



The book "Saint Charbel in Russia"

The Phenomenon of Saint Charbel and Saint Charbel in Russia

by [Anatoli Bayukansky](#)

the miraculous activity of Saint
Charbel

The book "The Phenomenon of Saint Charbel" was written by the Russian writer A.B.Bayukansky. Mr. A. Bayukansky together with his son has been editing an all-Russia medical newspaper "The Folk Physician" in the city of Lipetsk (situated 500 km south-east of Moscow) since 1996. The newspaper is issued once a fortnight and though of a modest circulation due to a peculiar character of its contents (it carries out materials on non-conventional methods of treatment), it is distributed in 75 regions of Russia (out of the total number of 89) with a population of about 100 mln. people. The editorial staff of "The Folk Physician" boast to be the first to propagate the phenomenon of Saint Charbel in Russia. When they first received an image of the Saint from Lebanon it was reproduced in the newspaper with appropriate comments and an appeal to the readers to share information in case this image helped them to get rid of their ailments. Frankly speaking they themselves at that time hardly believed in this miraculous power of healing. Soon letters started pouring in from all the nooks of Russia, even from the city of Vladivostok which is situated as far as 12000 km from the city of Lipetsk. 5000 letters with the request to send a portrait of Saint Charbel to them were received. In order to comply with insistent demands Saint Charbel's portrait was five times reproduced in the newspaper and the booklet with five and seven images was published thrice. The contents of the booklet are supplemented in this translation by extracts from numerous letters received by the editorial staff after the publication of an article on the phenomenon of Saint Charbel with a portrait of the Saint.



The book "Saint Charbel in Russia"

THE PHENOMENON OF SAINT CHARBEL

Here are a few lines from a communication of the Russian news agency ITAR-TASS: *"A miracle has been reported in the church of the Holy Virgin Nativity of the city of Ufa. The icon of the Savior has started giving off chrism. Chrism - fragrant oil - is flowing off Christ's hands, the pages of the Testament painted in the icon. It is a sheer miracle granted by God - that is the way the clergy of the church and parishioners assess the phenomenon".*

And what about a piece of news reported by the newspaper *"It Could Not Be So"*. A genuine miracle has been recently accomplished on the grounds of the Optyn Pustyn monastery. A local cinema shooting team addressed the monks pleading with them to render assistance in making a film about orthodox religion to be shown at a cinema festival in Belgium. The monks consented to be helpful to these amateur film makers. When a moment came for the cameraman to enter the most sacred part of the church, namely the alter, the monk accompanying him let the man know that the Holy Virgin icon of Kazan was a miracle worker.

The cameraman while shooting a panoramic view of the alter aimed his viewer at the Holy Virgin icon. Instantly a miracle worked. A tear of fragrant chrism about 7 cm long was shed from the right hand eye of the

Holy Virgin image. An act of chrism giving off is always accompanied by the Holy Spirit bliss descension.

A recent sudden "shedding of tears" by the Holy Virgin icon in the city of Smolensk is well within the recollection of the Christians of Russia. It was interpreted as a good omen, a great grace to the Russians. The fact that the Holy Virgin icon of Iver had been giving off chrism was published in newspapers practically all over the world. But the reporters made a mistake in stating that it was for the first time that an icon had been seen giving off chrism for such a long period. The story are set on telling you surpasses every flight of imagination. So, we are starting...

Saint Charbel

"Do help me to find a picture of Saint Charbel. His portrait assisted acquaintances of mine in getting rid of various diseases with which no doctors could cope." I. Chachnazarov, city of Ufa , Bashkortostan.

Such letters keep flowing in to us from all the nooks of our country. People are eager not only to find out more about the saint but also to get rid of their ailments.

In response to numerous letters of the Russians we are go-ing to tell about the very person of Saint Charbel and why he was beautified by the Church.

The monk-hermit Charbel died in 1889, exactly 110 years back in the monastery of Annan situated high in the mountains of Lebanon. In 1977 Charbel was beautified by Vatican. And he did deserve it.

After having left the monastery Charbel became a hermit although he remained a monk. He alienated himself from the crowd, worked in his garden and healed the sick visiting him by means of prayer and hand laying. It was said that there did not exist such an ailment of which he was not capable curing a person. People came to his refuge from afar and left him com-pletely recovered.

