

# SEASON OF GREAT LENT

## *Parable of the Prodigal Son*

الأحد الرابع من الصوم الكبير : أحد مثل الابن الشاطر



## LITURGIES INTENTIONS

### SEASON OF GREAT LENT Parable of the Prodigal Son

**Saturday, March 7**

*The 7 Young Men of Ephesus*  
2 Tim 3:1-9/Mt 12:1-14

**4:00 pm** +Albert & Jeanne Farrah, *by their Children & Grandchildren*

**Sunday, March 8**

*St. Frances of Rome*

**8:00 am** +Jamil Abdel-Hay, *By his daughter, Huguette Sfeir.*

**9:30 am** +Frances Shibel, *By Subdeacon & Mrs. George Merheb*

**11:00 am** 1st Year Anniversary +Badih Merheb & for +Hannane Merheb, *By Sassine & Wissam Merheb & their Families*

### Healing of the Paralytic

**Saturday, March 14**

*St. Euphrasia*  
2 Tim 4:9-19/Mk 3:1-12

**4:00 pm** 40 Day Memorial +Beatrice "Bea" Ameen, *By her Family*

**Sunday, March 15**

*St. Benedict, Founder of Monastic Life in the West*

**8:00 am** +Adib Atallah, *By his niece, Huguette Sfeir*

**9:30 am** Private Intention

**11:00 am** +Naim El Hachem, *By his wife, Sonia, Children: Tony, Richard, Ghassan & Vera, Spouses & Children*

#### PLEASE NOTE

40 Day Liturgies are considered a priority. When necessary, they will be scheduled with other previously reserved intentions.

## Daily Liturgies

**Please Note:**

**There will be NO Daily liturgies or Eucharistic Exposition this week, March 9-13, 2026 due to the Eparchial Clergy Retreat.**

**Monday, March 9**

*The Forty Martyrs*  
2 Cor 4:11-18/Lk 6:20-23

**Tuesday, March 10**

*St. Auxentius*  
1 Cor 16:15-24/Mk 8:22-26

**Wednesday, March 11 - OFFICE CLOSED**

*St. Sophronius, Bishop of Jerusalem*  
Rom 14:1-13/Lk 7:1-10

**Thursday, March 12**

*Pope St. Gregory the Great, Doctor of the Church (+604)*  
2 Cor 1:23-2:5

**Friday, March 13 - OFFICE CLOSED**

*St. Theophanes the Chronicler*  
2 Cor 12:21-13:5

**7:00 pm Stations of the Cross**



#### SANCTUARY LAMPS

**For Members of the Clergy who will be attending the Eparchial Clergy Retreat this week**

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:  
[www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/)





## The Silent Jealousy

Dear Parishioners,

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Gospel of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32) invites us to look beyond the obvious sin of the younger son and to contemplate a quieter, more subtle danger: jealousy. What is jealousy?

Jealousy is the sorrow we feel at another person's good. It is not simply wanting what someone else has; it is being disturbed because they have it. According to the teaching of the Church, envy — which is closely related to jealousy — is one of the capital sins because it wounds love at its root. In the parable, the older brother does everything right externally. He remains at home. He works faithfully. He obeys. Yet when mercy is shown to his brother, his heart is troubled. Instead of rejoicing, he becomes angry. Instead of entering the feast, he isolates himself.

Jealousy has three spiritual consequences:

First, it distorts our identity. The older brother says, "I have served you." He no longer sees himself as a beloved son, but as a servant demanding wages. Jealousy turns relationship into transaction.

Second, it isolates the soul. While the house is full of music and joy, he stands outside. Jealousy always separates us — from others and from the joy of God.

Third, it blinds us to grace. The father tells him, "All that is mine is yours." The older son was already rich but lived like he was deprived. Jealousy makes us forget the blessings we already possess.

So how do we heal from jealousy?

Return to gratitude: Jealousy grows where gratitude dies. When we begin to thank God daily for our own gifts — our family, our vocation, our health, our parish — comparison loses its power.

Rejoice intentionally in others' blessings: This is spiritual maturity: to celebrate another person's success as if it were our own. Mercy is not limited. God's grace is not divided like a small piece of bread; it multiplies.

