

# The Martyrdom of **Saint Cyricus (Qirqos)** in North Ethiopia

*Elements of the devotion and of the manuscripts tradition*



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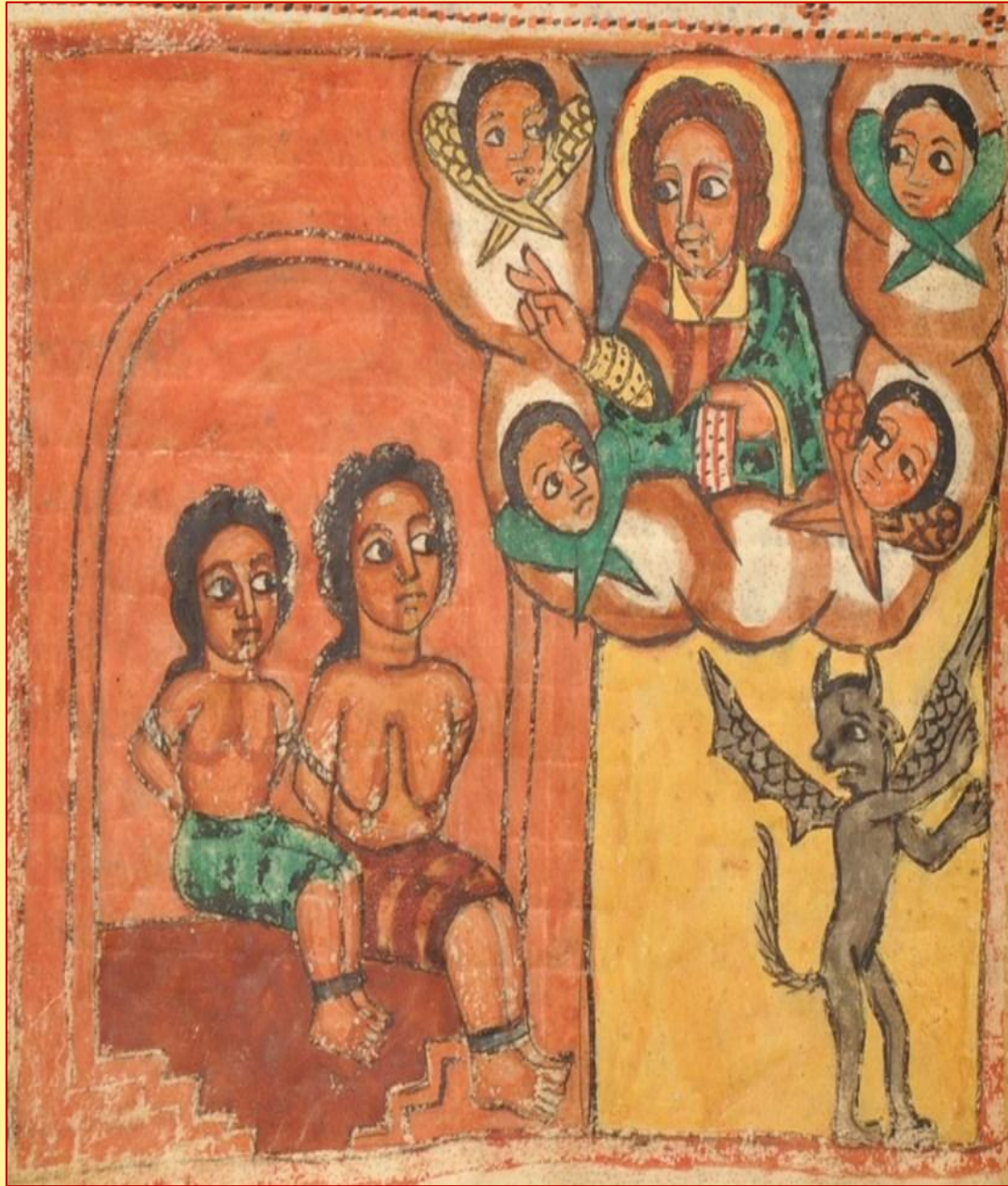
28 April 2012

# The infant Cyricus and the mother Julitta





# Cyricus and Julitta are arrested



## Cyricus and Julitta are tortured





# Cyricus and Julitta are beheaded



# Cyricus vs. Cyriacus

Κήρυκος/Κήρικός



**Cyricus**

(or Quiricus/Chiricus)

Qurikus/Qūrīqūs (Arabic)

**Qirqos** (Gəʻəz)

VS.