Charbel spent particularly much time in prayers, bringing to perfection his spirit and flesh, pondering on the essence of the Divine. The profane was of no importance for him. For example, he took food only once in 24 hours, having excluded meat and fish from his diet and ate only vegetables from his garden.

Was there anything particular about that? Hundreds of monks lived hermits but did not become saints although they also did the good to the people getting nothing in exchange.

Why was Charbel beautified not immediately but scores of years later? That is the very phenomenon of the saint. To be more precise, after his death Charbel stunned people by three phenomena which are hard to believe even today.

CHARBEL'S BODY SINCE HIS DEMISE AND TO OUR DAYS HAS NOT BEEN DECOMPOSING. THE MORE SO, ALL THE MEMBERS OF CHARBEL'S BODY ARE AS FLEXIBLE AND ELASTIC AS THOSE OF A PERSON ALIVE. SCORES OF YEARS AFTER HIS PHYSICAL DEATH HE, TO BE MORE PRECISE, HIS BODY HAS BEEN SWEATING WITH ICHOR - PINK COLOURED LIQUID. AND, LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE THIRD PHENOMENON, MOST IMPORTANT AND SURPRISING: IN HIS PRESENT STATE CHARBEL KEEPS ON SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF THE SICK.

The scientists assume that the hermit's pious and austere mode of life, meager food, spiritual self-perfection created peculiar ferment systems energizing the so called "shadowy section" of photosynthesis, able to synthesize substrates from water, carbon dioxide, oxygen, nitrogen of the air.

Let's consider , for example, the basic phenomenon - treatment of the people in his present state. How could it be possible? It is common knowledge that holy icons still are impregnated with powerful energy, they help people to cope with their diseases, but who of you have ever heard or seen a monk dead in bygone days and still able to relieve physical suffering of hundreds of people?

The phenomenon in question is so overwhelming that newspapers of many countries published articles on Saint Charbel.

You will find out of the numerous Russian readers' letters offered for your kind attention in what way the Saint's image renders assistance to people in treatment of their diseases.



**AND HERE ARE THE LETTERS OF THE PEOPLE
WHO HAVE AVAILED THEMSELVES OF SAINT SHARBEL'S
HELP**

People are quite right in saying that facts are more eloquent than any beautiful words. That is why we have decided to tell our readers in what way the image of Saint Charbel rendered assistance to actually existing persons. We are receiving such letters in abundance, it is beyond our possibilities to cite all of them, but even those few which you will read in our booklet present sufficient proves to the fact that Saint Charbel is capable of relieving any disease.

In front of me, the author of this booklet, there lies a file containing letters from Russia, the Ukraine and Belorus. The file bears a label: "They to whom Saint Charbel rendered assistance". I open the file, take a letter at random and read it:

"City of Tambov, Karbyshev Street, 7-75, Tatiana Taganova.
I'm so very grateful to you for the Lebanese Saint's image. Thanks to it I've got rid of nutritional allergy."

"Town of Tchapyghin, Lipetsk region, Tchechov Street, 1.
I, Vasina Liubov Petrovna, write this letter on behalf of the inhabitants of our block of flats. I have a daughter of twenty years who was suffering with severe headaches and I suggested that she should apply the image of the Saint published in the newspaper "The Folk Physician". At first my daughter refused point blank to do so, because she believed neither Tchumak, nor Kashpirovsky (popular Russian mass media

psychotherapists) and was quite right in doing so but then agreed since the headaches became intolerable. Soon she informed me : "Mummy, I'm feeling warmth in the back of my had as if some evaporation had started". Half an hour later the headaches disappeared.

A little bit later the bottom of my belly ached. I also applied the picture of the saint upon it and prayed pleading with the God for help by means of Saint Charbel.

The pain waned away. My husband was always mocking me but recently he sprained his leg and suffered with pains in his knee cup. I suggested that he apply the image of Saint Charbel. Soon these pains subsided. I also would like to add that with the blessed help of the Saint I succeeded in bringing down to normal my elevated blood pressure.

On the very day when I intended to post this letter to you my daughter started fit of pains in her left side. You may believe it or not, but our Saint helped.

