

St. Ignatius of Antioch

Tuesday, 30 January 2007

Not far from St. Andrew's skete a cell of St. Ignatius of Antioch towers above Karyes. The cell belongs to the monastery of Hilandar; it was founded by St. Savva's father, The tsar of Serbia Stephan Nemani in the end of the 11th century.

The restorer of the cell celibate monk Moysis served as a penman in Russia. He arrived to the Mount Athos with his elderly father in 1884. Despite of his age his father (monastic name Iakov) was strict during the Lent spending the 1st and the 7th weeks of the Lent without any food. After three years of temptations Moysis was made a monk and later a celibate monk.

Â

Originally the monk Moysis had lodged in the cell of Christmas of the Virgin of the Pantokrator monastery. But subsequently he had selected a deserted Serbian cell belonging to the monastery of Hilandar. In a short while a spacious new temple of Ignatius of Antioch was constructed. The old temple dedicated to this Saint had been renamed into a temple of Christmas of the Virgin.

Â

Besides on the Hilandar request the monk Moysis built a cell named after All saints in the place called Jovannica. In this cell the monk Moysis was killed by an unknown murderer.

Â

Among the treasures held within the cell are the relics of 18 Saints and a miracle-working icon of the Theotokos.