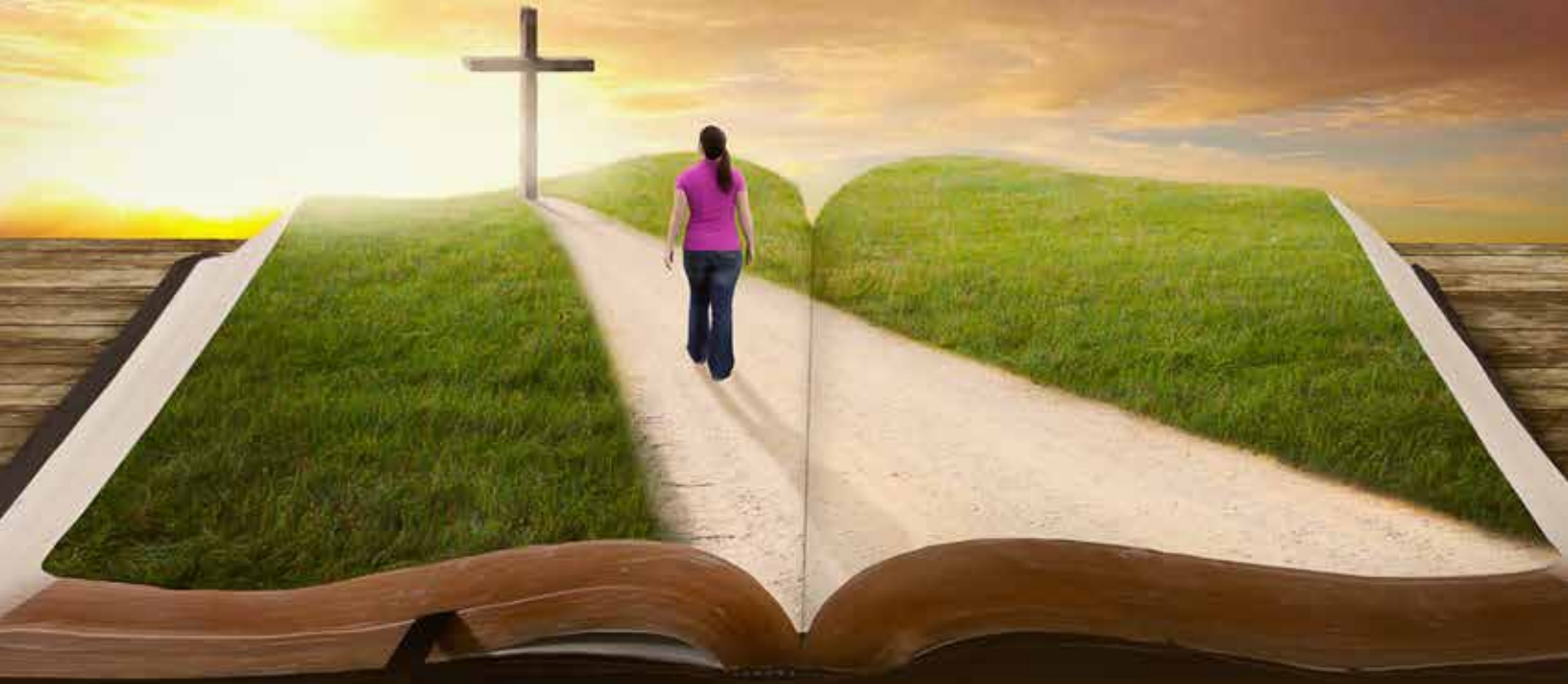




Philopateer

Philopateer Magazine 2nd Year - Issue No.7 June 2018

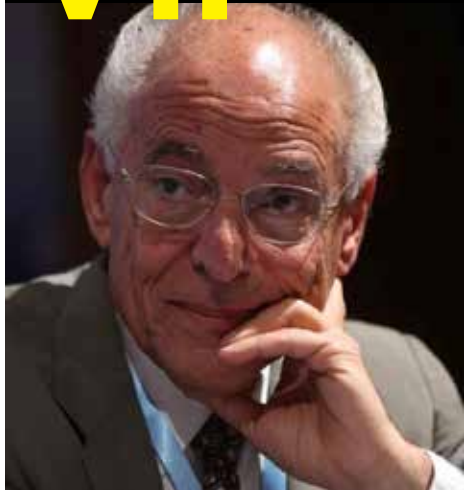
«I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.»
John 14:6



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An Egyptian VIP



Egypt has long been a country known for its mathematicians and scientists. Since ancient times, many of the worlds leading scientists have come from Egypt, and modern times are no exception. One of the most influential modern scientists to hail from Egypt is renowned former NASA scientist Dr. Farouk El-Baz.