I was told that it is not recommended to pass the image of Saint Charbel to to other sick persons for it is likely to loose its power because diseases heap one upon another. None the less , once I lent this "medicine" to my neighbour Mrs. Yakovleva. And it did help her..."

The letter is signed by the inhabitants of house Nr. 1 : A. Yakovleva, S. Diakonova, O. Gorbunova, T. Pyatich.

"Matyrsky Settlement, Phiskulturnikov Street, 4-35, Nina Plotnikova. My dear "Folk Physician", thanks to your assistance I provided four families with images of Saint Charbel which proved to be very helpful in treatment of different ailments. Here's just an example: my child was running high temperature. A doctor was not available. I applied Saint Charbel's portrait and, believe me, in some fifteen minutes the temperature was down. If it is possible, do send us one and a half dozen of images of Saint Charbel from Lebanon."

"I'm a retired teacher. I'm eager to tell you in what way Saint Charbel helps me and my family. The saint monk has become a kind of relative of ours. His image is of particular help in relieving pains when ap-plied to an aching pancreas, the pains disappear in a matter of a few minutes. Recently I happened to hurt my hand, a blue swollen mark was formed. I applied the image, prayed... and it was removed in a few minutes. It was a sheer miracle. The portrait of Saint Charbel is also of use with my neurosis. Sometimes I contemplate his image for some time, murmur the paternoster, appeal to Saint Charbel for help, beg Jesus Christ to forgive

my sins and then thank God and Saint Charbel for the deliverance from the pains. Mrs. V.V. Antoniak, Lipetsk, Kosmonavtov Street, 22 - 4."

Probably, a thrilling book could be compiled of letters written by newspaper's readers which would tell about miraculous healings promoted by Saint Charbel of Lebanon. The geographical origin of the letters which on their way to the editorial office have covered thousands of miles is very impressing. The correspondents reside as far as the shores of the Pacific Ocean and the icy Barents sea, the peninsula of Kamchatka and the Caucasus mountains. It is very likely that the saint monk really was enchanted by God since he was endowed with such a sacred power to heal people irrespective of their places of residence, nationality, religious convictions. Here are some more persuasive facts taken from our readers' letters.

Ivan G. Pokrovsky, a Second World War veteran, a retired secondary school director, the chairman of the local branch of the Disabled persons association not only sent a letter to us but also told about his miraculous recovery at a gathering attended by a great number of people.

"I have been having non-healing trophic ulcers for many years. Recently the doctors have been considering an amputation of my leg which is highly undesirable in my advanced age. As a subscriber of long standing to "The Folk Physician" I have taken a decision to benefit by the recommendation to submit myself to the reviving power of the Lebanese Saint. It was with a profound faith in a successful outcome that I was applying his portrait to my sore leg for a long time patiently pleading with God and Saint Charbel to spare me the ordeal of a surgical intervention. Believe me or not : the non-healing wounds started skinning over. There's no talk of amputation any more. That is why I'm making such publicity of the newspaper "The Folk Physician" and Saint Charbel whose body is to be found so far from Russia but relieves sufferings of the Russians at such a long distance..."

"My mother is 72 years old but she finds help and solace only in the image of Saint Charbel. The great Charbel has become her invariable doctor. Mrs. Valentina P. Pisareva, Voronezh, Geroev Sibiryakov Street, 33-38."

"The photo of Saint Charbel has assisted me in recovering from a medium degree brain concussion, it helps to relieve a heartache and colds. I have a profound belief in the Saints power. Sincerely yours. Lykova Raissa Semyonovna, Kirovsk region, Sozimsky Settlement, Naberezhnaya Street, 27-13."

"Last year my daughter-in-law started bleeding. Her hands and feet grew cold. I knelt beside her bed and began praying. Then I placed an image of the Saint from Lebanon upon her breast. In half an hour the young woman grew warm. Next morning she told me that Charbel's image radiated a powerful stream of warmth and the sick felt better. Tyrina Valentina Michailovna, Matyrsky Settlement, Lipetsk region, Kaluzhskaya Street, I".

