



Epistle of Ecumenical Patriarch Germanos V

April 5, 1913

Most Holy Overseers and Representatives of the Holy Mountain Athos; children of Our Modesty, grace unto Your Holinesses, and peace from God!

From the various letters received from your holy place, as well as from Your Holinesses' official report by which with sorrow was made known unto the Church concerning a newly-appeared, novel and pretentious teaching disseminated by Russian monks regarding the name of "Jesus", as being that very same Jesus and God Himself, which name in a manner of speaking, is hypostatically identified with Him. Inasmuch as this novel and unwarranted teaching which is derived from delusion and misunderstanding, due to ignorance, results in blasphemous heterodoxy and heresy, as co-identifying and confusing those things which cannot be confused, and thus, leads to pantheism, Our Modesty, along with the Most-Holy Metropolitans, and most-honored beloved brethren and concelebrants in the Holy Spirit, who were greatly troubled by the appearance, and moreover by the constant and daily distribution of this impious and soul-corrupting teaching in your chaste place (The Holy Mountain), perceived cause to act, and we immediately once more began to give serious attention to this matter, which had been judged by Our ever-memorable predecessor, Joachim III, and by the resolution of the Sacred Synod, which had met for this purpose. And, moreover, for a more complete knowledge of the details of this delusion, we entrusted a study and examination of the source and the foundation of this same teaching to the committee of the Professors of Our Theological School in Halki, after which, having received from them their analytical explanation, relative to this matter, which explanation we have attached a copy to this letter, at a synodal meeting, we then unanimously condemned and denounced in the Holy Spirit, as blasphemous and heretical, the above-mentioned novel teaching concerning the name "Jesus" as being supposedly that self-same Jesus

and God, whose very essence is contained in His name. Wherefore, by way of this Patriarchal Epistle, we make known to Your Holinesses concerning the Synodal condemnation and judgment of this delusion and direct you to proclaim the decision of the Church to those in the Holy Monastery of St. Panteleimon, and to those in Vatopedi's Skete of St. Andrew, as well as to all of those deluded monks to be found therein, and that you require in Our Name, and in the name of the Church, that they will all completely loathe this blasphemous delusion, and that they from henceforth completely avoid the varied and alien teachings, and faithfully remain only in that which has been received and dogmas, and in the traditional teaching of the Church, for which and by which (Church) there is no novelty. "If any one of you teacheth other than that which ye have received; let him be anathema". If they manifest after this second ecclesiastical admonition that some have remained in this heterodox belief and resolution, and continue to hold to this incoherent teaching; that the name "Jesus" is of itself that very God, we then say that they should be considered as heretics and rebels against ecclesiastical discipline, and that the measures indicated by the Sacred Canons must be taken, and that in no way should it be allowed that such (heretics) remain, and by their pestilence corrupt your chaste place. We pray that the Lord God enlighten all unto the path of piety and virtue.

April 5, 1913

Your fervent intercessor in Christ
[Signed:]

+ *Germanos of Constantinople*

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