## Kdäls isar awșỉ Ṣlawõto



The Ritual of the Tonsure of Nuns Sr. Dr. Ardra SIC


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## AWṢĀR SLAWÖTO - 7

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The Ritual of the Tonsure of Nuns

## By <br> Sr. Dr. Ardra SIC

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2. THE RITUAL OF THE TONSURE OF NUNS English Translation ..... 7-71
 Malayalam Translation ..... 72-100

## FOREWORD

## Dedication

I dedicate this book to most beloved late Abbot Francis<br>Acharya of Kurisumala Ashram of venerable memory.

The seventh volume of Awsār Slawōto contains the Syriac text of the Ritual of the Tonsure of Nuns (Takso d'suporo d'dairoyoto) with parallel English translation done by Prof. Dr. Sebastian Brock and Malayalam translation by Sr. Dr. Ardra SIC. The Syriac text is taken from P. 327-359 of Book of Priestly Rites (Ktobo d'takse Kumroye) published by the Seminary of our Lady of Refuge, Charfet, Lebanon in 1952. According to Prof. Dr. Sebastian Brock, this Syriac text is similar to the West Syriac manuscript of Bodelein Library, Ms Hunt, 444 of 1627. The Ritual of the Profession of Nuns of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church compiled by the Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios in 1925 is similar to this text. The main objective of publishing this Syriac text and its translation is to avail this document to those who make research in this field.

I express my deep gratitude to Prof. Dr. S. Brock of the Oriental Institute of the Oxford University who has done for me the English translation and to Rev. Fr. Jacob Thekkeparambil for permitting me to publish this book in the Awsār Slawōto series of SEERI and Prof. Rev. Dr. Raju Parakkot the Assistant Director of SEERI for the meticulous correction of this text. I thank Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos, the Father and Head of the Malankara Church for his paternal blessings and encouragement in this endeavour. I am grateful to Rev. Mother Little Flower SIC, the Superior General of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Imitation of Christ and the members of the general administrative body, Mother Damascene SIC, the Provincial Superior of Trivandrum Province, and the provincial administrative body for their sisterly support in publishing this book.I dedicate this work to the most beloved late Abbot Francis Acharya of Kurisumala Ashram of venerable memory who provided this Syriac text as well as other related materials for my studies in Rome in 2001.

## TAKSO D' SUPORO D' DAIROYOTO

The Ritual of the Tonsure of Nuns

[When a nun is to be tonsured, let her come to the church and stand at the door of the Hayklo, wearing her personal dress, and a proper covering, while her sister nuns standing with her at the tonsuring service. The Abbess stands close by her during the whole time, while the bishop or abbot, who will tonsure her stands at the door of the Hayklo. While the nun to be tonsured kneels in front of the door to the altar area the abbot commences]:

Abbot : Glory to the Father and to the son and to the Holy Spirit.

[^0]Hold us worthy O Lord God that we may flee from the vanities of this world and from the abominable exercise of hateful things. And grant us by Thy grace, that we may run to thee, and be protected under Thy wings, and take refuge in Thy mercies; and in repenting for our sins, may we appear before Thee; with assiduous fasting, and through continuous prayers and supplications, and through abundant almsgiving, may we please thy grace; may we be liberated from the oppression of devils and offer Thee glory and thanksgiving, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Hymn: "Have mercy on me." To the melody "Thou who the Virgin Mary."

Thou who art the true life and hope of all who hope in Thee,
Fill us with hope; and cause to reside in us life and love, O
God have mercy on us.
He who said in His Gospel; Call out and I will answer you,
We invoke Thee to help us

