

## ODE TO SAINT BARBARA

This Ode to Saint Barbara is from His Excellency, Nicholas Samra, Titular Bishop of Gerasa, Auxiliary Bishop, and Protosyncellos of Newton, Brookline, Massachusetts, United States

**Refrain: repeated after each verse of the ode:**

**Id-dee-sa Bar-ba-ra  
'an dir-rab il moukh-ta-ra  
Abu-kee hel ka-fir  
Hel a-ba-dil hee-ja-ra.**

**O holy Saint Barbara,  
honored before the Lord,  
Your father, that heathen,  
Worships stone idols.**

**Ode:**

Abu-kee ha-kim bil a-ra-di sham  
Ha-dal ka-fir ib-nil ee-yam  
Rah-e har-rab il ur-ri-wan  
Kur-han bi-deen il nas-sa-ra.

Your father rules in the land of Sham,  
That pagan is a hypocrite!  
He went to fight the Christians  
To make her reject them.

Ta-lub bin-to 'a di-wan  
ou ha-ka-ha bi shat-mil ed-yan  
oua-la i'bo-dee il o-san  
ou har-be hel nas-sa-ra.

He called his daughter to the grotto  
And told her to blaspheme her religion,  
And told her to adore the stones  
And leave the Christians.

A-lit-lo a-bu-yee ya mis-keen  
Ana bi is-mee ma-ba-leen  
Lo at-'a-oo-nee bis si-keen  
Ma hab but-'an bi deen il nas-sa-ra.

Father, you miserable one, she said,  
I will not change my belief;  
Even if they cut me with a knife  
I will not depart from the Christians.

Al lil kha-dem yakh-doo-ha  
'A-lil kaz-nee wad-doo-ha  
ou ish ma-Tal-bit 'a-too-ha  
Tat har-rib il nas-sa-ra.

He told the servant to take her  
And put her in a cell,  
And give her what she asks  
If she will fight the Christians.

A-lit a-bu-yee mu-jas il nas  
A-khad 'a-lat hel was-was  
A-na 'a-lee kil al-mas  
E-lah-tak kil-ha hee-ja-ra

Father, Ruler of the people, she said,  
This folly overtakes your mind;  
My mind is like a jewel  
Your gods are but stone.

A lil kha-dem yakh-doo-ha  
ou kil As-bati as-boo-ha  
ou yah-la-hu 'a-yoon-ha ou yar-moo-ha  
but-til hal fa-ja-ra.

He told the servant to take her  
And give her many tortures:  
Remove, her eyes and expel her  
To stop this foolishness.

Jab is-saifta-yadh-ba-ha  
sar is-saif mee-na-ra  
Jab il hab-la ta yish-nil-ha

He brought a sword to kill her,  
The sword became a beacon of light;  
He brought a noose to hang her,

Sar-rat il hab-la zan-na-ra  
Jab an-nar ta-yih-ri'-ha  
Sar-rat an-nar-ra ba-khoo-ra.

'E-jit ghay-me ou khuf-fut-ha  
li 'in-dal Ma-seeh a-kha-dit-ha  
At-la-boo kil-kum sha-fa-it-ha  
Hel sha-he-di Bar-ba-ra.

Id-dee-sa Bar-ba-ra  
'an dir-rab il moukh-ta-ra  
Nal-lit ka-ra-mi 'an dAl-lah  
Ta-tit shaf-fat bil nas-sa-ra.

Sel-la' na-lik il slee'-a  
Laysh ma jee-tee a-kal-tee  
Sha'-al na-lik is-sham-'a  
Laysh majee-tee tha-fay-tee-ha.

The noose became a belt;  
He brought fire to burn her,  
The fire became incense.

A cloud came and covered her  
And took her to Christ.  
I ask her intercession for all of you,  
This martyr Barbara.

O holy Saint Barbara,  
honored before the Lord,  
Found mercy with God  
To intercede for Christians.

We prepared boiled wheat for you,  
Why don't you come and eat.  
We lit a candle for you  
Why not come and blow it out.