



## SAINT PAISIOS

### SUMMARY OF SECOND SEASON

#### Episode 1

Father Paisios now a monk in the monastery of Filotheou on Mount Athos, undertakes his own struggle in the monastic life.

His mother also has her own struggle, trying to reconcile within herself her deep faith in God and her deep love for her son.

Father Paisios' fervent desire to go to the most desolate part of Mount Athos, to Katounakia, and to become an ascetic, grows more and more. However, he sees the Mother of God in a vision, who tells him to go to Konitsa, and to rebuild the monastery of Stomio which was burned by the Germans.

So in July 1958 he returns to Konitsa. He goes straight to the burnt monastery without visiting his home.

#### Episode 2

When Eulogia learns that her son has returned, she cannot understand why he did not visit them. This makes her very sad. Father Paisios' brothers go to the monastery to meet him and ask him why he didn't come by the house. There they realize that their brother is devoted to God and to his struggle.

And while he begins the efforts to re-build the monastery, he finds many daily obstacles. The festival of the monastery becomes a source of disturbance, because some of the villagers insist on holding the festival in the courtyard of the church, as they have done every year, while Father Paisios now becomes a hinderance to the festival.

#### Episode 3

With the help of the inhabitants of Konitsa, Father Paisios begins to rebuild the monastery. He decides to go to Corfu and collect the relics of Saint Arsenios. He visits his house and asks his parents and siblings to tell him if they had put some type of marker to find the tomb of the Saint. His mother remembers that when they arrived in Corfu as refugees, Saint Arsenios had said to him, as an infant "my son, this is where you will leave me and from here you will come to take me". What Saint Arsenios had said is happening, and his grace will lead Fr. Paisios to his grave. Indeed, he goes to Corfu, finds the tomb of the Saint and collects the relics. He returns to Konitsa and his whole family emotionally venerate the Saint's relics. After 34 years they receive the blessing of their spiritual father yet again. After an intense emotional scene, Father Paisios begs God to uproot from his heart the love he has for his mother, and for Christ to embrace her in this life and the next.

## **Episode 4**

Father Paisios rescues an orphaned child from a cave in the river. He takes the child to the monastery and loves him as his own son. The child, for the first time in his life, feels that someone cares about him. The charity for the poor created by father Paisios helps and supports many people in Konitsa. A complaint reaches the diocese that Father Paisios is helping communists. The passions and hatreds of the civil war are still strong. The archpriest of the metropolis makes a stern remark to Father Paisios, who in turn explains to him that he does not see different factions when he helps people, but images of God. This infuriates the archpriest even more. The difficulties for Father Paisios are just beginning.

## **Episode 5**

Father Paisios begs Christ to show him true humility. During the liturgy, while he is in the sanctuary and preparing to receive holy communion, the priest kicks him out, telling him that he is unworthy to receive Christ's body and blood. Father Paisios exits the sanctuary, stands last in the queue of the faithful and takes communion last of all. The priest is shocked by his great humiliation and goes to find him in the monastery and ask for forgiveness. Father Paisios, however, tells him that he was benefited by him, being showed his sinfulness. The metropolitan calls Father Paisios to the metropolis and asks to know about the complaints that reached him that he is helping communists. He also explains to the bishop that he does not distinguish between people, but in all people he sees the face of the humble Jesus. The metropolitan understands that this is a plot to slander Father Paisios and thus leaves him to carry out his work freely.

## **Episode 6**

Father Paisios falls seriously ill and while traveling with George to Konitsa, he faints in the forest. His health condition is serious and so he is given shelter in the house of a lady who supports the poor, until he recovers. His mother and sister find it difficult to understand why he would take shelter with a stranger and ask him to go to their house. He explains to them that a monk cannot stay in the home from where he departed the world. His recovery takes three months and when he returns to the monastery of Stomio, the deacon Damianos, from the monastery of St. Catherine, in Sinai, visits him and begs him to come and to stay with them. Father Paisios prays on this matter and tells him that he will come to Sinai. We later see him in the desert praising God. This praise gathers around him a flock of birds, which surround him and sit on his hands and shoulders.

## **Episode 7**

Father Paisios arrives at Saint Catherine's monastery on Mount Sinai. The fathers of the monastery grant him a small cell in the desert. He begins his ascetic practice under very harsh conditions.

Attacks of temptation are daily. Despite his unstable health, Father Paisios gives all of himself to his ascetic struggles.

His mother has accepted her son's decision to be a monk in the desert and begs the Holy Mother Mary to watch over him. While praying, she departs this life in peace.

## **Episode 8**

His declining health convinces him to leave Sinai and return to the holy mountain. There he meets Fr. Tychon, a great Russian ascetic. Fr. Paisios asks him to become his spiritual father. A new spiritual struggle begins. Young monks gather around Fr. Paisios and ask him to be their spiritual guide.

A small brotherhood begins to form yet his health declines even more. He is forced to leave the holy mountain and seek medical care in Thessaloniki. There he meets Father Polykarpos who offers to help him. He introduces Father Paisios to his spiritual daughters, who desire to become nuns. The elder with great love and discernment begins to advise them and a spiritual bond forms between them. The elder Paisios undergoes an operation where half of his lungs are removed. In his own pain he does not forget the pain of others. Many people find comfort in the hospital near Father Paisios.

## **Episode 9**

With the spiritual guidance of Father Paisios, the monastery of St. John the Theologian is created in Souroti.

He returns to the holy mountain where he helps to bring new monks to the Stavronikita monastery.

Father Tychon is dying when he calls for father Paisios and tells him that he would greatly desire to give his cell to Fr. Paisios and that he should remain there after his death.

He remains by the side of Fr. Tychon and lives the last moments of this Holy man's earthly life.

## **Episode 10**

In the cell of the Holy Cross, Father Paisios "makes friends" with a little bird. A robin. But he also receives visits of the divine.

Saint Euphemia appears in his cell. He asks her to talk to him about her life and her martyrdom and she guides him in some personal spiritual matters. He decides to write about Saint Arsenios and visits Konitsa to find his villagers who had lived with the saint. There he also meets his sister Christina for the first time after his father's death.

## **Episode 11**

Father Paisios leaves the hospital and returns to the Holy Mt Athos.

A young man arrives to his cell who appears to have unusual powers and challenges the elder. Young George was taken from his grandfather at the age of three to a Tibetan monastery. He has been taught martial arts and other mystical things. He is capable of breaking entire rocks only with his gaze. He feels omnipotent. The elder embraces him with love and slowly shows him the path of the humble Christ.

In the cell of the Holy cross the elder lives great and miraculous events. But the time is coming when he must depart. After searching for a new cell he ends up living in the cell of Panagouda, where he decides to stay until the end of his life.

## **Episode 12**

At the cell of Panagouda he receives many visitors every day. With great patience and love he embraces all of these people who have so many problems. However his health becomes very frail. He suffers from uncontrollable bleeding. The examinations that follow show cancer in the bowel. He has an operation which is followed by chemotherapy.

During this time he lives in the monastery of Saint John the Theologian in Souroti. The Abbess and the nuns of the monastery help him throughout his illness. Father Paisios faces his illness with courage and unwavering faith. He becomes a shining example to all who are close to him. The way in which he handles his illness and his saintly death are the culmination of his entire spiritual journey and asceticism.