

CONSUMMATION OF TA'OM THE APOSTLE

Edited by Noel Joshua Hadley

At the command of King Mischeus the blessed Apostle Ta'om was cast into prison; and he said: I glorify Elohiym, and I shall preach the word to the prisoners, so that all rejoiced at his presence. When, therefore, Yutsanes the king's son, and Tertia his mother, and Mygdonia, and Markia, had become believers, but were not yet thought worthy of baptism, they took it exceedingly ill that the blessed one had been shut up. And having come to the prison, and given much money to the jailor, they went into him. And he, seeing them, was glad, and glorified Adonai, and blessed them. And they entreated and begged the seal in Adonai, a beautiful young man having appeared to them in a dream and ordered the apostle into the house of Yutsanes.

And again, the beautiful young man, coming to them and Ta'om, bade them do this on the coming night. And he ran before them, and gave them light on the way, and without noise opened the doors that had been secured, until all the mystery was completed. And having made them communicate in the Eucharist, and having talked much with them, and confirmed them in the faith, and commended them to Adonai, he went forth thence, leaving the women, and again went to be shut up. And they grieved and wept because Mischeus the king was to kill him.

And Ta'om went and found the jailors fighting, and saying: What wrong have we done to that sorcerer, that, availing himself of his magic art, he has opened the doors of the prison, and wishes to set all the prisoners free? But let us go and let the king know about his wife and his son. And when he came, they stripped him, and girded him with a girdle; and thus they stood before the king.

And Mischeus said to him: Are you a slave, or a freeman?

And Ta'om answered and said to him: I am not a slave, and you have no power against me at all.

And how, said Misdeus, have you run away and come to this country?

And Ta'om said: I came here that I might save many, and that I might by your hands depart from this body.

Misdeus says to him: Who is your master, and what is his name, and of what country, and of whom is he?

My Adonai, says Ta'om, is my Master and yours, being Adonai of heaven and earth.

And Misdeus said: What is he called?

And Ta'om said: You cannot know His true name at this time, but I tell you the name that has been given Him for a season—Yahusha HaMashiach.

And Misdeus said: I have not been in a hurry to destroy you, but have restrained myself; but you have made a display of works, so that your sorceries have been heard of in all the country. But now this will I do, that your sorceries may also perish with you, that our nation may be purified from them.

And Ta'om said: Do you call these things which will follow me sorceries? They shall never be removed from the people here.

And while these things were saying, Misdeus was considering in what manner he should put him to death; for he was afraid of the multitude standing round, many, even some of the chief men, having believed in him. And he arose and took Ta'om outside of the city; and a few soldiers accompanied him with their arms. And the rest of the multitude thought that the king was wishing to learn something from him; and they stood and observed him closely. And when they had gone forth three stadia, he delivered him to four soldiers, and to one of the chief officers, and ordered them to take him up into the mountain and spear him; but he himself returned to the city.

And those present ran to Ta'om, eager to rescue him; but he was led away by the soldiers who were with him. For there were two on each side having hold of him, because of sorcery. And the chief officer held him by the hand and led him with honor. And at the same time the blessed apostle said: O the hidden mysteries of You, O Adonai! For even to the close of life is fulfilled in us the riches of Your grace, which does not allow us to be without feeling as to the body. For, behold, four have laid hold of me,

and one leads me, since I belong to One, to whom I am going always invisibly. But now I learn that my Adonai also, since He was a stranger, to whom I am going, who also is always present with me invisibly, was struck by one; but I am struck by four.

And when they came to that place where they were to spear him, Ta'om spoke thus to those spearing him: Hear me now, at least, when I am departing from my body; and let not your eyes be darkened in understanding, nor your ears shut up so as not to hear those things in which you have believed the Elohiym whom I preach, after being delivered in your souls from rashness; and behave in a manner becoming those who are free, being void of human glory, and live the life towards Elohiym. And he said to Yutsanes: Son of an earthly king, but servant of Yahusha HaMashiach, give what is due to those who are to fulfil the command of Misedeus, in order that I may go apart from them and pray. And Yutsanes having paid the soldiers, the apostle betook himself to prayer; and it was as follows:—

My Adonai, and my Elohiym, and hope, and leader, and guide in all countries, I follow You along with all that serve You, and do You guide me this day on my way to You. Let no one take my soul, which You have given to me. Let not publicans and beggars look upon me, nor let serpents slander me, and let not the children of the dragon hiss at me. Behold, I have fulfilled Your work, and accomplished what You gave me to do. I have become a slave, that I might receive freedom from You; do then give it to me and make me perfect. And this I say not wavering, but that they may hear who need to hear. I glorify You in all, Adonai and Master; for to You is due glory forever. *Amen.*

And when he had prayed, he said to the soldiers: Come and finish the work of him that sent you. And the four struck him at once and killed him. And all the brethren wept, and wrapped him up in beautiful shawls, and many linen cloths, and laid him in the tomb in which of old the kings used to be buried.

And Syphor and Yutsanes did not go to the city, but spent the whole day there, and waited during the night. And Ta'om appeared to them, and said: I am not there. Why do you sit watching? For I have gone up and received the things I hoped for; but rise up and walk, and after no long time you shall be brought beside me. A

nd Mideus and Charisius greatly afflicted Tertia and Mygdonia but did not persuade them to abandon their opinions. And Ta'om appeared and said to them: Forget not the former things, for the holy and sanctifying Yahusha Himself will aid you.

And Mideus and Charisius, when they could not persuade them not to be of this opinion, granted them their own will. And all the brethren assembled together, for the blessed one had made Syphorus a presbyter in the mountain, and Yutsanes a deacon, when he was led away to die. And Adonai helped them, and increased the faith by means of them.

And after a long time, it happened that one of the sons of Mideus was a demoniac; and the demon being stubborn, no one was able to heal him. And Mideus considered and said: I shall go and open the tomb, and take a bone of the apostle's body, and touch my son with it, and I know that he will be healed. And he went to do what he had thought of.

And the blessed apostle appeared to him, and said: You did not believe in me when alive; how will you believe in me when I am dead? Fear not. Yahusha HaMashiach is kindly disposed to you, through His great clemency.

And Mideus, when he did not find the bones (for one of the brethren had taken them, and carried them into the regions of the West), took some dust from where the bones had lain, and touched his son with it, and said: I believe in You, Yahusha, now when he has left me who always afflicts men, that they may not look to Your light which gives understanding, O Adonai, kind to men. And his son being healed in this manner, he met with the rest of the brethren who were under the rule of Syphorus, and entreated the brethren to pray for him, that he might obtain mercy from our Adonai Yahusha HaMashiach; to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen.