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Feature on historic Pantokrator Tao Monastery



The Orthodoxia news agency this week hosts a feature on the Holy Monastery Pantokrator Tao, located in a mountain range north of Athens proper.

The latter was founded in the 9th century A.D. as a monastery for men.

During its long history, it has experienced both looting and destruction, but also periods of major progress. During the early Byzantine era it emerged as the second in rank Orthodox monastery in the Balkans, with a brotherhood in excess of 600 monks.

The most dramatic era in the history of the monastery, however, was between 1570 and 1680.

In those difficult years, the Holy Monastery of Pantokrator was a spiritual cradle and source of national inspiration and social awakening, not only for the much-suffering Orthodox Greeks in what is today the greater Athens area, but for Hellenism as a whole, which was then under dour Ottoman yoke.




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