

The heavenly oil is a holy oil whose source is heaven.
The holy oil in the church is worldly and also a blessing.

Tamav Irene tells us the story of the heavenly oil:

When I joined the convent and was serving the mother superior, Mother Kyria (1928-1962), I noticed that she had three different flasks of oil. On different occasions she used to ask me to bring her one of the flasks. When she was very ill, she asked me to bring her a particular flask and when she used its oil, she was relieved from pain. When she was moderately ill, she asked for oil from the second flask and when she needed oil as a blessing only, she asked for the third flask.

One day, I asked her :

"Tell me, mother, what is the difference between these oils?"

She replied:

*"I received the oil that is in the **first flask** from Anba Ebraam, Bishop of Fayoum (1829-1914) when he visited our convent before his departure to heaven. He cherished our convent and visited us a lot of times.*



He told me:

"This is my last visit and I have a precious heavenly oil given to me by St. Michael and I do not want to leave it anywhere except here. Keep it as a blessing."

*The **second flask** contains holy oil from Jerusalem and some monasteries.*

*The **third flask** contains holy oil which I use daily before I sleep as a blessing.*

After Mother Kyria departed to heaven and I became in charge, these oils became in my custody. And when several churches were built in our convent, I said to myself *"I must not keep these oils in my cell, I will put them under the altar."* Since then the oils have been there while all masses were held. They were only moved out of their place during the Holy Week and then returned back to their place.

A second story about the heavenly oil:



One day, I suffered a lot from unbearable pain. No pain killer could reduce it. My tears flowed spontaneously. I asked God to relieve me from some of the pain and help me endure the rest. That day I could not attend mass and did not know that St. Shenouda the Archimandrite was the saint of the day.

Suddenly, I found St. Shenouda clad in a white luminous body in front of me. I have seen him two or three times before. He wore a cross on his bosom and held another in his hand.

He said:

“It is true that your pain is unbearable, Our Lord Jesus Christ has sent me to pray for you and give you this cotton wool ball soaked with holy oil through which the pain will become bearable.”

He then prayed for me and rubbed me with the oil and left the cotton wool ball with me. The pain became bearable.

I put the cotton wool ball in a jar to preserve the oil and I placed the jar in the prayer corner of my cell. While praying, I thought of adding this oil to that of Anba Ebraam and suddenly I found the jar full of oil. It had a fragrant smell. I took this oil and added it to the oil of Anba Ebraam.

A third story about the heavenly oil:

One of our nuns had a relative, a three and half year old child who suffered from very high fever and nothing reduced it. After analysis, his illness was diagnosed as a virus in the brain which also left him in a coma. He was hospitalized and the physicians told his mother that it is better to take him back home because he will die in one day's time.

His mother called the convent and tearfully asked for the prayers of the nuns. I told her to rub him with the holy oil of St. Philopater Mercurius (Abu Seifein). When she did so, the child got out of his bed and started to play



on the floor.

She asked him: *“What has happened sweetheart?”*

He replied : *“St. Philopater took the pain and flew away. I saw him riding a horse holding two big knives. I was afraid but he told me not to be. See what he put around my neck.”*

It was a handmade leather cross woven by the nuns with a vial of oil tied to its string.

I asked the mother to share this oil with me and I added it to the oil of Anba Ebraam.

A fourth story about the heavenly oil:

We had a very beautiful anointed icon depicting the crucifixion in the sanctuary of the church of St. Demiana. One day, while cleaning the church, the nuns found oil flowing from it. The oil sprang from the hands of the Lord of Glory. They brought me the icon which I inspected with Anba Reweis and Anba Misael. The oil flowed out of this icon for 48 hours.

I took this oil and added it to that of Anba Ebraam.

A fifth story about the heavenly oil:

Long ago I saw a vision in the big garden of the convent. I saw the Virgin Mary who asked me to build a church at this site in her name as the Holy Family rested in this place on their journey to Upper Egypt.

A small church was built and on the day of consacration, while Pope Kyrillos the Sixth was anointing the icons, and when he reached the icon of The Flight into Egypt that was painted on the wall, holy oil flew towards it.

In 1989, we needed to widen the church, so a group of deacons came to scrape the old anointed icons that were painted on the walls. When they reached the icon of The Flight Into Egypt, oil started flowing heavily from it. They called the nuns to see what had happened. This was a message from the Virgin to leave this icon intact.



We collected the oil that flowed from it for three weeks and added it to that of Anba Ebraam.

A sixth story about the heavenly oil:

Finally, let me tell you about a Greek Orthodox bishop called Ireneaus who is responsible for the diocese of Birmingham in England. He loved the whole church and fervently prayed before Our Lord for its unity.

One day, he saw a vision. He saw Pope Kyrillos the Sixth and a child clad in white with him.

Pope Kyrillos said :

“ I am very pleased that you are praying for the unity of the church. I am also praying with you.”



Then Bishop Ireneaus asked him:
"Who is this child?"

Pope Kyrillos replied :
"He is Abanoub the martyr."

Then Pope Kyrillos said :
"I would like to send you in a mission to Egypt."

The bishop replied : *"With pleasure"*

Pope Kyrillos said :

"Go to the convent of St. Philopater Mercurious which I cherish and there ask for Tamav Irene, who is my dear spiritual daughter, and give her this oil and ask her to add it to the special heavenly oil that she has. And after mixing them together, take some.

Also tell her that her father tells you that you are going to suffer from many severe illnesses and you will undergo many operations. Moreover, you will face many difficulties but do not be afraid, God will be with you and your father will pray for you. You are going to suffer from many hardships but God will support you. Do not be afraid."

“I would like you also to visit the monastery of St. Menas and visit my shrine there.”

Bishop Ireneaus visited Egypt in 1991 and related this story in the presence of Anba Misael and Dr Ahmos Abahour. I took from him the very beautiful flask of oil and mixed its oil with that of Anba Ebraam.

I called this oil “**the distinguished one**” and I give it to those who are sick and to those who are facing problems because it is a blessing from heaven and it performs miracles according to God’s will and also according to the degree of faith of those who receive it.”

The heavenly holy oil is distinguished from the other oils
by its perpetual fragrance.