We chanced from time to time to come across letters which tell about peculiar cases of recovery promoted by the Saint's image. Here's a letter written by a woman from the ancient Russian town of Elets. She had a pleasant looking kid which died. Her husband told her: *"Let the body lie till tomorrow morning and then I'll bury it."* The woman prayed over the kid's body and laid Saint Charbel's image upon it. Then she went to bed. In the morning the kid ran up to her bed."

Mrs. Natalia Kudiaeva from the settlement "Vesyoly" of the Rostov region tells in her letter the following story : *"Saint Charbel rendered assistance to my father who was expecting to be operated on for a malignant tumour. Now he is still with us although his situation seemed to be a hopeless one.*

My daughter suffered with an inflammation of lymphonodi, after an application of Saint Charbel's image she recovered completely. But I would like to tell in what way the Lebanese Saint saved our tomcat. It was dying. The veterinary said that there was no sense in treating it. But I laid the cat upon the Saint's image , covered it with another image and sat down beside it praying for some three hours. The breathing of an animal grew regular. And at night our pet ran up to my bed and climbed it up. The tomcat is still alive. Thank God , Saint Charbel and you, the employees of the newspaper which introduced this phenomenon to us, the Russians. God bless you!"

The Dead Monk Works Miracles

In 1909 by a special decision Charbel's body was laid into a coffin with a glass lid and exhibited for everyone to see. And from this very day on people flocked to the coffin in the way that the Lebanese called a real pilgrimage. Vatican did not acknowledge the monk as a saint because needed more prooves if his sanctity. And Saint Charbel as if he had been hearing these arguments started working miracles every day: he healed the

mentally challenged, restored the vision by the blind and the hearing by the deaf.

The pinkish coloured liquid kept on flowing out, no signs of decomposition were witnessed during 17 years: the smell of a sleeping person still persisted, the skin remained clear and the members of the body flexible.

In 1927 Charbel's body was laid into a zinc coffin which was placed into a wooden one. The crypt was constructed with double walls in order to avoid water penetration. But in 1950 the attendants all of a sudden took notice of the fact that the walls of the crypt started leaking and the same jelly-like pinkish liquid was flowing down them.

Both the coffins had to be opened, everything appeared to be the same : the monk's body kept on "sweating". The world-renowned mathematicians calculated that if Charbel's corpse is loosing 3 grams of liquid per day, it would have lost 75 kgs for a 66-years period, that is , it would have become mummified, which as you know did not happened to it. The scientists and doctors were lost in conjectures.

"Enchanted by the God"

Such is the title of the book by Paul Dacher which was published by one of the largest Lebanese publishing houses in 1965. The book made Saint Charbel even more famous all over the world.

Seven years later in 1977 the monk Charbel was officially acknowledged by the Roman church as a saint. A pompous solemn ceremony took place. The Lebanese psychopathologist Mrs. I. Sakr attended the ceremony of beautification of Charbel , her countryman as a member of the Lebanese delegation. Oh, that was a grand feast! Patriarchs and bishops of the catholic church (maronites are a branch of the catholic church) came to Rome from all over the world. In the most solemn way the Pope of Rome declared about the beautification of the monk Charbel...

* * *

Let's interrupt our story here and make a short digression. In the course of work on the booklet about Saint Charbel we were much bothered by some of our readers. It seemed to them that the orthodox christians should not apply for help to the catholic Saint Charbel since the christian orthodox church has plenty of saints of its own. My first question to such people always was as the following: "Are you obtaining any help

from the image of Saint Charbel?" - "Yes, surely." - "Then what is the problem? We are all christians. Why should not we, Russians, make avail of the gift of God and jump at the opportunity to be healed by the Saint's image? Most revered in Russia Saint Nicolas renders assistance to the catholics, as well as to another believers who seek his help by addressing their prayers to him. Probably, this discourse is here out of place, but it is for many years that talks have been under way between different confessions and churches about a possibility of uniting all the christians into a single christian church.

And now let's return to the letters of our readers.

