, California (July 2005 to May 2006)

Assigned Parish Priest to Mar Yosip Parish, San Jose, California, May 2006

Ordained Cor-bishop on July 15, 2007 by His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch, San Jose, California

Ordained Archdeacon on November 23, 2008 by His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch, San Jose, California

Consecrated Bishop for the Diocese of California on November 30, 2008 by His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch, Modesto, California

Secretary of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East, December 2008 to present

President of CIRED (*Commission on Inter-Church Relations and Educational Development*), December 2008 to present

Member of *Forum Syriacum* of the Pro Oriente Foundation (Representing the Assyrian Church of the East), November 2009 to present

4. AWARDS

“2009 Professional of the Year Representing the Industry of Religious Services” by *Cambridge Who's Who*, Cambridge, Mass. (USA)