Dr. Farouk El-Baz was born on January 2nd, 1938 in Zagazig, a town on the Nile Delta. He studied at Ain Shams University, and at age 20 received a B.Sc. in Chemistry and Geology. Soon after, Dr. El-Baz traveled to the United States, and received a MS degree in Geology from what is now Missouri University of Science and Technology in 1961. In 1964 he received his PhD in Geology from the Missouri University of Science, and throughout the years Dr. El-Baz has received many other honorary degrees from universities across the United States and Egypt.

Dr. El-Baz even taught Geology at Assiut

University for two years between 1958 1960, and the University of Heidelberg, Germany from 1964 1965.

Dr. El-Baz also participated in the first offshore oilfield in the Gulf of Suez, the El-Morgan, while working with the Pan American U.A.R. Oil Company in 1966.

Beginning in 1967, Dr. El-Baz's extensive knowledge and expertise was utilized when he joined NASA as Supervisor of Lunar Science Planning on the Apollo Program. Over the next 6 years, Dr. El-Baz was given the responsibility of selecting sites for the Apollo missions. Among a few different titles he held, Dr. El-Baz also held the title of Chairman of the Astronaut Training Group. Dr. El-Baz did such a fantastic and detailed job in preparing the astronauts of Apollo 15 for their mission that Command Module Pilot Alfred Worden said, After the King's [Farouk's nickname] training, I feel like I've been here before. Dr. El-Baz was so talented in translating complex scientific terms into laymans terms that he was also regularly in charge of briefing the press on the results of the missions, often being quoted.

After the completion of his tasks with NASA, Dr. El-Baz joined the esteemed Smithsonian Institution, and was also elected as a member of the Lunar Nomenclature Task Group of the International Astronomical Union, which he is still a part of, and where he names characteristics of the moon as exhibited in photographs taken on Lunar missions.

Having been such an asset in his previous work with them, NASA appointed Dr. El-Baz to the post of Principal Investigator of the Earth Observations and Photography Experiment on the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP), which was the first combined space mission between America and the USSR in July 1975. On this mission a strong priority was placed on capturing images of dry and arid environments such as the Sahara Desert, as well as other features of the planet. Some of these images are displayed



in the halls of Boston University, where Dr. El-Baz now teaches.

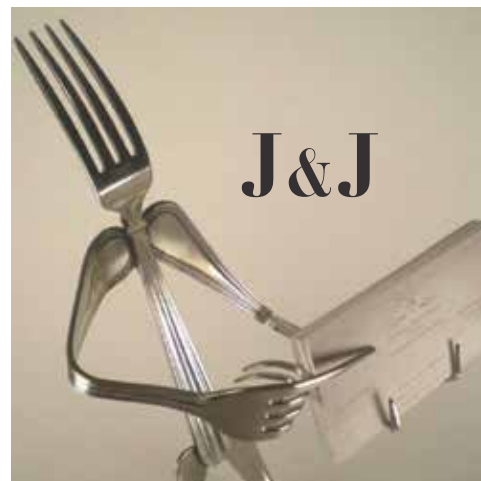
Dr. El-Baz spent several years traveling to different ends of the globe to collect data, even chronicling one of his journeys for National Geographic and the Explorers Journal. Having spent so much time and effort researching the origins of deserts, Dr. El-Baz was elected as Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Next, Dr. El-Baz joined Itek Optical Systems as President, where he oversaw the usage of the Space Shuttles Large Format Camera photos.

