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The spiritual work of xenitéia in John Climacus

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He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin (USA) in 1971, where he studied Greek and Byzantine history. He entered monastic life three years later. He was tonsured in 1977 and ordained deacon and priest the following year.

Abstract

Saint John places ???????? as the foundation for those who wish to begin climbing the ladder of divine ascent. It can be translated as 'sojourn in a foreign land, exile', or 'isolation from the world, solitude'. 'Love of God is the foundation of exile.' We follow Him who was exiled from heaven to earth. 'Flee from Egypt': the typology of the Exodus runs throughout the Ladder. 'Exile is separation from everything in order to keep the mind inseparable from God.' The guarding of the mind in noetic prayer. Saint John remains the example for one translated to heaven while yet sojourning upon earth.