Κυριακός



**Cyriacus**

Qūr(i)yāqus/Huryākūs  
(Arabic)

**Kirakos, Kyriakos**

(Gəʻəz)



# *Gädlä Qirqos*

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graph TD; A[Gädlä Qirqos] --> B[Summarized version]; A --> C[Long version]; B --> D[Sənkəssar entry]; C --> E[in the Gädlä Säma'at]; C --> F[not in the Gädlä Säma'at]; F --> G[Alone]; F --> H[With other texts on the saint]; F --> I[With texts on other saints];
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Summarized version

Long version

*Sənkəssar entry*

in the *Gädlä Säma'at*

not in the *Gädlä Säma'at*

*Alone*

*With other  
texts on the  
saint*

*With texts  
on other  
saints*

# Texts on Saint Qirqos:

- *Gädlä Qirqos* “[Spiritual] Combat of Qirqos” (*Passio*)
- *Tä’amrä Qirqos* “Miracles of Qirqos”
- *Mälk’a Qirqos* “Image of Qirqos”
- *Sälam lä-Qirqos* “Salutation to Qirqos”



# Manuscripts containing texts on St. Qirqos

14th cent.

EMML 2514

14th/15th cent.

UM-018 (Təgray)

15th cent.

EMML 6951

KY-001 (Təgray)

BL Oriental 692

15th/16th cent.

AQG-005 (Təgray)

Däbrä Bänk<sup>wəl</sup> (Təgray)

18th cent.

BL Oriental 686

BL Oriental 687-688,

BL Oriental 720

Ṭanase 121 = Daga 'Əstifanos 10

UM-041 (Təgray)

19th cent.

AMQ-012 (Təgray)

AMQ-007 (Təgray)

EMML 3469

EMML 6244

MR-023 (Təgray)

WQ-006 (Təgray)

19th/20th cent.

EMML 486

EMML 1934

20th cent.

EMML 303

EMML 430

EMML 4816

EMML 615

Éthiopien 339 (Griaule 35)

QDQ-006 (Təgray)

UM-008 (Təgray)

UM-009 (Təgray)

# Manuscripts containing the *Passio* of St. Qirqos, photographed by Ethio-SPaRe:

- ʿAddi Qolqwal Giyorgis: 1 MS (*Gädlä Sämaʿtat*, 16th cent.)
- Koholo Yoḥannəs: 1 MS (*Gädlä Sämaʿtat*, 15th cent.)
- Mədrä Ruba: 1 MS (19th cent.)
- Qəddus Qirqos: 2 MSS (19th cent.)
- Qändaʿro Qirqos: 1 MS (20th cent.)
- ʿUra Qirqos: 4 MSS (14th/15th, 19th, 18th, 20th cent.; 1 MS *Gädlä Sämaʿtat*)
- Wälwalo Qirqos: 1 MS (19th cent.)