As a service to his native Egypt, Dr. El-Baz also served as Science Advisor to the late President Anwar El Sadat, from 1978 1981, where he was responsible for selecting areas of desert land that could be developed without harming the environment, to accommodate Egypt's growing population. In 1986, Dr. El-Baz joined Boston University as a Research Professor and the Director of the Center for Remote Sensing. He continues to conduct research using satellite images to learn about the worlds deserts. He is even responsible for changing common belief that deserts are man-made by giving evidence and spreading the concept that they are, in fact, the result of major changes in the worlds climates. Dr. El-Baz is also accredited with locating groundwater in the dry and arid locations of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and his native Egypt. He found the groundwater by analyzing radar images of depressions in the terrain, believing that these depressions must be ground water



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« Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.» Psalm 127:1

إِنْ لَمْ يَبْنِ الرَّبُّ الْبَيْتَ، فَبَاطِلًا يَتَعَبُ الْبَنَّاؤُونَ. إِنْ لَمْ يَحْفَظِ الرَّبُّ الْمَدِينَةَ، فَبَاطِلًا يَسْهَرُ الْخَارِسُ. مز ١٢٧ : ١

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Father : Bishoy Andrawes

Have you ever read a book and said, "The whole world must read this book? How come it's hidden from people?" These are the exact words I said when I first read "The Pachomian Koinonia, the Life of St. Pachomius." This book is very unique in how it shows you the life of the early Christians in Egypt during the fourth century, with detail you won't find in any other book. You find out how they eat, how they meet, and how they pray. It's full of very interesting stories that are full of wisdom.

This book is about the life of St. Pachomius, who started the Koinonian life. Koinonia is a Greek word that means fellowship; or more accurately the life of fellowship. This life of fellowship was first introduced in the book of Acts when Christians lived a life of sharing everything in life and no one owned anything alone. St. Pachomius introduced this early Christian life in a systematic way in monasticism. Monastic life had started with St. Anthony where he taught people how to be monks, either individually or in small groups in different cells. St. Pachomius introduced the life Koinonia after he received its details from an angel of the Lord. St. Pachomius is the one who started the monastic life in a monastery; once again by a divine guidance. He started establishing houses first, where people lived together in life of fellowship. Each house had people who were of the same spiritual level -- some houses for beginners, some for spiritually advanced believers, and some for ascetic monks. St. Pachomius trained his spiritual children to move forward in their spiritual life. He had thousands and thousands of trainees. His legacy continued after his life on earth and spread monasticism all over the world. St. Benedict, for example, used St. Pachomius' rule and spread them even further.

The life story of St. Pachomius is beautiful, and it is worth reading. He didn't start his life as a typical saint, who

were raised in a Christian family -- he actually came from a heathen family. During war, he was captured as a war prisoner. It was during this time that some random people came to him in prison and showed him a lot of love. He did not know who these people were, but when he learned that they were Christians and that they offered love solely because of their religion, he vowed to be a Christian once he was released from prison. This is exactly what he did. Not only did he become a Christian, but he became a missionary, and he offered love and service to anyone who he came across. St. Pachomius later wanted to spend more time with God in solitude, so he went to the outskirts of the city and became a disciple of a very righteous ascetic father called St. Balamon. St. Balamon became his spiritual father and he gave him the basics of monastic and ascetic life. He grew in holiness so much under St. Balamon. Once, he had an amazing dream. It was raining, and when he opened his hands to catch the rain, he found it as honey in his hands. The honey filled his hands, and spilled over. This spilled honey spread all over the world. This was a prophetic dream, which was prophesying that his life and the grace that God gave him, would spread throughout the world. St. Pachomius did not lead a monastic life with a typical leadership, like many other abbots, but with a leadership that was really led by the Spirit of God. He knew how to help different people with different backgrounds. He helped people grow and to understand that life of holiness is something that you grow in little by little, and you need to learn how to grow in it in a smooth way.

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MESSAGE TO THE YOUTH

Appeal of a mother and a father My dear child,

One day soon you will see me old and acting irrationally; give me some time and have the patience to understand me.

