

A SAINTLY INTERCESSION

The story of the Martyrs GURIAS, SAMONAS, & ABIBUS is similar to that of scores of others in the Early Church. Gurias & Samonas were citizens of Edessa. They lived pious Christian lives, were arrested and subsequently excuted for their unwavering belief in Jesus Christ. A number of years later, the Deacon Abibus suffered the same fate, and was buried in the same tomb as Gurias & Samonas. When the era of persecution ended for the Christians, a church was built over the grave of these three martyrs. Little did anyone know that they would one day be responsible for saving the life of a young maiden!

Years later, a widow in Edessa had a young daughter, who was being courted by a soldier from the land of the Goths. He swore over the grave fo Gurias, Samonas & Abibus that his intentions were honorable and, if given the daughter's hand in marriage, he would treat her royally. As it turned out the soldier was alreadt married, and when he took her back to his own land, he made her his slave. When his lawful wife died, the wicked soldier buried the young girl alive with his departed wife! She prayed to the three martyrs from her home in Edessa to help her and , miraculously, they appeared to her. They took hold of her hand and in an instant, she was transported back to Edessa. When the church was opened the follwing day, the girl was found by the tomb of the siants! Becaue of the nature fo their intercession, Gurias, Samonas & Abibus are sometimes refered to as the parton saints of those experiencing marital difficulties.