

On No Account Shall a Monastic Be Allowed

by St. Benedict of Nursia

Monastics must follow the Abbess's permission and authority in receiving gifts to maintain harmony within the community.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:21, Philippians 2:3, Hebrews 13:17, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:5

Topics: "Monastic Life", "Christian Obedience"

Description

St. Benedict of Nursia emphasizes the importance of obedience and submission within the monastic community, particularly in the context of receiving or giving gifts or letters. He instructs that no monastic should receive or give any gifts without the Abbess's permission, even if sent by family members. The Abbess has the authority to decide who may receive such gifts, and it is crucial for the sisters not to act against these rules to avoid giving the devil an opportunity to cause discord.

Transcript

On no account shall a monastic be allowed
to receive letters, blessed tokens or any little gift whatsoever
from parents or anyone else,
or from her sisters,
or to give the same,
without the Abbess's permission.
But if anything is sent her even by her parents,
let her not presume to take it
before it has been shown to the Abbess.
And it shall be in the Abbess's power to decide
to whom it shall be given,
if she allows it to be received;

and the sister to whom it was sent should not be grieved,
lest occasion be given to the devil.
Should anyone presume to act otherwise,
let her undergo the discipline of the Rule.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/st-benedict-of-nursia/on-no-account-shall-a-monastic-be-allowed/>

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