"She's Seeing Everything with Her Defective Eye"

Here's the letter of Evgenia Nickolaevna Vachrushina from Bashkortostan :

"Recently I was staying at the hospital and there happened to come across the image of Saint Charbel in a newspaper. It was shown to us by the nurses. And we had the opportunity to get convinced in the healing power of this photo in which Saint Charbel looked as if he were sleeping. I'm writing about what I myself was a witness to. An acquaintance of mine who was very much shortsighted (she was not able to read without spectacles at all) applied the photo to her eyes and later on having returned to her home could read a newspaper. Another friend of mine had got a lump which was caused by an injection erroneously targeted into a bone. She applied the photo upon the lump which in the course of two days resolved. A third friend of mine was having acute pains in the arm above the elbow, she was not able to raise her arm that is why in order to paper the walls of her room she hired two girls. She applied the photo upon her arm and was very much surprised on the following day when she herself coped easily with the work and without any difficulties ascends up the rung ladder. And here's one more story. My friend's eye practically did not see a thing (as if covered with a mist). After having applied the photo she is now looking out of the window and is seeing everything with her defective eye. I burst out crying on having heard it from her..."

* * *

And now allow me to cite an extract from the narrative of the Lebanese psychopathologist Mrs. I. Sakr :

"The way to becoming a saint is a long and complex one and it is not open to everyone. One is to work a lot of miracles not only healing people but also restoring their faith in life.

Hundreds, thousands of people are coming from afar to pay homage to the tomb of Saint Charbel, the sick who are in no condition to travel to Lebanon are sending letters from 95 countries of the world. They send by post photos, locks of hair pleading to lay them upon Saint Charbel's coffin and to return them for healing. In the museum of Saint Charbel there are exhibited letters of the people from various countries of the world, who obtained help from Saint Charbel at a distance of thousands of miles. Hundreds of crutches, orthopedic footwear, splints are also on display there - they were left there by the former invalids. Saint Charbel helped them to get healed.

Bioenergy at the Saint's Tomb

Rumors may be plentiful but a few years ago I decided to go to the mountains to visit Saint Charbel with a group of volunteers in order to carry out an experiment on investigation of bioenergy by means of the apparatus "Bion-1". An amount of bioenergy was supposed to be measured prior to the contact with the tomb of Saint Charbel and post the one.

The first group was composed of the patients suffering with war time neuroses (I was en-gaged by treatment of these people during the war in Lebanon). This members of the group proved to have very low values within the range 10 - 20 mkl according to the "Bion-1" scale.

The second group consisted of healthy people with normal values according to the "Bion-1" scale depending on the age. Among the members of the group there were persons whose values exceeded 200 mkl and with one woman an expert in removing an evil eye bewitchment the value went as high as 900 mkl.

I let people in to contact Saint Charbel one by one in order to avoid en-ergy exchange between the tested persons. I begged all of them to holr their palms directed to the Saint's body. After a 20-minutes contact the amount of energy obtained was measured by me by means of the apparatus.

I immediately took notice of the fact that after the contact with Saint Charbel people returned radiant with good humour, joy, serenity.

On having summed up the data it could be said that some of the tested persons had supplemented their weak biological energy after having contacted the Saint's coffin; some people from the group who were in no need of an extra portion of bioenergy remained at the same level having been enriched by an excellent humour the rest were feeling themselves as

if they had given off an excessive amount of energy which had been a burden to them.

I recollect ourselves having been surrounded by the monks after the test. The Father Superior of the monastery Pater Thomas invited us to partake of a modest meal. While at the table we were, of course, talking about the outstanding fate of the saint monk. Naturally, all the inhabitants of the monastery were anxious about the main problem, namely, for how long the mysterious power of Saint Charbel was likely to last. They all were in no doubt about one thing: the power had been granted to Charbel by God and all the miraculous recoveries took place only by God's blessing. But the monks were also eager to explain the phenomenon in a scientific way. The point was that almost all the monks of this famous monastery possess university degrees, quite a few of them had maintained theses on philosophical, religious, literature, psychological and historic problems.

We shared a simple and very tasty meal with the monks. It was cooked of the products obtained on the fields and farms of the monastery. The food was flushed down with light wine made of the monastery grapes. A strange feeling didn't leave us: somewhere quite near, beyond the wall, Saint Charbel was sleeping peacefully. Scores of years ago he had been working here as a simple monk giving no thought to a mission that the future had had in store for him. Charbel had used to sleep in his unheated cell on the naked stone floor having placed a wooden log under his head instead of a pillow.