When my hand starts to tremble, dropping food on my chest; and when I no longer have the strength to dress myself, stand by me and consider that, yesterday, I taught you all the things I'm not capable of doing today. If I'm no longer stylish, if I don't smell good enough for you, do not ridicule me and remember how hard I had to work all those years to make you look and smell fine when you were younger.

Do not mock my ignorance and not appreciating the things of your generation but be my eyes and my mind to understand what I don't. I am the one who taught you when you didn't know, I'm the one who prepared you to face life. How is it that today you are telling me what's right and what's wrong?

Please don't get tired of my poor memory, slurred words and slow thinking because my only pleasure when we talk is being with you!

Just help me get things done, trust that I still know what I want! And when my legs can't carry me where I need to go, have compassion on me, and remember how many times I have taken your hand and helped you walk. Don't be embarrassed to hold my hand; tomorrow you will look for someone to hold yours.

I want you to know that at this age, I no longer look forward to the years ahead, but I simply wait the end! Be with me, and not against me in my final years.

If I made mistakes in the past, I want you to know that I only had your best interest at heart; and it's far better than how you're treating me now.

Your smile and laughter still bring me joy as always, so please do not deprive me of your friendship!



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The Language of Youth

When I become Ninety years old, I will tell the youth at my age now this story:

Ninety years, that's a LONG amount of time! With wrinkles of years, snow white hair, gnarled, bony hands that shake while holding a cane, eyes dimmed and hearing declined by age, and a soft voice, ninety-year-olds may appear weak and destitute, but are richer and healthier than the most athletic youth. What they lack in appearance and abilities is made up with intelligence and experience!

Mary came from school with tears in her eyes



and her ears strawberry red. Her grandmother, Rebecca, is aware of Mary's bad mood and asks her why she feels badly.

"The kids at school make fun of me for reading my Bible on the bus or during free time. They look at my spiritual books and mock me. Even my friends question me about why I'm different. I know Christians are different from everyone else, and that there are many trials we face, but I didn't think it would be this hard."

Rebecca closed her eyes and prayed a silent prayer so God would help her advise her granddaughter. It pained her to see and hear Mary cry out of confusion. When she opened her eyes, a mischievous smile played across her lips.

"Ah, high school, such a long time ago. I remember asking my mother the same question."

"What did she say?" Mary sniffled.

"Honestly, I can't remember."

Mary's shoulders sank with dismay.

"But," Rebecca continued, "I remember what I did about my differences. I went to school and kept doing what I did while drowning out their cymbal-like mouths."

"That's easier said than done. What made it easier for you to ignore them?"

"As a teenager, I thought the sole purpose of school was learning; however, I didn't know the much bigger purpose until the beginning of my senior year of high school. That purpose is to be a witness for Christ in everything I am and all I do."

"But how does that work?" Mary inquired.

"You get good grades, your grades can account for a witness, as you are faithful in all that you do, no matter who the teacher is. You also said that the children question you because you read your Bible and spiritual books during free periods; by answering the questions, you witness for Christ without thinking about it. Now for why you're different; do you have any idea how you can answer

this question?" Rebecca asked. Shrugging her shoulders, Mary signaled that she did not know.

Rebecca was silent for a minute before she continued. "As Christians, we have certain morals that we set for ourselves. Can you tell me what else the children tease you about?"

Mary thought for a second before she answered. "Sometimes they make fun of me because I don't hang out when I have church."

"Do you think that you're doing the right thing by going to church instead of hanging out?" her grandmother asked.

"I know that it's right, and I'm fine with going to church instead, but now it's getting really annoying. I'm just sick of it!" Mary sobbed.

"All right, you know that you're doing the right thing, and you're okay with it. That's the first step in fighting the enemy. Now I know that the issue is being made fun of. If the kids are genuinely curious as to why you don't hang out when there is church, then answer them politely and stand your ground. However, if it's mockery, then ignore them. If they are persistent, you can tell them that they don't have to worry about why you're different. Say that you feel happy with what you do, and that if he or she is happy his or her way, then there is nothing to worry about."

Mary considered this and smiled.

"Thank you, that really helped."

