

Translation of the
copy of the letter of Mini Marietta Pallei
to His Beatitude The Archbishop &
Ethnarch of Cyprus. Mons., Mons., Macarius,
Leucosia (aka Nicosia)
Cyprus.

Your Beatitude

Please ^{excuse} forgive me
for writing to you, while you are so taken up, & I hope you will not think that the question which I raise is a trifling one, but that it concerns principle, that is to say with the position of womankind in general in Society & for that reason that you will consider it important.

On 22nd February of the current year, the day of our great joy, when you came & we saw you in our church of all Saints, something very out of place happened. I had hardly come into the church, & was going to my usual place on the Ladies' side, when to my surprise I heard a lady who was sent after me calling out "Not there go to the gallery". The lady, I supposed was my carrying out the orders of the churchwardens (of course I paid no attention & got to my place). Because of this the men took all the best places, not only on the

2 men's side but the women!

Part you, your Beatitude, is it fitting for the men on such great occasions to hold the rights of the women in such selfish contempt? I instantly decided to speak to the president of the churchwardens' Committee, & this I did in about two weeks' time. The president not only interrupted me several times but also brought forward false excuses. They prevented me from putting forward my complaint exactly as I intended & what should have been settled in 5 minutes took 10 minutes, & over, without result & presently the president got off saying "we do not come to an understanding - I have a committee meeting"

Your Beatitude will greatly oblige me if you would write to the Committee & I hesitate in asking your Beatitude to do this knowing you may regard national concerns - emphasizing that measures must be taken for this event to prevent such an outward happening ever to be repeated when other great occasions present themselves. This is no personal matter but concerned as principle. Civilization is not telephone politeness & justice towards all. In the words of Good Monday, "Learn Righteousness all (opening) of the

Manietta Pallas
who dwell upon earth, with despair we seek to pin you right

ΑΝΤΙΓΡΑΦΟΝ.

Λονδίνον, 23η Μαρτίου, 1959.

Πρὸς τὴν Α. Μακαριότητα,
τὸν Ἀρχιεπίσκοπον καὶ Ἐθνάρχην ΚΥΠΡΟΥ
Κον, Κον ΜΑΚΑΡΙΟΝ,
Εἰς Λευκωσίαν
ΚΥΠΡΟΝ.

(Translation)
AL 2683

Μακαριώτατε,

Παρακαλῶ νὰ μὲ συγχωρήσητε ὅπου Σᾶς γράφω — ἐνῶ εἶσθε τόσο ἀπασχολημένος — καὶ ἐλπίζω, ὅτι δὲν θὰ θεωρήσητε τὸ ζήτημα τὸ ὁποῖον ἐκθέτω κατωτέρω, ὅτι εἶνε μικρολογίες, ἀλλ' ὅτι ἀφορᾷ ἀρχάς, δηλαδή τὸ ζήτημα τῆς θέσεως τῆς γυναικὸς εἰς τὴν κοινωνίαν γενικῶς, καὶ ὅτι διὰ τὸν λόγον αὐτόν θὰ δώσητε εἰς αὐτό σημασίαν.

Τὴν 22αν Φεβρουαρίου ἐ.έ., ἡμέραν τῆς μεγάλης μας χαρᾶς, ὅταν ἦλθατε καὶ Σᾶς εἶδαμεν εἰς τὴν ἐνταῦθα Ἐκκλησίαν μας τῶν "ἉΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ", ἔγινε ἓνα μεγάλο ἄτοπον. Μόλις ἐμπῆκα εἰς τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν καὶ ἐπροχώρησα νὰ πάρω τὴν θέσιν μου εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν τῶν κυριῶν, πολὺ ἠπόρησα ν' ἀκούσω μίαν Κυρία, ἡ ὁποία ἐστάλη ὀπισθὲν μου νὰ μὲ ἐμποδίση ἀπὸ τοῦ νὰ πηγαίνω εἰς τὴν θέσιν μου, φωνάζοντας: — "Ὅχι ἐκεῖ, πηγαίνετε ἐπάνω" —. Βεβαίως ἡ Κυρία αὕτη ἐξετέλει διαταγὰς, ὑποθέτω τῶν Ἐπιτρόπων. Τοιοῦτοτρόπως ὅμως οἱ ἄνδρες ἐπῆραν ὅλες τὲς καλλίτερες θέσεις, ὄχι μόνον τῆς πλευρᾶς τῶν ἀνδρῶν, ἀλλὰ καὶ τῆς πλευρᾶς τῶν γυναικῶν.