I tried my best to explain the phenomenon of Saint Charbel in a scientific way, told the monks about a Turkish woman Karagula by name. Being a Lebanese of the Turkish extraction she had graduated from the medical faculty of the American university of Beirut. This person had been engaged into the study of supersensitive perception with people. She had left for the USA and carried on her experiments down there. Thus, for example, the woman charged with her power a piece of meat every day for 15 minutes during a period of 15 days. And the piece had not been decomposing since 30 years. It means that a concentration of power creates such a field around an object which is preventing its decomposition...

* * *

One should pay tribute to research efforts of the scientists, but they are not likely to find a clue to the phenomenon of Saint Charbel. Charging a piece of meat with power is one thing and healing people of various diseases while being dead for hundred years is quite another thing. The

more so that this activity is becoming from year to year all the more fruitful and powerful.

During three years two world renowned doctors were investigating the phenomenon of Saint Charbel. But they didn't succeed in getting close to the heart of the matter. A certain physician was very much presumptuous in declaring to have got very close to unveiling the mystery. In order to prove it he carried out an experiment. With the purpose to stop ichor flowing off the Saint's body was placed into a special cabinet and the legs were covered with quicklime. This sadistic method was supposed to decompose the Saint's limbs and stop sweating. But profound was the disappointment when it turned out that Charbel's body still intact...

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Quite recently the editorial staff of "The Physician" managed to get in touch with the International Centre of Saint Charbel in Lebanon. The Lebanese student of the Medical Academy of Voronezh Mr. Amin by name while staying on vacation in his native land visited the Centre on our request and gave over to the monks all the publications in the Russian newspapers, as well as a booklet with the Saint's image. We got in exchange priceless gifts from the personnel of the Centre: colored lockets with Saint Charbel's image, a book on his life and death, a videofilm, colorful postcards which had proved helpful to the sick, as well as pieces of fabric consecrated on Saint Charbel's tomb and inserted into amulets.

What is the International Centre of Saint Charbel like? That is what the visitor to it, Mr. Amin told us :

"The International Centre today is a modern body with a developed infrastructure receiving daily an uninterrupted stream of pilgrims for thousands of people from various countries of the world literally flock there. I met the monks engaged in the activity of the Centre, told them in details about Russia, "The Physician" newspaper, which regularly carries articles on the famous healer and gave over to them a few copies of the newspaper.

The monks seemed very much satisfied by the story told, by the fact that Saint Charbel now had worshippers not only in the Arab world, Europe, Asia and America, but also in Russia. The copies of "The Folk Physician" occupied their places among the numerous international exhibits of Charbel's museum. The monks declared about their readiness to receive at the Centre the suffering from Russia.

The monks requested me to convey their message to the Russians : believe in Saint Charbel, his Divine force and power are destined to render real help to the suffering.

From Our Readers' Letters

"I Thought I Have Broken My Leg"

Mrs. Tchovzhik Irina Petrovna, resident in Shevtchenko Street, Lipetsk.

"I intended to take some holy water from the springs in our park, but slipped, fell down upon my arm and couldn't get up , so intense the pain was. I got frightened I may have broken my arm. It cost me great efforts to get home. Injections were given me during a few days , the hurt spot massaged and ointments rubbed into it. Unfortunately the pains did not subside. Then a strange feeling struck me , I felt as if someone had urged me - it dawned upon me that at my home I have a copy of newspaper with Saint Charbel's image. It was applied by me a few times upon a hurt spot and I definitely felt better. Soon the pains disappeared at all. What luck!"

* * *

And here's one more letter from Lipetsk written by Mrs. Ivanova, resident in Moskovskaya Street.

"I would like to tell about the miracle which took place with me by virtue of Saint Charbel's portrait. All of a sudden I literally "got off my legs", namely my left leg was confined into a plaster boot as a consequence of an operation carried out on the great toe (indicated for removal of transverse platypodia), and the right one was sutured after an extraction of a piece of needle from the foot. Only my right foot could serve as supporting one so I had to make use of a pair of clutches. The sutured spot on the right foot got inflamed, swelled, grew red, started trickling ichor, a mere touch to it gave pain to tell nothing of stepping upon it. The only thing left to me was to exercise patience and carry on with the treatment. I covered the space around the suture with a layer of ointment, covered the suture with a piece of paper and tied a Saint's image upon it. Then I fell asleep.