Rediscover our sonship: The father's words are the key to healing: "You are always with me." The deepest cure for jealousy is remembering that we are already loved. We do not need to compete for the Father's affection.

Lent is a season not only to confess visible sins, but also to examine the hidden movements of the heart. The younger son teaches us about repentance. The older son teaches us about purification of the heart.

Whether we have left the house or we are standing outside, the only way to be free from comparison, from resentment, and from silent jealousy, is by going in the father's house, where you will find love, gratitude, and true freedom

In Christ's love,

Fr. Neemtallah (Edgard) Oneissy

### OFFICE HOURS:

**M-TH** 10:00 am–3:00 pm

**FRI** OFFICE CLOSED

**SAT** By Appointment

**DAILY LITURGIES @ 9 am**

**MON & WED** (Ar)

**TUE & THU** (Eng)

### WEEKEND LITURGIES

**SAT** 4 pm (Eng)

**SUN** 8am(Ar) 9:30 am (Eng)

11 am (Eng.& Ar)

### Holy days of obligation:

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 pm

### MEET OUR PRIEST:

**Fr. Edgard (Neemtallah) Oneissy**

*pastor@stanthonylawrence.org*

### MEET OUR DEACONS:

*Nadim Daou, James T. Demers*

*& David Leard*

**Sub-Deacons:** *Antoine Nammour & George Merheb*

### MEET OUR OFFICE STAFF:

*Marie Azzi*

*Executive Assistant*

*Christine Ryan*

*Administrative Assistant*

### CLERGY DAY OFF

*Fr. Neemtallah: Fridays*

### SACRAMENTS

#### Baptism & Confirmation:

*1 month in advance with the Pastor,*

**Donations:** Church: \$200

*Priest: Free Will*

**Matrimony:** *Arrangements should be made by couples six months prior to the wedding date*

**Donations:** Church \$500

*Priest: Free Will*

**Reconciliation:** *One hour Before Thursday & Saturday Liturgies, or by appointment*

**Anointing of the Sick:** *Please notify the Rectory if a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or unable to come to Church and would like to receive communion at home.*

Please refer to our website for more Sacrament Celebrations Guidelines.

## WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

03/01/2026

Candles	\$125.00
Sunday Collection	\$2,883.00
Fuel	\$575.00
Lenten Raffle	\$2,090.00

\$5,673.00

Please remember to remit your Fuel/Utilities Envelope. Your contribution helps us keep the heat on in the Winter.

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

**March 7:** Hanan Abi Samra, Robert Pica, Valerie Tarabay

**March 8:** Abigail Abdulnour, Ghassan Abou-Ezzi, Marie Bouraphael, Dalia Fakhry, Samer Geha, Therese Jbeily, Missy Kalil, Jackson Lenotte, Mateo Maroun, Benjamin Nehme, Mimo Schultz, Rima Webhe

**March 9:** Sami Aoun, Joe Lalo, Arthur Mansor IV, Charbel Rizk, Nicole Saad, Juliana Saad

**March 11:** Joshua Pelletier, Tessa Pelletier

**March 12:** Hinde Asmar, Jessy Chaaya, Mark Khalife

**March 13:** Peter Bou Saada, Johnny Escobales, Juliano Joumaa, Sean Khoury, Jaclyn Pratt, Aya Rizk

## The 2026 Dabke Season is Officially Here!

**Registration Deadline: April 13th**  
**Registration Fee: \$20.00 per member**

Full attendance at all practice sessions and participation on all days of the Mahrajan (September 4th, 5th & 6th) are **mandatory**.

For questions, please contact:

Carla (Ages 13-20): 978-697-1725

Reine (Ages 7-12): 978-902-1234



Registration form:

<https://forms.gle/NfPdywYUe3PHeYYN9>

### NAM DELEGATE NEEDED

We are looking for a new NAM Delegate for our parish. Delegates are appointed by the Clergy, and their primary goal is to promote the works & goals of NAM within the parish. Contact the parish office if you are interested.

