LITANIES OR PRAYERS FOR TRAVELLERS

INTRODUCTION

Travelling in ancient times was very risky. This fact is attested by the collection of miracles associated with travel; such as the miracle of Saint Menas,¹ the Arabic version of the miracle of Saint Philotheus ascribed to Severus of Antioch,² the miracle mentioned in the book of the Forty Biographies,³ and a miracle performed by Cosma and Damian.⁴ It is recorded that Nestorius had complained about having to travel, saying that he was too old (he must have been over sixty at this time), unwell, had suffered from the hazards of travel, and that his hand and side had been mangled.⁵

The litanies⁶ for the travellers occur in the Euchologion for the matins. Except on Saturdays, Sundays and the feasts of the Lord, the Litany for the Travellers is said after the Litany for the Sick, during the offering of the Morning Incense.⁷ It is also said during the consecration of altars,⁸ during Baptism,⁹ during the consecration of the...

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(1) J. DRESCHER, Apa Mena, a selection of Coptic Texts relating to Saint Menas (Textes et documents), Cairo, 1946, pp. 116–117.
(3) Bishop SAMUEL, كتاب الأربعين نير [The book of the forty biographies], Cairo, 1999, p. 46.
(4) Information kindly provided by the late R. F. M. Van Esbroeck in 2000.
water in the baptismal font,\(^{10}\) and during the liturgy of the Epiphany:\(^{11}\)

Priest

\[ \text{τεθέω οὐφο τεντώρ} \]
\[ \text{‘
\[ \text{Ἀρφηγείς προει ἡν ἤν} \]
\[ \text{πνείσσισθαι εἰς ἐμπρόσθεν} \]

We ask and entreat Your goodness, O lover of mankind, re-
member O Lord our fathers and
our brethren who are travelling.

Deacon

\[ \text{τωρ \ εἰσεῖν ἐνοῖο} \]
\[ \text{πνείσσισθαι εἰς ἐμπρόσθεν} \]
\[ \text{οἶνος} \ \text{οἶνος} \]
\[ \text{οἶνος} \]

Pray for our fathers and our
brethren who are travelling, and
those who intend to travel any-
where. Make straight all their
ways \textit{whether} by sea, rivers, \textit{lakes},
roads, or those who are travel-
ling by any other means, that
Christ our God may bring them
back to their own homes in
\textit{peace}, and forgive us our sins.

People

\[ \text{κυρίε εσήχου} \]

Lord have mercy

Priest

\[ \text{εἰς πνεύματος εἰς} \]
\[ \text{οἰνοὶ οἰνοὶ οἰνοὶ} \]
\[ \text{οἰνοὶ} \]

And those who intend to travel
anywhere, make straight all
their ways, \textit{whether} by sea, riv-
ers, lakes, roads or those who
are travelling by any other
means, everyone, anywhere.
Lead them into a \textit{harbour} of
calm, a \textit{harbour} of salvation.