I got awake in a couple of hours - it was daytime - and started to take off newspaper and paper wrappings off my foot. I was stunned. No redness, no pain, swelling, ichor !

I sent my thanks to God and Saint Charbel with all my heart! From that moment on I have never parted with Saint Charbel's image..."

* * *

In order to provide a more comprehensive description of the Saint's healing power we site the words of the reputed French doctor, Medical Academy of Paris prize winner , Mr. A.Charvin (translated from French):

"Misfortune struck during my absence. All of a sudden my wife suffered a pulmonary edema which practically meant an instant death. Struggling for survival my wife made an effort for snatching a locket with an amulet of Saint Charbel which she had brought from Lebanon and pleaded with the Saint to come to her aid. She plunged into a coma. A friend of ours , my colleague-doctor found her on the brink of death and summoned me. On the way home I was saying good-bye in my thoughts to my faithful friend.

To my greatest astonishment on having got home I found my wife smiling joyfully. Prayed to God and Saint Charbel because a pulmonary edema had been never heard of to get cured by itself. And there was one more thing about the miracle which puzzled me: this fit of disease hadn't left any organic alterations..."

From Our Readers' Letters

The Miracle Happened in Voronezh

On having received this fantastic letter the members of the editorial staff for some time were pondering over the problem whether it was worth publishing it. The thing seemed to be far too improbable. But we came to a reasonable conclusion: if an adult person, a professional nurse into the bargain, had wished to share her joy with us what right had we got to disbelieve her ? Here's the letter from Voronezh (the address of the woman is to be found with the editorial staff of "The Physician").

"I have been working as a nurse for many years and have seen a lot in my professional life. I have always believed only in the professional medicine, particularly in surgery. Forgive me, but I have never had faith in healing with the help of various saints, the more so , by means of their images. I'm a religious person at that and often attend the church service.

But it happened so that quite by chance a fibramatous node was was detected in my breast. I was urgently sent to the oncologist.

You may understand the way one feels when one is facing such a challenge. Quite by accident and , probably, not by accident (there's nothing accidental in our life) I came across Saint Charbel's portrait published in the booklet by the writer A. Bayukansky. I read the booklet and decided that there was nothing for me to loose and there was no harm in trying this remedy. I started applying the portrait on and prayed zealously. For a month I was going to bed with Saint Charbel's image, pleaded with the Saint for help, appealed to God.

And believe me or not, a genuine miracle took place. I could hardly believe it myself when I was again subjected to a medical examination, ultrasonic examination and various analyses and heard the doctors exchanging opinions in an agitated way.

- Excuse me, - the principal told me, - we are unable to understand what has happened. There is no tumour any more, it has resolved.

I didn't explain anything, but on my return home thanked God and Saint Charbel with all my heart. It is obvious that not everyone is likely to believe me, but the event did take place. Probably, the tumour was affected by psychotherapy, but most probably it was removed by the monk Charbel whose power I now trust infinitely..."

* * *

"Dear Mr. Bayukansky,

thank you very much indeed for bringing to our knowledge the phenomenon of Saint Charbel, for your sympathy and humanity. I have already written to you of what great help the Saint's portrait is to me , but would like to add something. I had been undergoing a treatment for my eyes (I was suffering with lenticular opacity). Upon a completion of the treatment I visited the doctor. During an examination it came out that the left eye saw in a better way and the cataract had disappeared. The doctor was at his wits' ends. " I really don't perceive what this spectacular improvement should be ascribed to. You haven't got any cataract at all, you are just myopic!" I didn't utter a word about the portrait of the Saint which had initiated this miracle." Valentina Ivanovna, 392020, Tambov, Tchitchkanov Street,131.

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Letters, letters, piles of letters! Frankly speaking , being the author of this modest booklet, I had not got any idea that so many people would respond to my appeal to tell of what help a Saint Charbel's image had been

to them. My initial doubt in this respect is easy to understand : not every person and the more so one suffering with a bunch of diseases is likely to tell openly about one's ailments, but it the joy of having been healed appears so overwhelming that one is eager to share it with friends as well as with unknown people.

