**The Mount Athos**

*Marin Mihalache*

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Once upon the time,

Athos threw a colossal rock

Against Poseidon and the stone

Dropped into the Aegean Sea

And has become a mountain.

Deinokrates envisaged carving

To Alexander a statue

Larger than the life itself

Off that magic mountain.

While the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sailing with John the Evangelist

To the stopover at Lazarus’s grave

Exiled in the Cyprus Island

A storm tossed their boat

To the shores of Mount Athos.

Walking ashore the Virgin

Perceived that she arrived

In Her Son’s kingdom.

Enthralled of the heavenly beauty

Of the wildflowers blossom

Of the clear streams of water

The Virgin asked Jesus

That the mountain remain

Her garden, paradise on earth

Refuge for the holy men

Praying for the world’s salvation.

An angelic voice from heaven

Revealed that the Holy Mountain

Forever be called Virgin Mary’s Garden.

It is said that at Mount Athos

Long time ago an orphan was brought

And now that child is the elderly brother

Who has never seen the face of a woman

Other than the face of the Virgin Mary

In the miraculous icon Prodomita.

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