# Church of ʿUra Qirqos (East Trəgray):

4 MSS on Qirqos (14th/15th, 18th, 19th, 20th cent.)





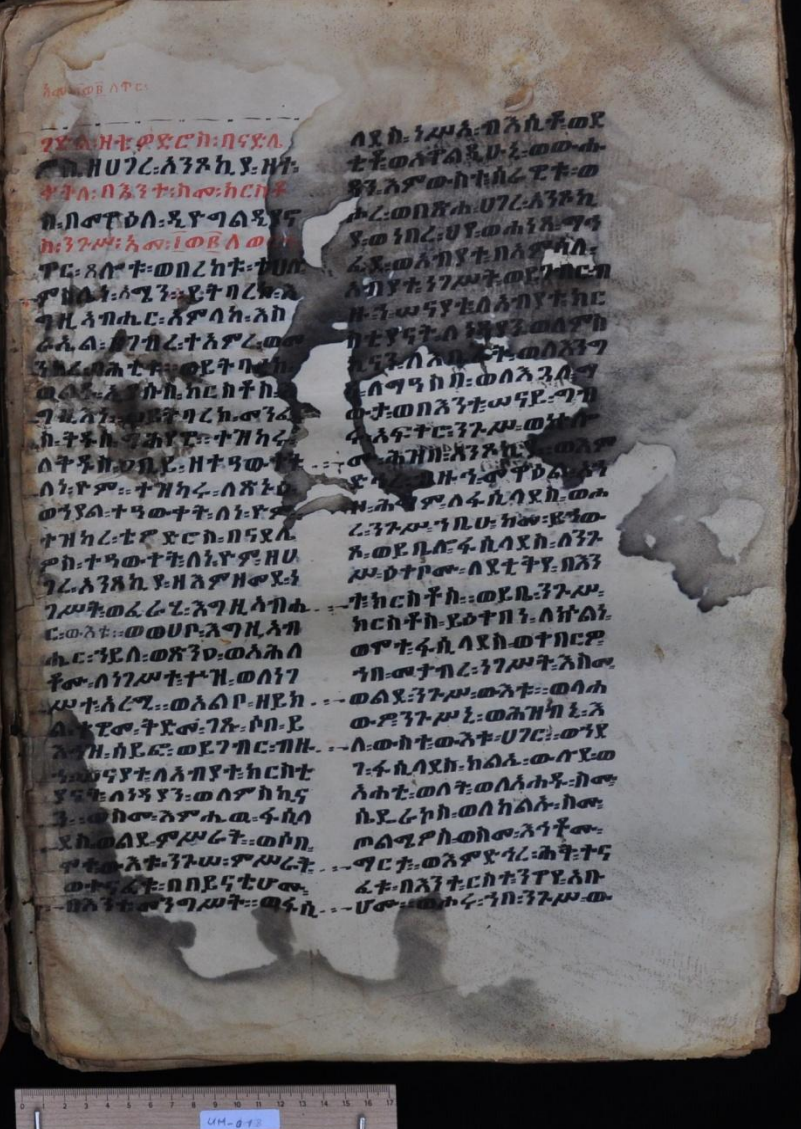
MS UM-018: *Gädlä Säma'tat* (?), 50.5 x 34 x 18, fols. 281, 2 columns, incomplete,  
14th/15th cent., back cover missing







Above, left side: 14th cent.-hand (?)



Above, right side: 15th cent. -hand (?)



MS UM-018 (in *Gädlä Säma<sup>c</sup>tat*): *Gädlä Qirqos*,  
fols. 269ra-269vb, 225ra-226vb, 221ra-224vb, 227ra-227vb, 215ra-215vb  
(incomplete; misplaced leaves)



Above, right side: fol. 215r, *Gädlä Qirqos* (acephalous text)