Oh yes, Saint Charbel is a real miracle. Sometimes I chance to hear from thr believers that the Bible narrates about so many miracles but we do not come across any miracles nowadays. On the contrary, as you see, miracles do happen in our days as well. The news about such a magic event spreads at once and people jump at the opportunity to make avail of Saint Charbel's assistance. My citing of the very first letter in this booklet is incomplete for I omitted a few last lines from it which you will be able to read now below :

"Copies of the newspaper "The Folk Physician" Nr.11 were selling out in our town just like hot cakes. I personally bought 8 copies for myself, my senior daughter, distributed the rest among my colleagues and neighbours. Saint Charbel extended his help almost to everybody. We are pleading with you to publish his photo once more, the copies will be bought for acquaintances of ours and distant relatives. We thank you in advance."

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Tchaplyghin, Lomonosov Street, 70

"Saint Charbel helped me immensely. I was suffering with acute pains in the foot. I didn't know in what way to mitigate the pains and quite by chance came across a portrait of Saint Charbel. The pain subsided even after a single session of application and I felt better. Consequently I used to apply the portrait upon my foot keeping it there for a long time. And it was not in vain. The swelling was reduced, the pains disappeared. I don't know in what way to explain it but I'm thankful with all my heart to Saint Charbel. His dead body is not only sweating with ichor but perceiving the plight of the sick as well. And do accept my gratitude for publishing the photo of the hermit who after his death is still doing the good to people. God bless you for this act of kindness!"

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Orlovsky region, town of Maloarchangelsk,
Karl Marx Street, 71 Mr. Borsenkov I.M.

"Saint Charbel aided my fellow-citizens to get rid of many an ailment but I was unlucky in this respect. Someone stole newspapers from my letter-box. At last I managed to procure a copy with his image, but friends of mine bor-rowed it and... I never got it back. We beg you to print an issue with Saint Charbel's image once more."

The sick Russians who have already availed themselves of Saint Charbel's aid advise during these unusual sessions of treatment to plead mentally with God for help through Saint Charbel; on having got relief one should express one's gratitude to God and Saint Charbel.

In case a person applies an image upon an ailing spot with mockery and scorn, one is not likely to get healed, for only a profound faith into getting rid of diseases will do you a lot of good.

By the observations of the sick whom Saint Charbel has rendered his assistance one shouldn't plead for help in getting rid of all the diseases at once. The retired colonel, Russian Space centre engineer Alexander Nockolaevitch Besedin recommends first to do away with one illness, then, a couple of days later to plead for healing from another one and in this way to gradually purify the whole organism.

Be patient. One shouldn't cherish hopes that being affected by any dangerous disease one gets cured at once. Sometimes people feel relief in some 20-30 minutes, sometimes hours or days elapse till Saint Charbel renders his help. Faith, patience and hope in the healing power of the saint work miracles, of which fact you must have become convinced by reading numerous letters of the Russians.

We also would like to warn all those who have a desire to make avail of the Saints help, his image that application of his portrait presents no panacea for all the diseases, that would be too much of a good thing ; that is why while mak-ing use of Saint Charbel's portrait one shouldn't reject a doctos's help and medicine recommended by him. Only by joint efforts you are sure to get an upper hand over the diseases in a shorter period of time.

And to conclude the story about Russia's acquaintance with the miraculous activity of Saint Charbel here are some more letters from the readers of "The Physician".

Mr. A.N. Besedin, the town of Tchablygyn, Sadovaya Street, 10.

"I'm a retired colonel of the space forces and when in the military service took part in the creation of space systems "Soyuz-Apollo "and

spaceship "Buran". Now I carry out a treatment of my numerous diseases by means of a Saint Charbel's image. I even managed to develop my own techniques of treatment. First I concentrate upon one disease , pray to God and plead with it and beg to aid me through Saint Charbel. Then I occupy myself with another disease. It is an only way out for me because neither medicine, nor doctors proved to be of any use. My deep gratitude to this Lebanese monk who still is aiding people after his demise."



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