## Family of St Sharbel & Our Lady of Lebanon Sodality



**Thursday, March 19: Rosary @ 6:30pm**  
**followed by The Liturgy & procession**

Every Tuesday—Zoom Prayer @ 8pm

**Zoom ID: 335616991 Passcode: 816342**

**Or you can join by clicking this link:**

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/335616991>

For more information email:

[communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org](mailto:communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org)



### MYO & Jr MYO

UPCOMING SESSION

**Sunday, March 15 @ 6 - 7:30pm**



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS St. Anthony Council 16204

Next meeting:

**Tuesday, March 10 @ 7 pm, Church Hall**

Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend.

For information email: [KOFc16204@gmail.com](mailto:KOFc16204@gmail.com)

### KNIGHTS OF MARY

UPCOMING SESSION

**Saturday, March 14 @ 5 - 7pm**

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

UPCOMING SESSIONS

**Saturday, March 21 @ 5 - 7pm**



### ARABIC SCHOOL

UPCOMING SESSIONS

For those who signed up for Friday classes:

**Friday, March 13 @ 6:30pm-8pm**

For those who signed up for Saturday classes:

**Saturday, March 14 @ 11:30am - 1pm**

**Women's LENTEN RETREAT**  
 Hosted by M-Wine  
 Led by the Maronite Sisters

Join us for an evening of renewal, mercy, and return, including:

- Prayer & Reflection on the Prodigal Son
- Confession & Stations of the Cross
- Potluck supper
- Donation welcomed at the door

Saint Anthony Maronite Church  
 145 Amesbury Street Lawrence MA  
 Friday March 20 | 4:00 to 8:00pm

**RSVP TO:**  
**AMALE: 978-835-7382 OR MARY: 978-960-7479**

**LECTORS SCHEDULE**

*Saturday, March 7*  
 4:00 pm - Susan Kalil

*Sunday, March 8*  
 8:00 am - Huguette Sfeir  
 9:30 am - August Sfeir  
 11:00 am - (Eng) Anthony Merheb  
 (Ar) Gretta Merheb

**LECTORS SCHEDULE**

*Saturday, March 14*  
 4:00 pm - Patricia Ferguson

*Sunday, March 15*  
 8:00 am - Subdeacon Antoine Nammour  
 9:30 am - Therese Bou Sanayeh  
 11:00 am - (Eng) Angela Dahbour  
 (Ar) Giselle Dahbour

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Baptized & Confirmed**

*Wynter Caroline Bergin*

*daughter of*

*Christopher & Nicole (Mason) Bergin*

*“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”*

*~Mark 16:16*

*Save the Date*

St. Anthony's Annual  
**Golf Tournament**  
*Monday, June 29th*  
 Atkinson Country Club  
*Details to follow*

**SUMMER**  
**“We Believe” BIBLE CAMP**

SPONSORED BY ST. ANTHONY'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Join us for our Light of Life Bible Camp  
**JULY 15-17 | 10AM TO 2PM**  
 Saint Anthony Maronite Church  
 145 Amesbury Street, Lawrence MA

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

- Interactive Bible Stories
- Lessons on the Creed
- Exciting Games & Activities
- Creative Crafts
- Meals & Snacks
- Music & Singing
- Friendship & Fun

PRESENTED BY THE MARONITE SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

Scan QR Code to Register

Camp open to Grades K-6  
 Cost: \$75 per child

*2026 Maronite Enrichment Days*

**Speaker: Professor Erin Galgay Walsh**  
**April 14-17, 2026**  
 Our Lady of the Cedars of Mount Lebanon Maronite Church  
 507 South Cleveland Massillon Road  
 Fairlawn, OH 44333

SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH LAWRENCE  
PRESENTS

# Redemption الشفاء

TUESDAY MARCH 31

7:00 PM

SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH  
145 AMESBURY ST, LAWRENCE, MA

A LENTEN RECITAL PERFORMED BY THE LEBANESE MUSICIAN AND SINGER

# MANALE NEHME

WITH MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT BY  
PIANIST FADI SABA AND PERCUSSIONIST CHARBEL RIZK



## EASTER FLOWERS DONATION FORM

HONOR OR REMEMBER A LOVED ONE THIS EASTER BY  
DONATING FLOWERS TO BE PLACED ON THE ALTAR.