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- O He who said I do not want the death of the sinner, but that he live and find life and redemption; O God have mercy on us.
- True Shepherd and Way and Door and Sheepfold, we invoke Thee for the search for our lost state. O God, have mercy on us.
Guard her Our Lord by Thy cross, feed and instruct her by Thy truth she who has taken refuge in Thee and has come after Thy teaching, O God have mercy on us.
O He who taught and instructed those who are right in their heart, direct the steps of Thy handmaid to the harbor of life, O God have mercy on us
- Create in her a pure heart and cleanse her by the aspersion of Thy hyssop, because Thou art the sanctifier of all that are blemished; O God have mercy on us.
Glory to the hidden Being, and to the Son, the Radiance of His Essence and to the Holy Spirit who distributes all the gifts; God have mercy on us.
Another responsorial hymn with Psalm 65, "To thee is glory befitting".
To the tune "Heavenly beings sing glory."
- To Thee is glory befitting O God, in Sion and to Thee will the vow be repaid: O hear my prayer. To Thee let all flesh come; the words of the wicked have been too strong for me, but my sins Thou shalt forgive (Ps 65 : 1-4).
- The churches that are in heaven, and this one which is on earth,
- confess, worship and give praise to Him who established them
- firmly.
- Blessed is the person in whom, Thou art pleased. Thou bringest - him to dwell in thy monastic fold (lit: fold or monastery) and to be - filled with the benefits of Thy house and with the sanctity of Thy - temple and with thy awesome righteousness (Ps 65: 5-6a).
- The watchers and the angels rejoice, along with the Lord of all creation, at the single sinner

> who repents and acquires eternal life. Give answer, O God our Savior, the Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the distant peoples. He establishes the mountains by His power and is strong in His might (Ps 65 : 6b-7).

> O Compassion of the gentle Lord, in which my frail state takes refuge: O friend of all who repent, seek out my lost condition as I call upon Thee

> He silences the storms of the seas and the roar of their waves. Let the people be perturbed and let the earth's inhabitance be afraid at thy signs and at the procession of morning and evening. In glory hast Thou been mindful of the earth; Thou hast stilled it and enriched it with plenty (Ps 65:8-10a).
> At Thy door do we knock, O our Lord, and from Thee do we ask mercy. O Compassionate One who is full of mercy, let Thy compassion pour forth over Thy handmaid.
> - The streams of God are filled with water. Thou hast prepared their food having irrigated the furrows so that the fruits might grow; with showers shall its vegetation grow and be blessed (Ps 65;10b-11).

> O my fathers, brothers, sisters and the community (qyomo) that I have desired, ask for mercy on behalf of my feeble state, for I have come to your company.

> Bless the crown of the year with Thy grace, and let Thy calves have their fill of tender grass; Let the high hills be girded with glory, and let the fatlings of the sheep be clothed likewise. Let the deep valleys be filled with corn; let them exult and give praise (Ps 65: 12-14).
> May the Good One who is full of grace, whose mercies are poured out over the wretched, make thee worthy to perform His will, and mayest thou sing out praise along with the upright.
> Glory....and from....
> Let us acknowledge the Father in His Son, and let us worship the Son in Him who sent Him; and let us respond and say equally, Glory to the Holy spirit

encompass me with salvation, so that I may have understanding of Thee And I (God) will make known to thee the way in which thou shalt travel, and I will set my eye upon thee (Ps 32:7-8).
Like the Sinful Woman I gasp out, and like Publican I make supplication; and like that (Prodigal Son) who squandered his wealth, I have sinned against heaven and before Thee (Lk 15:21). For this reason I gasp out to Thee, O Lord have mercy on me.

Do not be like a horse or like a mule, animals that are witless, and which they subdue from a young age by means of a bridle, and people do not approach them (lit. it) (Ps 32:9).

Come to my assistance, O' Compassionate One, and strengthen me (to live) in accordance with Thy commandments. Hold me worthy, Lord, to see Thy compassion at the hour of judgment. For this reason I gasp out to Thee, O Lord have mercy on me.
Many are the pains of the wicked, but Thy grace will surround the person who hopes in the Lord. Rejoice, O righteous, and take delight in the Lord: praise Him all who are upright of heart (Ps 32:10-11).