# MS UM-009: *Gädlä Qirqos, Tä'amrä Qirqos*

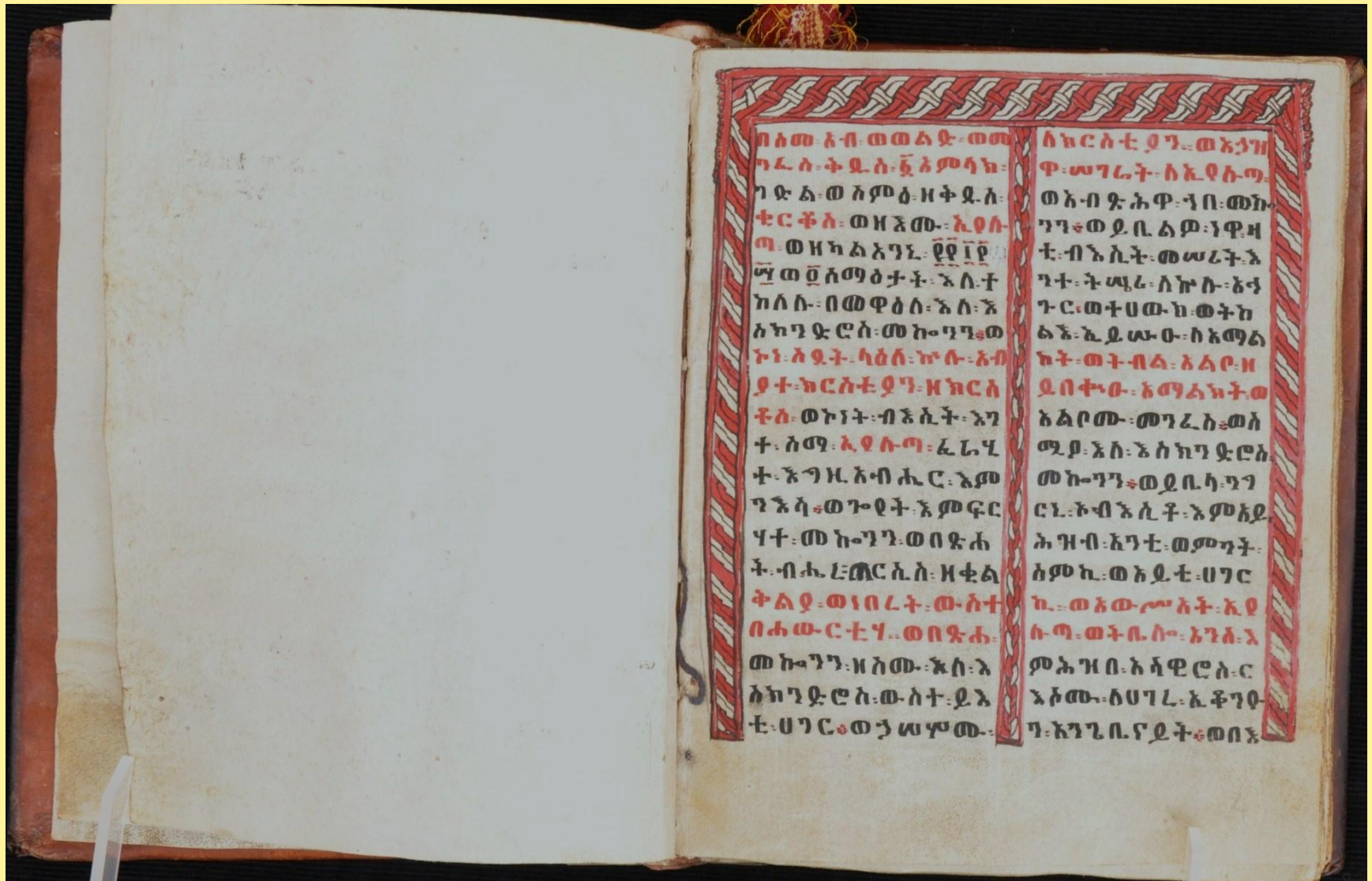
First half of the 20th cent. (?), 30.4 x 23.6 x 8.3, fols. 97, 2 columns



fol. 4r, incipit page of the *Gädlä Qirqos*



MS UM-008: *Gädlä Qirqos, Tä'mrä Qirqos, Mälk'a Qirqos, Sälam lä-Qirqos*  
1976 A.D., 22.7 x 18.4 x 8.3, fols. 47, 2 columns





