

القديسة تقلا - - Saint Thecla



St. Thecla's Feast Day is celebrated on September 24.

The only known record of Saint Thecla comes from the apocryphal *Acts of Paul and Thecla*, probably composed in the second century.

According to those *Acts*, Thecla was a young woman of nobility who listened to Paul's "discourse on virginity". She then became Paul's follower and one of his disciples, dedicating her life to virginity. As a result, Thecla's mother, and her fiancé, had both Paul and Thecla punished. Thecla was miraculously saved from being burned at the stake by the onset of a storm, and traveled with Paul to Pisidia in Antioch. There a nobleman named Alexander desired Thecla and attempted to take her by force. Thecla fought him off, assaulting him in the process, and was put on trial for assaulting a nobleman. She was sentenced to be eaten by wild beasts, but was again saved by a series of miracles and the female beasts protected her against her male aggressors.

In Ma'loula, Syria, there is a Greek Orthodox convent named after her. It is near what is said to be the cave in which she was buried. It is reached by stairs in the mountainside. The local legend is that the mountain opened miraculously to protect Thecla from her persecutors.