Be to me a helper, Lord, for I have no other helper apart from Thee, O Compassionate One, and let not the adversary mock at me. For this reason I gasp out to Thee, O Lord, have mercy on me.
Glory be... .and from...
For the heavenly hosts praise Thee, And we earthly beings, along with them, raise up praise Thy divinity, and for this reason we gasp out to Thee, O Lord have mercy on us.
Deacon : Stomen kalos (Let us stand right)
People : Kyrie elison
Abbot : To Thee honour and glory, etc.
Praise, thanksgiving and glory, etc

## Proemion

Praise to Him who accepts the penitents and is the forgiver of faults; to Him who justifies the sinners and removes the faults of those who turn to Him. Be propitious, Lord, through they grace and mercy to this handmaid who approaches to take your sweet yoke; and give response to her fair petitions, and strengthen her to keep Thy holy and life-giving commandments because Thou who alone are good and merciful and to Thee becomes glory and honour and dominion at this time and at all times and feasts, moments and occasions, all the days of our lives, for ever.

## Sedro

Lord, God almighty, who is our Saviour and the author





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there, and make there an altar to God, who appeared to thee, when thou wast fleeing from before Esau, thy brother. 2. And Jacob said to his household and all who were with him : Remove all the alien gods from your midst, and be cleansed, and change your vestments; 3. and get up, let us go up to Bethel, and I will make there an altar to God, who heard me on the day of anguish and was with me in the way I went. 4. And they gave Jacob all the alien gods, which they had, and earrings, which were on their ears, and Jacob buried them under the terebinth, which was in Sichem. 5 And they went on and there was the fear of God over the towns around, and they did not pursue after Jacob and his sons. And Jacob came

Another Reading, from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 56 : 1-5.

1. Thus says the Lord; Keep judgment and perform justice because my salvation is close by and also my justice to be revealed. 2a. Blessed, the man who does this and the person who is strengthened by it; who keeps the Sabbath without defiling it, who keeps his hands from doing wrong. 3. And let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say " The Lord will not surely separate me from His people." And let not the faithful(eunuch) will not say: "I am a dried up tree." 4 . Because thus says the Lord: To the faithful who observe my Sabbath, and choose what I want and are strengthened in my alliances. 5. I will give them in my house and within my walls a place and a name better than sons

and daughters; an everlasting name will I give to them, one that will not come to an end.

Another Reading from Baruch the Scribe, Chapter $5: 1-4$

Strip off, O Jerusalem, the raiment of thy mourning, of thy misfortune and of thy suffering; and put on that splendour which comes from the Lord God, for eternal glory. Wrap thyself in the robe of righteousness that comes from God; place thy head the helmet/headdress of the resplendence of the Lord of Ages, for God Himself will manifest to everyone that the light is over all the earth. A name shall be given to thee by God for ever: "Peace of righteousness" and God fearing resplendence."

From the Prophet Daniel, Chapter 3:4ob-43.

Let not thy servants be confounded, because those who trust in Thee will not confounded. 41. And now we have followed Thee with our whole heart, and we fear Thee and we seek thy face. 42. Lord, do not confound us, but deal with us according to the multitude of thy prodigies; and give glory to Thy name, Lord, for thy name is great. 43. And let them know that Thou art the one and only God, and Thou art glorious in all Thy works.
Chapter 9:4b-5:7a-9; 40b
4b. I pray Lord God, great and terrible who upholdest covenant and grace with those who love Thee and keep Thy commandments. We have sinned, we have committed iniquity, we have acted impiously, and have turned back and deviated from Thy commandments and from Thy judgments. To Thee Lord, belongs victory and to us
confusion of face as at this day. 9. To the Lord God belong mercy and remission of sins, because we have rebelled against Him and have not listened to His Voice.

From the Prophet Zachariah, Chapter 2: 10-13.
10. Give praise and rejoice, daughter of Sion, because behold I am coming and I am in thy midst, says the Lord. 11. And on that day many people, will be added to the Lord and will be to him a people, and He will live in thy midst and thou shalt know that the Lord almighty has sent me to thee. 12. And the Lord will possess Judah, as His Part over the Land of His sanctity; and He will take pleasure again in Jerusalem; 13. and all flesh will be in fear before the Lord, who is aroused from the height of His sanctity.

## Psalmody (Zumoro)

The elect apostles were sent out by God into the entire world. They went out and preached the good tidings of the Son amongst the peoples, (reaching)



1 Timothy, Chapter 6: 6-16.
Brethren, our commerce is weighty, seeing that it involves the worship of God, according to our ability. For we brought nothing into the world, and it is clear that we can take nothing from it. For this reason (just) food and clothing suffice for us. But those who want to become rich (only) fall into trials, snares and the many stupid and harmful desires which plunge people into destruction and ruin. For the root of all evils is the love of money. There are people who have yearned for this-and strayed from the faith, bringing themselves to multiple miseries. But in your case, O Man of God, flee from these things and chase after righteousness, after uprightness, after
faith, after love, after perseverance, and after humility. Struggle in the good contest of faith, and attain to the eternal life to which you have been called when you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I testify to you before the God who saves/gives life to all, and Jesus Christ who testified a good testimony before Pontius Pilate, that you should keeep the commandment without stain or blemish, right up to the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He, in His own time, is going to be manifested by the blessed God who alone is almighty, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who alone is not subject to corruption, who dwells in the light that none is able to approach,

their lamps. But when the Bridegroom was delayed, they all dozed off and went to sleep. In the middle of the night there was a cry, The bridegroom is coming; come out to meet him ! Then all these virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. Now the foolish ones said to the wise, give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out. The wise one replied, saying, there will not be enough for us and for you; instead, go to those who sell (oil) and buy some for yourselves. When they had gone off to buy some, the Bridegroom arrived, and the ones who were all prepared entered with him into the marriage feast, and the door was closed. Finally those other virgins arrived, saying, Lord, Lord, open up for us. But he replied, saying to them,


wealth and high office feel shame,
(as do) all superfluous adornment, beautification and splendour.

O Bridegroom, who hast save me by Thy own blood, to Thee be praise.

Answer me, O God answer me, O God, have mercy on me and turn the hearts of everyone to repentance.
(Abbreviated excerpt from Homily 50 in P. Bedjan, Homiliae Selectae Mar Jacobi Sarugensis, Vol.II, Paris, 1906, pp.387-88,392, 395,401).

## Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Uninterrupted praise with never silent thanksgiving do the virgin souls that love God raise up to the Creator who has created us and made us vessels for His glory, and through His ineffable wisdom He has called us and brought us near to the praise of His honour, not that He needs any praise from us, but so that we may grow in wonder at His glorious incomprehensibility, now and always, forever.

People: Amen.
The Abbot continues with this prayer.
Our Lord Jesus Christ, true Master and genuine Teacher,
the Hope of Thy servants, and Confidence of Thy worshippers; O Lord, be a Master, Teacher and Guide to this Thy hand maid who has fled from the stumbling-blocks of this transient world; make her wise in godly fear of Thee, so that she may be enabled to carry round her neck the sign of Thy honoured Cross, and take up the sign of Thy humiliation, being a true disciple of Thine all the days of her life. Teach her to do Thy will; grant her Thy pledge of Thy Holy Spirit; clothe her in the raiment that is full of good works and embroidered with virtues all the days of her life, so that she may offer up praise and thanksgiving to Thee, and to Thy Father and to Thy Holy Spirit.
now and always, for ever.
[And then Abbot signs her on her forehead with three crosses making one sign of the cross at each invocation, saying]
$(\mathrm{N})$ is signed so that she may become a sheep in the holy sheepfold of God, in the name of Father + (cong.Amen); and of Son + (cong.Amen); Amen and of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever + (cong.Amen)
[Then the Abbot adds this prayer]
May the Word God, who is with His Father, the Governor of the universe, give wisdom in thy soul and fill mind with knowledge and let thy way of life be pleasing and in accordance with the will of His Godhead; and may He give thee through this seal of His mark the incorruptible crown along with all the saints for ever.
[And the sister, who is to be tonsured, takes the scissors with her right hand and gives them to the Abbot, saying "Bless, my Lord" and the Abbot prays the following prayer]
Keep, Lord, this Thy handmaid, whose head is inclined before Thee, having committed herself to Thee, O Celestial Bridegroom, and give her Lord, the peace and joy that comes from You and gladden her in Thy bridal chamber of life, which never fails nor is dissolved, Father, and Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.
[The Abbot takes the sister's right hand and says three times, with her, responding after him]









