

WE ARE MORE BLAMEWORTHY THAN ADAM

—by Saint Gregory Palamas—

Many people blame Adam for listening to the diabolical advice of the devil so easily and for disregarding God's commandment, which subsequently became the cause of death for all of us. However, it is not so. It is not the same when someone with no previous experience desires to taste a poisonous herb as when someone who already knows through experience that a herb is poisonous yet still desires to eat from it. The person who, despite having experienced the ill effects of a poisonous herb, still proceeds to eat it and bring death upon himself is more blameworthy than the person who eats a poisonous herb without having prior awareness or ever suffered harm from it. Thus, Adam before having any experience accepted the advice of the cunning devil and transgressed the commandment of the good God. Each one of us, however, does the same thing —alas!—fully aware of and having experienced the consequences of this transgression. This is why each one of us is more blameworthy and condemnable than Adam.