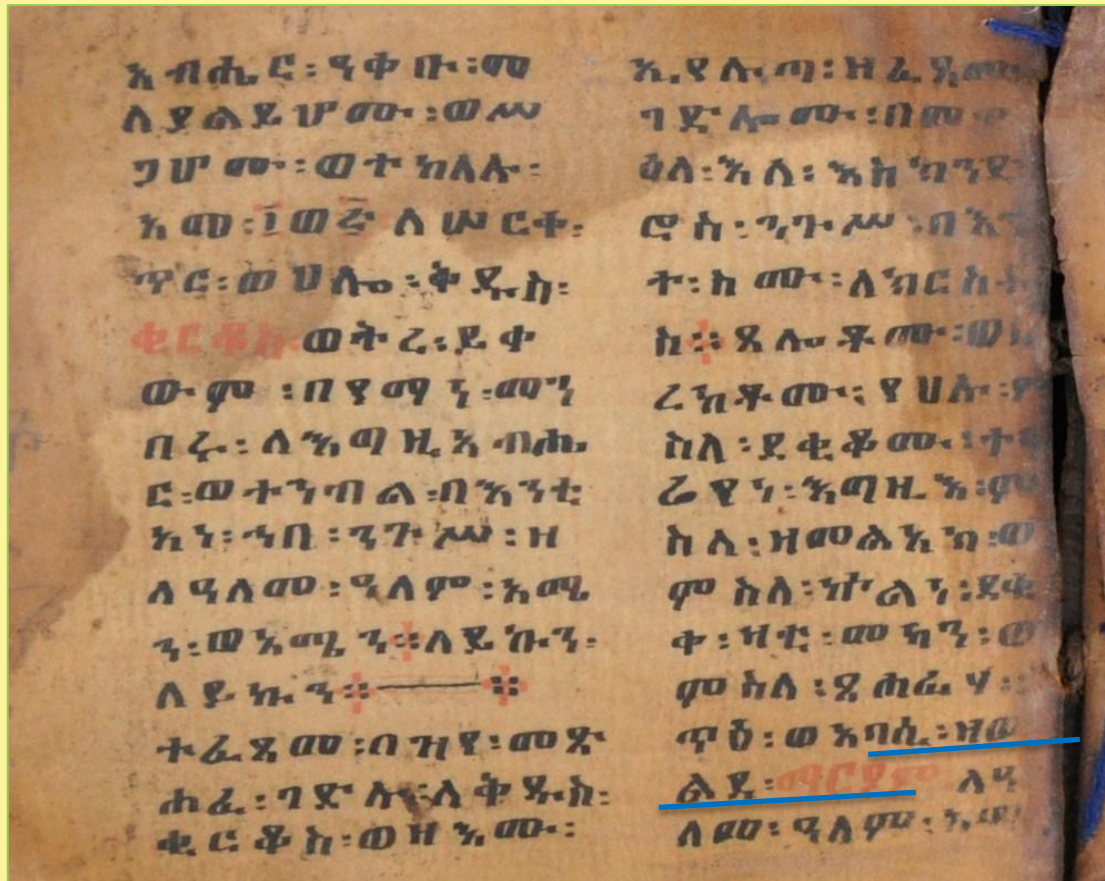
# MS UM-041: *Gädlä Qirqos*

First half of the 18th cent. (?), 13.6 x 13.0 x 2.7, fols. 39, 2 columns



fol. 3r, incipit page of the *Gädlä Qirqos*

**MS UM-041** (first half of the 18th cent.): **Mention of the scribe Zä-Wäldä Maryam**



Colophon, fol. 34va, l.14:

«Herewith, the book of  
*Gädl* of Saint Cyricus and  
of his mother Julitta, who  
finished their lives during  
the time of King  
Alexander (*ʾĪskəndros*)  
for the name of Christ,  
was completed. May their  
prayer and their blessing  
be with their children:  
Tä<sup>c</sup>areyännä ʾĒgzi<sup>o</sup> with  
Zä-Mäl<sup>o</sup>ak and with all of  
us, children of this place,  
and with its scribe, sinner  
and impious, Zä-Wäldä  
Maryam. For ever and  
ever, amen».