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fight valiantly and powerfully against the wiles of the devil, and may be freed from all illusions of the evil one, and may she merit the calm of those who girded their loins promptly and lit their lamps ready for service at Thy coming; make her worthy, girded by Thee, so that she may offer up praise, and thanksgiving to Thee, and to the Father and to the Holy Spirit and now and always, for ever.
[Then they put on her the cloak(galo) and the Abbot says]
May the Lord vest you with the mantle ( $p$ 'riso) of justice and the veil (ardido or r'dido) of chastity, and the cloak (ma'pro) of holiness.


## [The Abbot continues]

And give her Lord, instead of gloomy garments of mourning, the glorious robe of divine light, and in the place of corruptible things give her those that are incorruptible and that remain forever.
[When they puton her the shoes, the Abbot says]
May the Lord put on thee the shoes as the preparation of the gospel of peace, so that you may be able to stand against all powers of the adversary and extinguish all the fiery darts of the evil one and trample on the head of crafty Satan and his rebel armies.
[And the Abbot adds the following prayer saying]
Thou, therefore, our God, who gave us the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and all the power of the enemy, strengthen
this Thy handmaid, who has now approached and taken refuge in Thee and has loved Thy discipleship and has set out after Thy love. give her invincible power so that she may trample down and walk over all the power of the enemy and the poisonspreading reptiles and the head of the spiritual dragon, while Thou guardest her heel with Thy all powerful might from his destructive bites; and let her raise up to Thee glory for victory, and to Thy Father and to Thy Holy Spirit now and always, for ever.
[The nun who has been tonsured goes to the abbess by the circle of sisters, and she comes and genuflects in four directions to the east and to the west and to the north and to the south saying]
Bless my Lord; receive me, sisters
[And the sisters place a cross on the left shoulder of the nun who has been tonsured and they place her at the door of the altar on the south side. And the abbot prays the concluding prayer ]

## Hutomo

Yes, Lord God, we pray Thee, keep Thy promise to this Thy handmaid without falsehood, so that she may not turn back, like the wife of Lot; but may she live for Thee alone and look to Thee and stand before Thee continually all the days of her life without confusion, and may she merit the celestial beatitude that lasts for ever and ever and the incorruptible bridal chamber, through the grace and mercy and kindness of Thy only-begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
through whom and with whom to Thee becomes glory and honour, with Thy all-holy and adorable Spirit, consubstantial with thee, now and always, for ever.
[The sisters give her the peace, each in due order, Then this ma'nito versicle]

My king and God, blessed are those who dwell in Thy house.

Lord Jesus, excellent and gentle is Thy yoke, and Thy burden is light, as Thou saidst, O Christ, God Thou drawest us who are from earth to imitate Thee, O Lord most high and heavenly, seeing that Thou criest out to us saying. Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you shall find rest for yourselves and true calm. For this reason we beseech Thee, Lord, grant us know ourselves, what we are and (grant us) that mindfulness, that is not exalted in pride, that says: Praise to Thy condescension.

The Ritual of the Tonsure of Nuns is ended.

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ศ๐ก็மด̆ 5: 1-4






 விடிகளூం."

கวறาఱேண8 3:40b-43; 9:4b-5; 5:7a-9
























พமலกிய 2：10－13










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（ก๓円า．45：14）

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1 ตிஉேナカைา．6：6－16





























## مฎூேேロคைロ





（กณึา．45：10－11）

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