Σᾶς ἐρωτῶ, Μακαριώτατε, εἶνε ἄρα γε πρέπον εἰς τοιαύτας μεγάλας περιστάσεις οἱ ἄνδρες νὰ περιφρονοῦν μὲ τόσο ἐγωϊστικὸν τρόπον τὰ δικαιώματα τῶν γυναικῶν; Ἀμέσως ἔκαμα τὴν ἀπόφασιν νὰ ὀμιλήσω εἰς τὸν Πρόεδρον τῆς Ἐπιτροπῆς, ὅπερ ἔπραξα μετὰ δύο περίπου ἑβδομάδας. Δυστυχῶς ὅμως, ὁ Πρόεδρος, ὄχι μόνον μὲ διέκοπτε διαρκῶς, ὥστε νὰ μὴ ἦμπορῶ νὰ ἔλθω ἐπὶ τοῦ προκειμένου, ἀλλὰ καὶ μοῦ παρουσίαζε διαρκῶς ψευτοπροφάσεις, εἰς τρόπον ὅπου, ἐνῶ τὸ ζήτημα αὐτὸ θὰ ἐχρειάζετο μόνον πέντε λεπτά νὰ ἐξηγηθῇ, ἐπῆρε δέκα καὶ περισσότερα λεπτά ἄνευ ἀποτελέσματος, καὶ ἐν τέλει σηκώνεται καὶ μοῦ λέγει: — "Δὲν συνεννοοῦμεθα" — καὶ ἔφυγε λέγοντας: — "Ἐχω συνεδρίασιν" —.

Θὰ μὲ ὑποχρεώσητε, Μακαριώτατε, παρὰ πολὺ, ἐὰν γράψητε εἰς τὴν Ἐπιτροπὴν — καὶ διστάζω νὰ Σᾶς τὸ ζητήσω αὐτό, ξέροντας τὲς πολλὰς καὶ μεγάλας Ἐθνικὰς φροντίδας Σας πού ἔχετε — ἀναφέροντες τὸ ζήτημα καὶ τονίζοντες, ὅτε πρέπει νὰ ληφθοῦν μέτρα νὰ μὴ ἐπαναληφθῇ ποτέ τὸ ἄτοπον αὐτό, ὅποταν παρουσιασθοῦν ἄλλαι μεγάλαι περιστάσεις, καθότι τὸ ἄτοπον αὐτὸ δὲν εἶνε οὔτε ἀτομικὸν οὔτε προσωπικόν, ἀλλὰ κατ' ἀρχήν.

Ὁ πολιτισμὸς δὲν εἶνε τηλεφωνα, αὐτοκίνητα, καὶ τὰ λοιπά, ἀλλὰ εὐγένεια καὶ δικαιοσύνη πρὸς ὅλους, ὅπως μᾶς προτρέπουν καὶ οἱ λόγοι τῆς Μεγάλης Δευτέρας: — "Δικαιοσύνην μάθετε οἱ ἐνοικοῦντες ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς" — ;

Μετὰ βαθυτάτου σεβασμοῦ,
Ἀσπάζομαι τὴν Δεξιάν Σας,

(ὑπογρ.) ΜΑΡΙΕΤΤΑ Α. ΠΑΛΛΗ.