# Church of Qəddus Qirqos (°Addigrat, East Təgray): 2 MSS on Qirqos (19th cent.)





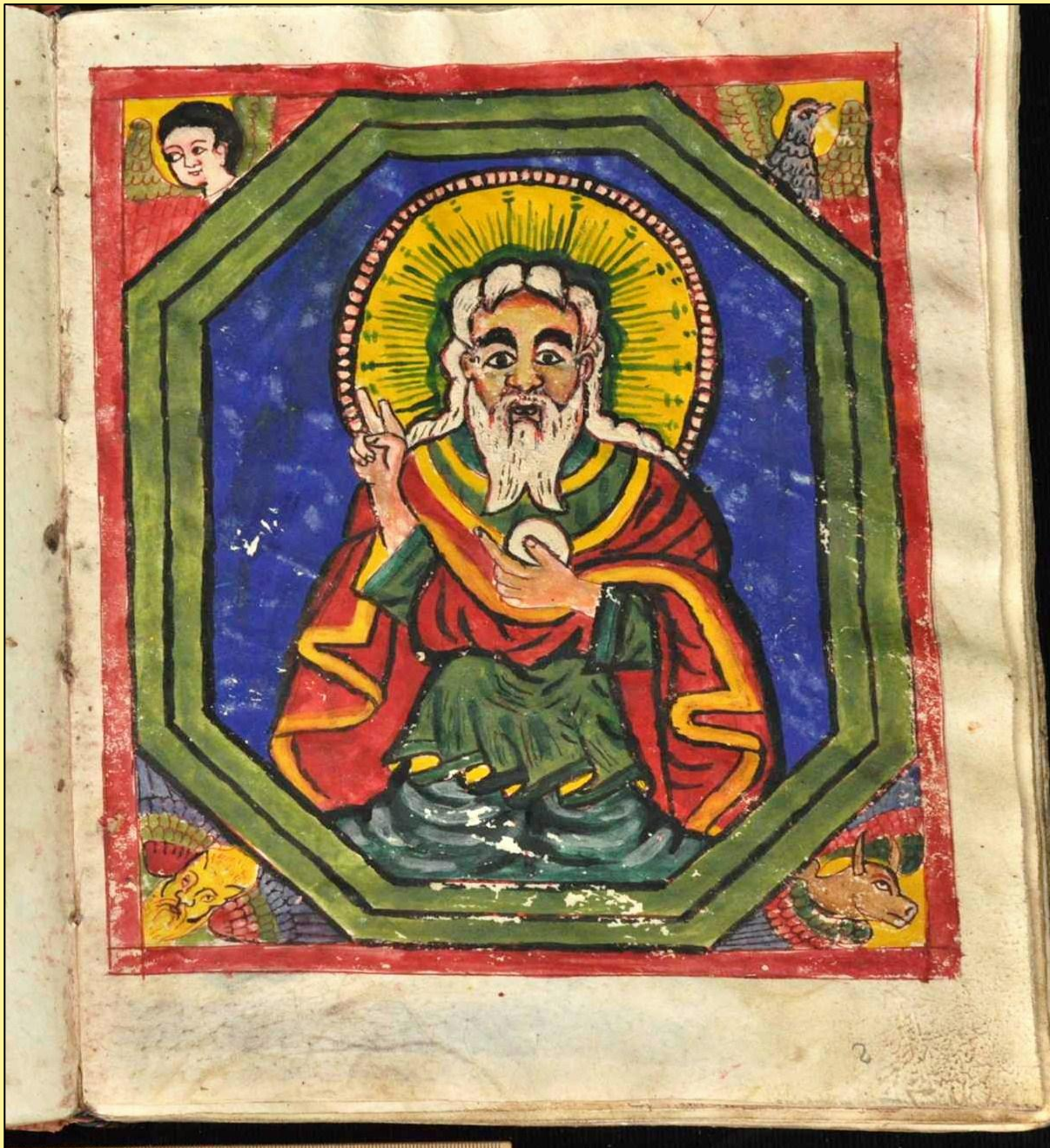
# MS AMQ-007: *Gädlä Qirqos, Tä'amrä Qirqos*

19th cent. (?), 31.5 x 25.2 x 9.0, fols. 140, 2 columns



Above, right side: fol. 5r, incipit page of the *Gädlä Qirqos*





Miniature 1, fol.