"No problem, young one. But remember that if you ever need advice, seek it first from God; never feel that He's too busy for you, or that your problem is not important. She nodded and skipped to her desk to work on homework. As she walked, she considered how wise her grandmother must be. At ninety years old, she's seen many years, experiences, and problems. With each wrinkle on her face, she must have solved at least a thousand conflicts a day! Rebecca's experience is what made her easy to confide in and admire. Being old may not mean that someone is wise, but sometimes an experienced elderly is a wise owl.

Mary Nabil Gerges



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I Have a Dream

If we take a look at history, we find that the world's greatest accomplishments all began through a dream.

Someone somewhere was able to make a monumental contribution to our world because they had a dream. From civil rights to advances in medicine to our industry; dreams run everything. For example, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the man who essentially coined the phrase "I Have a Dream", began by vocalizing his dream to see equal rights put forth in America for all races. Years later, his work is still acknowledged and commemorated by all peoples. Dreams bear significant power, and as we can see in this case, Dr. King's dream still lives on today,

years after his death. That, however, is just one example. I write this article today to bring light to the idea that a simple dream can go very far. We spend hours of the day dreaming about things we'd like to do, or things we'd like to see changed, but how many of these ideas and desires are acted upon? Dreams are associated with passion; these two concepts are very powerful, but they aren't complete. They lack three things: God, confidence, and motivation. Through God, we can achieve the confidence and motivation to achieve great things. As we know with the story of Joseph from the Old Testament, he accomplished great things in his lifetime due to the fact that he lived a life in accord with God's word and made sure to live a righteous life. Joseph never lost hope during

his struggles; he remained a righteous man and relied on God to guide him. In the end, it proved successful, as he inherited a great position of power in Egypt. The point to take away from this is that we may come across a dream that we have; a newfound passion or desire to spread goodness to others, but that desire is incomplete without God, simply because we are too shy or scared. Through God, we gain the confidence and motivation, as well as strength and knowledge to pursue and accomplish great things. So on a final note; I have a dream that we all follow our dreams.



Barsoom Tawfik

I think one of the most important things in life is to have a goal.

I think that's what gives us purpose in life, to know what God wants you to do, what he wants you to be and strive towards that. My goal (God willing) is to be a doctor. I think that it's the most personal job out there.

You play a role in people's lives in their best and worst moments in life. You get to see people in their most vulnerable and are able to positively affect their lives for the better. Whenever I lose motivation to work hard I'm always reminded



that the work I put in now directly correlates to me being able to make a difference in people's lives down the line. And it's that vision of a greater purpose that allows me to see beyond individual assignments and strive towards the plan God has in store for me.

George Mina

I have many dreams that I wish would one day come true.

• My first dream is for everyone in the world to believe in God. Though many may be labeled as "Christians," it is important for everyone to know what God really did for them. Jesus Christ, our savior, gave us all the opportunity to believe in him and receive redemption. However, many do not know the gifts that are given to us. Without Jesus, none of us would be saved and only through him will we enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Knowing that the true word of God has been spread to all corners of the Earth will be belated and happy for all the fellow humans that will taste salvation.

• My second dream is the unity of the Christian Church. One day, I



hope all denominations of Christianity come together and rejoice in the name of Jesus in one voice. Right now, I feel that the followers of God are divided. There is not much chemistry between all the believers and coming to a single conclusion would make the holy Church a place full of unity. Being fully united in Christ will not only make followers happy, but will create peace. The Prince of Peace has taught us his peace. As Galatians states, one of the fruits of the Spirit is peace and the first step that is needed to

create this peace is to be unified with Christ as one church.

• My third and final dream is for all the needy to be given their needs. From the poor to the sick, seeing everyone overcome their hardships would enlighten my life. All humans are equal and I believe all humans deserve to live an equal life with few dilemmas. I want to see the poor wealthy, the sick healed, the homeless sheltered, and the hungry fed. Once all this is done, praising the Lord will be the only valuable thing which can be given back. Through Jesus Christ, all tribulations can be dealt with. No human is strong alone. God is the way, the truth, and the life, and only through him will people live life with less stress and problems. May the peace Jesus Christ bless you all!

Steven Massoud