FLOWERS ARE \$15

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ST. ANTHONY CHURCH  
FORMS CAN BE EITHER BE PLACED IN THE COLLECTION BASKET  
OR MAILED TO THE PARISH OFFICE



DONATED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF FLOWERS: \_\_\_\_\_



**DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 23RD**

## Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Parable of the Prodigal Son

### *Book of Zechariah 3:1-7*

Then he showed me the high priest Joshua standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this man a brand plucked from the fire?" Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." And to him he said, "See, I have taken your guilt away from you, and I will clothe you in festal apparel." And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him in the apparel; and the angel of the LORD was standing by. Then the angel of the LORD assured Joshua, saying "Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here.

### *Second Letter to the Corinthians 13:5-13*

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? unless, indeed, you fail to pass the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong not that we may appear to have passed the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

### *Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 15:11-32*

The Lord Jesus says: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe the best one and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.

## الأحد الرابع من الصوم الكبير : أحد مثل الابن الشاطر

### سفر زكريا 3: 1-7

أَرَانِي الرَّبُّ يَشُوعَ الْكَاهِنَ الْعَظِيمَ وَاقِفًا أَمَامَ مَلَكَ الرَّبِّ، وَالشَّيْطَانَ وَاقِفًا عَن يَمِينِهِ لِيَتَّهِمَهُ. فَقَالَ الرَّبُّ لِلشَّيْطَانِ: «زَجَرَكَ: الرَّبُّ، يَا شَيْطَانُ، زَجَرَكَ الرَّبُّ الَّذِي اخْتَارَ أَوْرُسَلِيمَ! أَلَيْسَ هَذَا شُعْلَةً مُنْتَسَلَةً مِنَ النَّارِ؟» وَكَانَ يَشُوعُ لَابِسًا ثِيَابًا قَدْرَةً وَهُوَ وَاقِفٌ أَمَامَ الْمَلَكَ. فَأَجَابَ وَكَلَّمَ الْوَاقِفِينَ أَمَامَهُ قَائِلًا: «انزِعُوا عَنْهُ الثِّيَابَ الْقَدْرَةَ.» وَقَالَ لَهُ: «أَنْظُرْ. إِنِّي قَدْ أَجَزْتُ إِثْمَكَ عَنْكَ. فَلْتَلْبَسْ ثِيَابًا فَاخِرَةً.» وَقُلْتُ: «لِيُجْعَلَ تاجٌ طَاهِرٌ عَلَى رَأْسِهِ.» «فَجْعَلُوا التَّاجَ الطَّاهِرَ عَلَى رَأْسِهِ، وَالْبَسُوهُ الثِّيَابَ. فَحَدَّرَ مَلَكَ الرَّبِّ يَشُوعَ قَائِلًا: «هَكَذَا قَالَ رَبُّ الثَّقَاتِ: إِنَّ سِرَّتِي فِي طُرُقِي وَحَفِظْتُ أَحْكَامِي، فَأَنْتَ أَيْضًا تَحْكُمُ عَلَيَّ بَيْتِي، وَتَحَافِظُ عَلَيَّ دِيَارِي، فَأُعْطِيكَ سَبِيلًا إِلَى وَسْطِ أَوْلِيكَ الْوَاقِفِينَ هُنَا»

### رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل كورنتس 13: 5-13

يَا إِخْوَتِي، إِخْتَبِرُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ، هَلْ أَنْتُمْ رَاسِخُونَ فِي الْإِيمَانِ. إِمْتَحِنُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ. أَلَا تَعْرِفُونَ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ يَسُوعَ فِيكُمْ؟ إِذَا كُنْتُمْ مَرْفُوضِينَ! فَارْجُوا أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَنَّنَا نَحْنُ لَسْنَا مَرْفُوضِينَ! وَنُصَلِّي إِلَى اللَّهِ كَيْ لَا تَفْعَلُوا أَيَّ شَرٍّ، لَا لِنُظَهَرَ نَحْنُ مَقْبُولِينَ، بَلْ لِكَيْ تَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ الْخَيْرَ، وَتَكُونَ نَحْنُ كَأَنَّنا مَرْفُوضُونَ! فَإِنَّا لَا نَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ نَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا ضِدَّ الْحَقِّ، بَلْ لِأَجْلِ الْحَقِّ! أَجَلٌ، إِنَّا نَفْرَحُ عِنْدَمَا نَكُونُ نَحْنُ ضِعْفَاءَ، وَتَكُونُونَ أَنْتُمْ أَفْوِيَاءَ. مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا أَيْضًا نُصَلِّي لِكَيْ تَكُونُوا كَامِلِينَ. أَكْتُبُ هَذَا وَأَنَا غَائِبٌ، لِئَلَّا أُعَامِلَكُمْ بِقَسَاوَةٍ وَأَنَا حَاضِرٌ، بِالسُّلْطَانِ الَّذِي أَعْطَانِي إِيَّاهُ الرَّبُّ، لِنُبَيِّنَ لَكُمْ لَا لِهَدْمِكُمْ. وَبَعْدُ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، إِفْرَحُوا، وَأَسْعُوا إِلَى الْكَمَالِ، وَتَشَجَّعُوا، وَكُونُوا عَلَى رَأْيِي وَاجِدْ، وَعِيشُوا فِي سَلَامٍ، وَاللَّهُ الْمَحَبَّةِ وَالسَّلَامِ يَكُونُ مَعَكُمْ! سَلِّمُوا بَعْضَكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ بِقُبْلَةٍ مُقَدَّسَةٍ. جَمِيعُ الْقِدِّيسِينَ يُسَلِّمُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ. نِعْمَةُ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَمَحَبَّةُ اللَّهِ، وَشَرَكَةُ الرُّوحِ الْقُدْسِ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ!

### إنجيل القديس لوقا 15: 11-32

«كَانَ لِرَجُلٍ ابْنَانِ. فَقَالَ أَصْغَرُهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يَا أَبِي، أَعْطِنِي حِصَّتِي مِنَ الْمِيرَاثِ. فَفَسَمَ لَهُمَا نَرَوْتَهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الْابْنُ الْأَصْغَرُ كُلَّ حِصَّتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَّدَ مَالَهُ فِي حَيَاةِ الطَّيْشِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَّثَتْ فِي ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يُحْسُ بِالْعَوْرِ. فَذَهَبَ وَاجَأً إِلَى وَاحِدٍ مِنَ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ، فَارْتَدَّ إِلَى حُفُولِهِ لِيُرْعَى الْخَنَازِيرَ. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الْخُرُوبِ الَّذِي كَانَتْ الْخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهُ، وَلَا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ. فَارْتَدَّ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الْأَجْرَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يَفْضَلُ الْخُبْزَ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا هُنَا أَهْلِكُ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إِلَى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا. فَاجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجْرَائِكَ! فَفَقَامَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كَانَ لَا يَزَالُ بَعِيدًا، رَأَى أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَسْرَعَ فَالْقَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فَقَالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا... فَقَالَ الْأَبُ لِعَبِيدِهِ: اسْرِعُوا وَأَخْرِجُوا الْخُلَّةَ الْفَاخِرَةَ وَالْبَسُوهُ، وَاجْعَلُوا فِي يَدِهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ جِذَاءً، وَأَثُوا بِالْعِجْلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَأَذْبَحُوهُ، وَلِنَأْكُلَ وَنَتَنَعَّمَ! لِأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كَانَ مَيْثًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ. وَبَدَأُوا يَتَنَعَّمُونَ. وَكَانَ ابْنُهُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي الْحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وَأَقْتَرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، سَمِعَ غِنَاءً وَرَفْصًا. فَدَعَا وَاجِدًا مِنَ الْعِلْمَانِ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَخُوكَ، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يَرُدْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لِأَبِيهِ: هَا أَنَا أَهْدُمُ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السِّنِينَ، وَلَمْ أَخَالِفْ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِنِي مَرَّةً جَدِيًّا، لِأَتَنَعَّمَ مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا الَّذِي أَكَلَ نَرَوْتَكَ مَعَ الزَّوَانِي، ذَبَحْتَ لَهُ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ! فَقَالَ لَهُ أَبُوهُ: يَا وَلَدِي، أَنْتَ مَعِي فِي كُلِّ حِينٍ، وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي هُوَ لَكَ. وَلَكِنْ كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ نَتَنَعَّمَ وَنَفْرَحَ، لِأَنَّ أَخَاكَ هَذَا كَانَ مَيْثًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ.»

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