

TURN YOUR EYES TOWARD ME

St. Ephrem the Syrian is one of Mary's greatest cantors. He has exalted her in her privileges and in her unique perfection: "You, O Christ, and Your Mother are the only ones who are beautiful under every aspect, because there is no uncleanness in You, O Lord, and no stain in Your Mother."

St. Ephrem also speaks in a notable fashion about the action that Mary exercises over the lives of Christians. He guides the faithful to invoke Mary as Mother and Mediatrix and to take refuge in her with humble and filial trust: "Mary is the hope of those exiled who can attain reconciliation and reenter paradise."

Owing to the elegance of his writing style, St. Ephrem has been called the "lyre of the Holy Spirit." In addition, his Mariological teaching has earned him the title of "Marian Doctor."

MOST Holy Lady, Mother of God,
you are the only one completely pure in soul and body,
and you surpass all purity,
all virginity, and all chastity.

You are the sole dwelling place of all the grace of the Spirit,
and you far surpass the Angels in purity and in holiness of soul and body.

Turn your eyes toward me.
I am sinful and impure
and stained in soul as well as in body
with the passions and pleasures
that constitute the weeds of my life.

Set my spirit free from its passions.
Sanctify and restrain my thoughts
when they race toward adventurism.
Regulate and divert my senses.
Shake off the detestable and infamous tyranny
of my impure inclinations and passions.
Destroy in me the empire of sin.

Grant wisdom and counsel to my spirit
that is filled with darkness and wretchedness.
Help me to correct my faults and my failings.
Then, set free from the night of sin,
may I be worthy to glorify and exalt you without reserve,
O sole true Mother of the true Light,
Christ our God.

Alone with Him and through Him,
you are blessed and glorified
be every visible and invisible creature,
now and forever.

ST. EPHREM THE SYRIAN