2r:

*Christ in Majestic  
surrounded by  
the faces of the  
four Living  
Creatures*





Miniature 2, fol. 2v: *St. George slaying the Dragon*



Miniature 3, fol. 3v: *The Virgin Mary with child*





Miniature 4, fol. 3v: *The Crucifixion.*



Miniature 5, fol. 4r: (upper part) *The Holy Trinity*; (bottom part) *The donor.*



MS AMQ-007



Miniature 6, fol. 4v:  
(upper part) *Julitta in  
front of the Governor*;  
(bottom part) *The  
donor*.





Miniature 7, fol. 101v, *Cyricus and Julitta cast into a hot cauldron.* Miniature 8, fol. 102r: *Cyricus and Julitta cast into the flames.*





Miniature 9 (bottom part), fol. 102v: *Cyricus being tortured*





Miniature 12, fol. 104r (bottom part): *Cyricus' tongue is being cut.*



MS AMQ-007

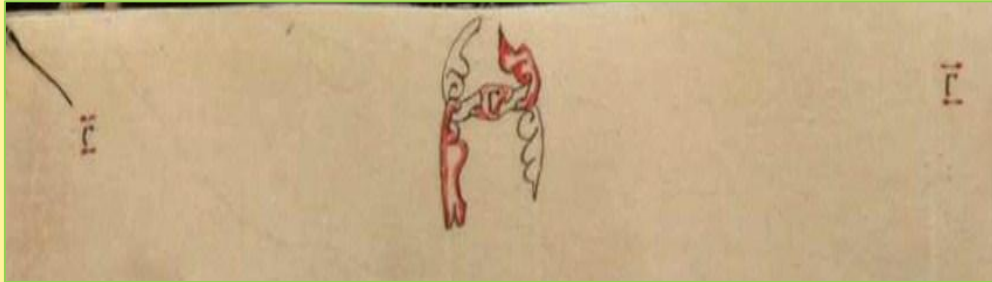


Miniature 13,  
fol. 104v:  
*Martyrdom*

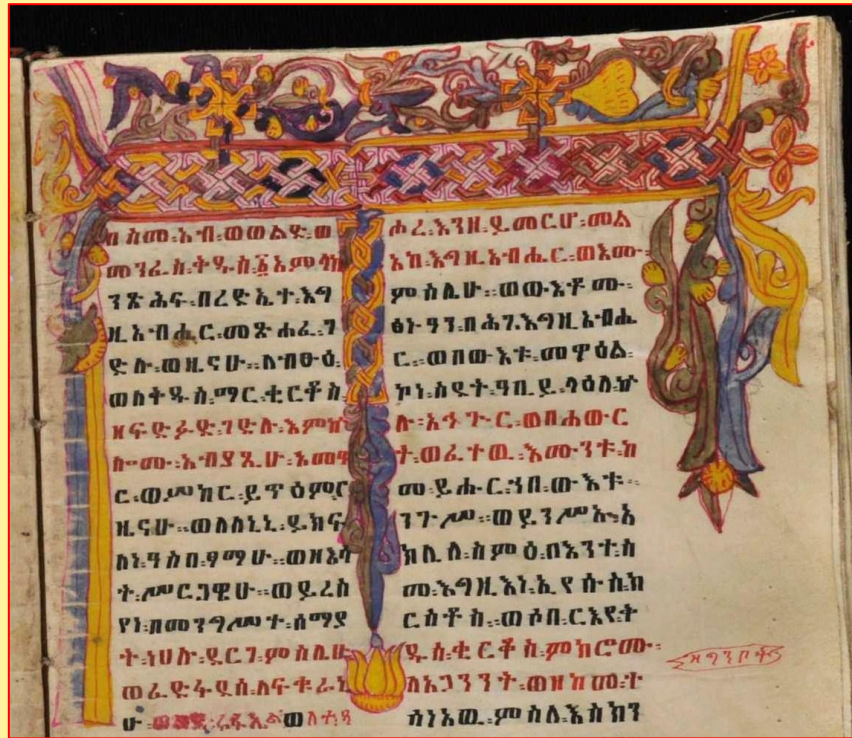




Miniature 19, fol. 137v:  
