

# PROFESSION OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH OF THE HOLY APOSTOLIC CATHOLIC ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; AMEN.

We believe in one God the Father, the Omnipotent, the Maker of all things visible and invisible. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God; the Only-Begotten and the Firstborn of all creatures. He who was born of His Father eternally before all worlds and was not created, true God from true God, of the same nature of His Father, by whom the worlds were made and all things were created, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and became Man. He was conceived and born of the Virgin Mary; He suffered and was crucified in the days of Pontius Pilate, and was buried and rose on the third day as it is written, and ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of His Father; He shall come again to judge the dead and the living. We profess two natures in our Lord Jesus Christ, namely that He is fully God and fully Man, and in two Qnome\* everlastingly and inseparably united in the one person of Sonship. We profess that the Virgin Mary is the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave birth to the one Son of God become Man.

We believe in one Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father; the life-giving Spirit. We profess the Seven Sacraments of the Assyrian Church of the East, namely: 1) Priesthood, which perfects all other sacraments; 2) Holy Baptism; 3) Oil of Chrism; 4) Holy Qurbana (Eucharist); 5) Absolution of Sins; 6) Holy Leaven (Malka); 7) Sign of the Life-Giving Cross.

We profess the orthodox faith and teaching of the ecumenical councils of Nicea (325 A.D.) and Constantinople (381) A.D.). We accept and receive all of the holy synodical canons enacted and decreed by the Patriarchs and Fathers of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East. We further profess that the Catholicos-Patriarch of Seleucia-Ctesiphon, presently His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV Catholicos Patriarch is the Universal Pastor of the Church of the East, the Father of Fathers and Head of all the bishops of this Holy Church.

## Hymn of Praise (TESHBOKHTA) ܬܝܫܒܘܚܬܐ

The Theology of the Church of the East has been stated briefly and clearly in the following Hymn of Teshbokhta

Composed by Mar Babai the Great in the sixth century A.D.  
a noted theologian of the Church

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**ܘܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 One is Christ the Son of God,  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 Worshipped by all in two natures;  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 In His Godhead begotten of the Father,  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 Without beginning before all time;  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 In His humanity born of Mary,  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 In the fullness of time, in a body united;  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 Neither His Godhead is of the nature of the mother,  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 Nor His humanity of the nature of the Father;  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 The natures are preserved in their Qnumas\*,  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 In one person of one Sonship.  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 And as the Godhead is  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 three substances in one nature,  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 Likewise the Sonship of the Son is  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 in two natures, one person.  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 So the Holy Church has learnt,  
**ܘܗܘܝܢܘܨܐ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܒܢܘܨܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.**  
 to confess the Son, who is Christ.

\* Qnuma, is an Aramaic word. The nearest equivalent is the Greek “hypostasis” in Latin “substantia” and in English “substance”.