

**Fifth Junior  
Youth Convention  
Montreal and Ottawa  
July 16 – 18, 1998**

# **JACK'S NEW AND UNIQUE PALACE**

**Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty**  
*St. George and St. Anthony's  
Coptic Orthodox Church  
Ottawa – Canada*

“Look, how great and very beautiful is this new and unique palace!” said Sam to his friends.

“It’s mine,” said Jack.

On the next day Jack was not with his friends, when one of them said, “How wonderful is this nice palace!” James said, “It’s mine.”

On the third day Jack and James were absent, and one of them expressed his astonish of this great palace. John said, “It’s mine.”

Every one of them was looking to his friends, and appears that some thing wrong in the reply of John. John asked them, “Why are you looking to each other when I said, ‘It’s mine’?”

Mark said, “We want to know whose palace is it: Jack, James or you?” Everyone of you said that it is his own?”

John replied, “All of us said the truth.”

Mark asked, “How is it?”

John replied,

“Jack is the owner of the palace,

James the dweller in it,

And I’m the architect who planned it.”

***This is the story of Jack’s huge, beautiful and unique palace. The Holy Bible speaks of us as God’s holy and eternal house. What do you know about yourself as the divine house?***

In ancient times after the flood that was occurred in the days of Noah, people decided to build a very huge tower. Its head would be in heaven. They thought that they could escape from any deluge that would drown the whole world. They failed for their tongues were confused.

Christ came to build me as His new and unique house. Now we ask about:

- 1. The owner, the dweller and the builder of this house.**
- 2. The dimensions of this house.**
- 3. The costs of its building.**
- 4. Testing the soil.**
- 5. Establishing a fence before digging for the foundation.**
- 6. Digging for the foundation.**
- 7. Setting the foundation.**
- 8. The cornerstone.**
- 9. The frame of the new house.**
- 10. The sheets, stones or bricks.**
- 11. The stairs.**
- 12. The roof.**
- 13. Preparing for electricity and water.**
- 14. Windows and doors.**
- 15. Bedrooms, children rooms, living rooms, kitchen, stores, indoor-games hall etc.**
- 16. Furniture.**

*1*  
***THE OWNER, THE DWELLER AND  
THE BUILDER OF THIS HOUSE***

When we are attracted with a huge and nice  
palace we usually ask:

**Who is the owner of this palace?**

**Who is dwelling in this palace?**

**Who is the architect who put its plan?**

***Who are the Owner, the Dweller and the Builder of my house?***

God alone is the Owner, the Dweller and the Builder of me  
as His own house!

He is the Owner, for He is my Creator.

He dwells in my heart.

He is the Builder. For He is interested in me. I'm his dearest  
creature. He is taking care of even the numbering of the hair of my  
head.

***Short Story:***

***Verse:***

**If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and  
My Father will love him, and We will come to him and  
make Our home with him. John 14:23 (NKJ)**

***My unique house:***

## 2

### ***THE DIMENSIONS OF THIS HOUSE***

When you are interested in building a house you have to tell the architect the following information:

- **The height of the house.**
- **The length of the house.**
- **The width of the house.**
- **The size of the house.**
- **The proportions of the house.**

#### ***What are the dimensions of the house of God?***

God who wants me as His unique and holy sanctuary, in which He wants to dwell, and in which all heavenly and earthly rational creatures find their pleasure. He forms my inner man by the following dimensions:

**The height:** to attain heaven itself, so that I would dwell in Him and He dwells in me.

**The length:** as if my soul has no especial place in this world, wherever I am I feel I'm in my Father's land.

**The width:** God's desire that my heart be widened to embrace all men if it is possible.

**The size:** The kingdom of God is within me. It embraces the heavenly hosts by love.

**The proportions:** It is an icon of heaven.

**Short Story:**

**Verse:**

**(Christ) raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Eph 2:6 (NKJ)**

**My unique house:**

### 3

## ***THE COSTS OF ITS BUILDING***

To build a house, we have to know its cost,  
so that we may not start building and cannot  
complete it.

### ***What is the cost of the building of my house?***

Such a building costs God the following:

- He sent the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to prepare the way.
- He granted us His Law, received by the great prophet Moses.
- He planned many events happened in history as symbols of God's work in our inner man.
- He sent the prophets and foretold us about all the details.
- He paid the precious blood on the cross.

### ***Short Story:***

#### ***Verse:***

**Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

1 Pet 1:18-19

#### ***My unique house:***

## 4

### ***TESTING THE SOIL***

The well-experienced architect cannot even put his plan for establishing a suitable building without making a test on the soil of the land on which the building will be established.

