

Feast Day of St. Eudokia Augusta



The Church today venerates the memory of St. Eudokia, or Aelia Eudocia Augusta, the daughter of Athenian philosopher Leontius.

She was born a pagan named Athenais in 401 AD, in honor of the city's mythical patron, Athena. Athenais was renowned as a young woman due to her beauty and extensive education.

When her father died he left all of his property to his two sons, bequeathing only 100 gold pieces to Athenais, with explanation that she need no more, since her fate was greater than all other women - a reference to her sharp mind and education.

She arrived in Constantinople afterwards, accepted a marriage proposal by the Emperor, Theodosius II, and converted to Christianity. After being wrongly accused and banished from the imperial court, she engaged in good works in the Holy Land, ending her life as an ardent mystic in Jerusalem.