

THE APOSTOLIC TRADITION
OF HIPPOLYTUS

The collection of instructions for worship and Church order which seems to have been composed in the second decade of the third century and which goes by the name of the *Apostolic Tradition* contains in simpler form many of the elements that have been noted in the ceremonies which have formed the subject-matter of the sermons reproduced in this book. The author of the *Apostolic Tradition* was probably Hippolytus of Rome, who possesses the unique distinction of being both an anti-Pope and a canonized saint. The following extracts are taken from Dom Gregory Dix's edition (re-edited by Henry Chadwick, London, S.P.C.K., 1968).

XXI. OF THE CONFERRING OF HOLY BAPTISM

BLESSING OF FONT

1. And at the hour when the cock crows they shall first of all pray over the water.
2. When they come to the water, let the water be pure and flowing.

THE NEOPHYTES

3. And they shall put off their clothes.
4. And they shall baptise the little children first. And if they can answer for themselves, let them answer. But if they cannot, let their parents answer or someone from their family.

5. And next they shall baptise the grown men; and last the women, who shall all have loosed their hair and laid aside the gold garments which they were wearing. Let no one go down to the water having any alien object with them.

CONSECRATION OF HOLY OILS

6. And at the time determined for baptising the bishop shall give thanks over the oil and put it into a vessel and it is called the Oil of Thanksgiving.
7. And he shall take also other oil and exorcise it, and it is called Oil of Exorcism.
8. And let a deacon carry the Oil of Exorcism and stand on the left hand of the presbyter who will do the anointing. And another deacon shall take the Oil of Thanksgiving and stand on the right hand.

RENUNCIATION

9. And when the presbyter takes hold of each one of those who are to be baptised, let him bid him renounce, saying:
I renounce thee, Satan, and all thy service and all thy works.

1ST ANOINTING

10. And when he has said this let him anoint him with the Oil of Exorcism saying:
Let all evil spirits depart far from thee.

BAPTISM

11. Then after these things let him give him over to the presbyter who stands at the water to baptise;
And let them stand in the water naked. And let a deacon likewise go down with him into the water.

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND BAPTISM

12. And when he who is to be baptised goes down to the water, let him who baptises lay hand on him saying thus,
Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty?

13. And he who is being baptised shall say:
I believe.
14. Let him forthwith baptise him once, having his hand laid upon his head.
15. And after this let him say:
Dost thou believe in Christ Jesus, the Son of God,
Who was born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
Who was crucified in the days of Pontius Pilate,
And died, and was buried
And rose the third day living from the dead
And ascended into the heavens,
And sat down at the right hand of the Father,
And will come to judge the living and the dead?
16. And when he says: I believe, let him baptise him the second time.
17. And again let him say:
Dost thou believe in the Holy Spirit in the Holy Church,
And the resurrection of the flesh?
18. And he who is being baptised shall say: I believe. And so let him baptise him the third time.

2ND ANOINTING

19. And afterwards when he comes up from the water he shall be anointed by the presbyter with the Oil of Thanksgiving saying:
I anoint thee with holy oil in the Name of Jesus Christ.
20. And so each one drying himself with a towel they shall now put on their clothes, and after this let them be together in the assembly.

XXII. CONFIRMATION

IMPOSITION OF HANDS

1. And the bishop shall lay his hand upon them invoking and saying:

O Lord God, who didst count these Thy servants worthy of deserving the forgiveness of sins by the laver of regeneration, make them worthy to be filled with Thy Holy Spirit and send upon them Thy grace, that they may serve Thee according to Thy will; for to Thee is the glory, to the Father and to the Son with the Holy Ghost in the holy Church, both now and ever and world without end. Amen.

CONFIRMATION

2. After this pouring the consecrated oil from his hand and laying his hand on his head, he shall say:
I anoint thee with holy oil in God the Father Almighty and Christ Jesus and the Holy Ghost.
3. And sealing him on the forehead, he shall give him the kiss of peace and say:
The Lord be with you.
And he who has been sealed shall say:
And with thy spirit.
4. And so he shall do to each one severally.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

5. Thenceforward they shall pray together with all the people. But they shall not previously pray with the faithful before they have undergone all these things.

KISS OF PEACE

6. And after the prayers, let them give the kiss of peace.

XXIII. THE PASCHAL MASS

OFFERTORY AND CONSECRATION

1. And then let the oblation at once be brought by the deacons to the bishop, and he shall eucharistize first the bread into the representation, which the Greek calls the antitype, of the Flesh of Christ; and the cup mixed with wine for the

antitype, which the Greek calls the likeness, of the Blood which was shed for all who have believed in Him;

MILK AND HONEY

2. and milk and honey mingled together in fulfilment of the promise which was made to the Fathers, wherein He said I will give you a land flowing with milk and honey; which Christ indeed gave, even His Flesh, whereby they who believe are nourished like little children, making the bitterness of the human heart sweet by the sweetness of His word;

WATER

3. water also for an oblation for a sign of the laver, that the inner man also, which is psychic, may receive the same rites as the body.
4. And the bishop shall give an explanation concerning all these things to them who receive.

COMMUNION

5. And when he breaks the Bread in distributing to each a fragment he shall say:
The Bread of Heaven in Christ Jesus.
6. And he who receives shall answer: Amen.
7. And the presbyters — but if there are not enough of them the deacons also — shall hold the cups and stand by in good order and with reverence: first he that holdeth the water, second he who holds the milk, third he who holds the wine.
8. And they who partake shall taste of each cup, he who gives it saying thrice:
In God the Father Almighty;
and he who receives shall say: Amen.
9. And in the Lord Jesus Christ;
and he shall say: Amen.

10. And in the Holy Spirit and in the Holy Church;
and he shall say: **Amen.**
11. So shall it be done to each one.
12. And when these things have been accomplished, let each one be zealous to perform good works and to please God, living righteously, devoting himself to the Church, performing the things which he has learnt, advancing in the service of God.
13. And we have delivered to you briefly these things concerning Baptism and the Oblation because you have already been instructed concerning the resurrection of the flesh and the rest according to the Scriptures.
14. But if there is any other matter which ought to be told, let the bishop impart it secretly to those who are communicated. He shall not tell this to any but the faithful and only after they have first been communicated. This is the white stone of which John said that there is a new name written upon it which no man knows except him who receives the stone.