***What is the meaning of testing the soil of the land?***

To test the soil of my inner land means to discover my own nature, examine my way and to turn back to my Lord.

***Short Story:***

***Verse:***

**Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the LORD. Lam 3:40 (NKJ)**

***My unique house:***

## 5

### ***ESTABLISHING A FENCE BEFORE DIGGING FOR THE FOUNDATION***

Before digging the foundation of a building usually we are in need of setting a fence, so that nobody will fall down in it, to protect the materials, and to defend the new construction from any harm.

#### ***What is the fence?***

The fence is the Holy Spirit, who protects me as a wall of fire.

#### ***Short Story:***

#### ***Verse:***

**'For I,' says the LORD, 'will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.' Zech 2:5 (NKJ)**

#### ***My unique house:***

## 6

### ***DIGGING FOR THE FOUNDATION***

To establish a very huge building, its top is in heaven, means I have to dig too much to set a great foundation. Digging for the foundation is humbleness.

*Short Story:*

*Verse:*

**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. James 4:10 (KJV)**

*My unique house:*

## 7

### ***SETTING THE FOUNDATION***

I never forget the joy of all the people of Alexandria when the foundation started in the site of St. George's Church of Sporting, Alexandria. The same feelings when the foundations of St. Mary's Church of Ottawa, Canada. In these moments all the people felt as if all the Church building became a fact.

#### ***What is the foundation of our inner building?***

Our Lord Jesus Christ accepts to be Himself the foundation of our inner building.

#### ***Short Story:***

#### ***Verse:***

**For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 3:11 (KJV)**

#### ***My unique house:***

## 8

### ***THE CORNERSTONE***

Christ is often compared to a stone, a cornerstone, a tried, that is, a sure, firm foundation - all in allusion to the custom of building, (Acts 4:11; Rom. 9:33; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:7). He was constituted the foundation on which the salvation of mankind rests, and the corner stone which unites Jews and Gentiles, beautifies, strengthens, and completes the whole building, as the head stone, or uppermost stone in the corner does the whole edifice. Though rejected by the Jews, yet God chose Him, and made Him the foundation of the church

It is said that when the temple was built, at the time of Solomon, the builders rejected a very huge stone. But when they started to put the foundations they didn't find another stone that can be suitable to be the cornerstone except that which was rejected.

***Short Story:***

***Verse:***

**Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" Matt 21:42 (NKJ)**

***My unique house:***

## 9

### ***THE FRAME OF THE NEW HOUSE***

After setting the foundations, the builders made the whole frame of the building, made of wood or iron. Sheets are fixed in it. It looks like the bone skeleton that gives man ability even to live.

***What is the frame of my new inner house?***

My Lord Jesus Christ is the Living Frame that strengthens my inner life,

***Short Story:***

***Versed:***

**One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Eph 4:3-6**

***My unique house:***

**10**  
***THE SHEETS, STONES OR BRICKS***

***Short Story:***

***Verse:***

**No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. I Jn 4:12 (NKJ)**

***My unique house:***

*11*  
***THE ROOF***

*Short Story:*

*Verse:*

**In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Ps 62:7 (NKJ)**

*My unique house:*

**12**  
***THE STAIRS***

*Short Story:*

*Verse:*

**Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or  
who shall stand in His holy place? Ps 24:3 (NKJ)**

*My unique house:*

## 13

# ***PREPARING FOR ELECTRICITY AND WATER***

*Short Story:*

*Verse:*

**They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed. Ps 34:5 (NKJ)**

**"For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns-- broken cisterns that can hold no water. Jer 2:13 (NKJ)**

*My unique house:*

## *14*

### ***WINDOWS AND DOORS***

*Short Story:*

*Verse:*

**“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. Mal 3:10 (NKJ)**

*My unique house:*

**15**

***BEDROOMS, CHILDREN ROOMS,  
LIVING ROOMS, KITCHEN, STORES,  
INDOOR-GAMES HALL ETC.***

*Short Story:*

*Verse:*

**By knowledge the rooms are filled with all  
precious and pleasant riches. Prov 24:4 (NKJ).**

*My unique house:*

**16**  
**FURNITURE**

*Short Story:*

*Verse:*

**Though Nineveh of old was like a pool of water,  
now they flee away. "Halt! Halt!" they cry; but no one  
turns back.**

**Take spoil of silver! Take spoil of gold! There is  
no end of treasure, or wealth of every desirable prize.  
Nahum 2:8-9 (NKJ)**

*My unique house:*