

came and found Paul dead, and buried him but Anthony attracted others to follow his example and soon you have hundreds of hermits living alone here in the deserts in Africa. And these hermits came together in groups and organized groups here and there, as a rule they were simply groups of mutual help and mutual protection but each lived by himself, and they come together to eat and that is really all, there is no control over one another, each lived by himself, and performed ~~by~~ his study and his ~~del~~ mediation by himself or what ever he was doing and while he was to get away from all the concerns the world except when there would come some controversy in the church and the monks would rush in the city and parade up and down and would yell out their opposition to the people who were taking what they considered the false views and usually they stood for the simple interpretation of the scripture which was in most cases the right one and those matters which were under controversy then. There was one of these hermits in ~~fifth~~ fifth century whom we might have mentioned, named Simon Stylites, I think in the development of Monasticism, Stylites is his nickname which was given him because of what he did. Now Simeon was anxious to influence his generation and he thought he could do more instead of living among them and trying to influence them by going apart from them and attracting them to himself, and so he went out in the desert but he did not go so ~~fe~~ very far and out there he got this ~~column~~ column put up, a column which was fifty foot high as high as a building three or four stories high. on top of this column he had a little platform and there was a little platform on which he could sit and he had a rope which he could reach down and pull up pails of stuff and he sat on that platform for the thirty years and never once came down and he stayed up there for over thirty years and he received a great reputation for holiness and people would come to see him and when they would come to see him he would preach to them. Kings would come to ask his opinion on important matters, what was the right thing to do. People would come to this holy monk to learn how they ought to live, he had a tremendous influence on his generation, but he never came down off his column. Always there was some one there when he needed food to put some in the pail and he would put