

Note left under Fr. Mamas pillow on the night
that he left

May 17/30, 1984

Beloved Elder,

I would wish to write many things, but time does not permit; perhaps someday. I cannot speak with you because that precludes accepting what you will tell me, which now I cannot do. Therefore, perhaps like Adam hiding from the face of God, but perhaps not, I am fleeing from Paradise, where I have never belonged, because of my pride (see The LADDER 25:30). It is not enough to ask for forgiveness, words do not suffice. Thank you for loving me and trying to the best of your ability to save my obdurate soul. If fallen Adam had been able to stay in Paradise, he would speedily have lost his mind; outside he could gaze at Paradise and learn repentance, something I have never yet learned. I did not wish things thus to come to a head in these holy and blessed days; this was out of my control, alas.

Μαμας, ο δ' αὐτος
(Signed in Greek)
Mamas, the prodigal

Note left under Fr. Mamas' pillow on the
night that he left.

May 17, 1984 O.S
May 30, 1984 N.S

Beloved brethren, denizens of Paradise:

Forgive me for whatsoever sorrows I have caused,
and do cause, you and pray for your brother,
fallen Adam, with the rustlings of your blessed leaves.
I kiss your hands with grief of heart as well as
thanksgiving for having known you. May our Lord
be between us until His Coming.

Mamas, m.

Letter sent by the
Community to Fr. Mamas
after he left



Sunday of the Holy Fathers

May 21 / June 3, 1984

To the fallen Adam, the monk Mamas
Beloved Brother,

Since you are bone of our bone + flesh of our flesh,
your departure has plunged us into deep grief. Neither
physical death, nor any calamity can be more grievous
for us or cause us more pain. If you cannot remember
us your sinful brothers, then remember at least our
common father + guide, who grieves for you more than
Jacob did for his beloved Joseph.

Come back, sweet brother, come back + let us
together pick up the Cross of Our Saviour which you
left behind, + struggle. It would truly be Pascha
for us.

Your loving + grieving brothers,

By the hand of the sinful monk + scribe, Ephraim

Fr. Mamas' answer to the
monastery's letter after
he left

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✠
✠
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St Basiliskos
May 22 / June 4, 1984

To Ephraim, monk and scribe:

Thank you very much for your (pl) letters. I was very moved that even after all the sorrow I have caused you, you would still, in evangelical fashion, consider receiving me again into your holy company, among the ranks of those who tread the Cross's path with weary feet. But believe me, the flaming sword which debarr'd Adam from Paradise was inside of him. The gate of the Garden was always open to him, but he could not enter until he had laid hold of that which Christ came to give us. I did not want to leave, but I could not stay, nor can I return until the fiery sword has been extinguished by tears and self-knowledge. God knows that I love you all, although my deeds discredit my words. Disobedient and sinful though I was, I laboured for the fathers to the uttermost extent of my powers, and even now I shall continue to do so, in so far as possible, though you reject ~~it~~ as defiled, ^{as} mixed amid thorns and thistles. Forgive the unforgivable, and pray.

Μάμας, ὁ Πάππας
(Signed in Greek)

Mamas, the fallen