(upper part) *A church  
dedicated to St. Cyricus;*  
(bottom part) *The  
mother and the father of  
the donor (?).*



Quire mark,  
fol. 21r



*Haräg*, fol. 53ra



*Haräg*, fol. 37ra



Quire mark,  
fol. 61r



# MS AMQ-012: *Gädlä Qirqos, Tä'amrä Qirqos*

1800/1830, 27.0 x 22.0 x 4.5, fols. 72, 2 columns

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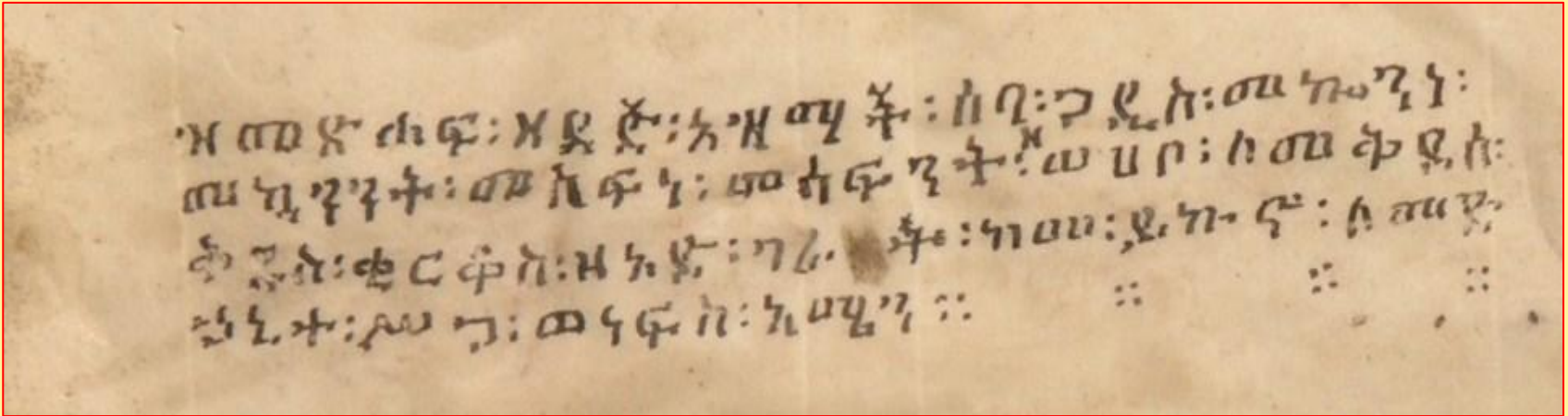
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## MS AMQ-012: Mention of the donor *däggäzmač* Säba Gadis



**Donation note, fol. 2v:**

«This (is) the book of *däggäzmač* Säba Gadis, the governor of the governors and the prince of the princes, who gave it to the sanctuary of St. Cyricus of ʾAdd Gärat, so that it might be the remedy of corpse and soul. Amen».





Miniature 20, fol. 48r (bottom part): the donor Däggazmač Säba Gadis



**MS AMQ-012: some miniatures on Qirqos while he is being tortured:**



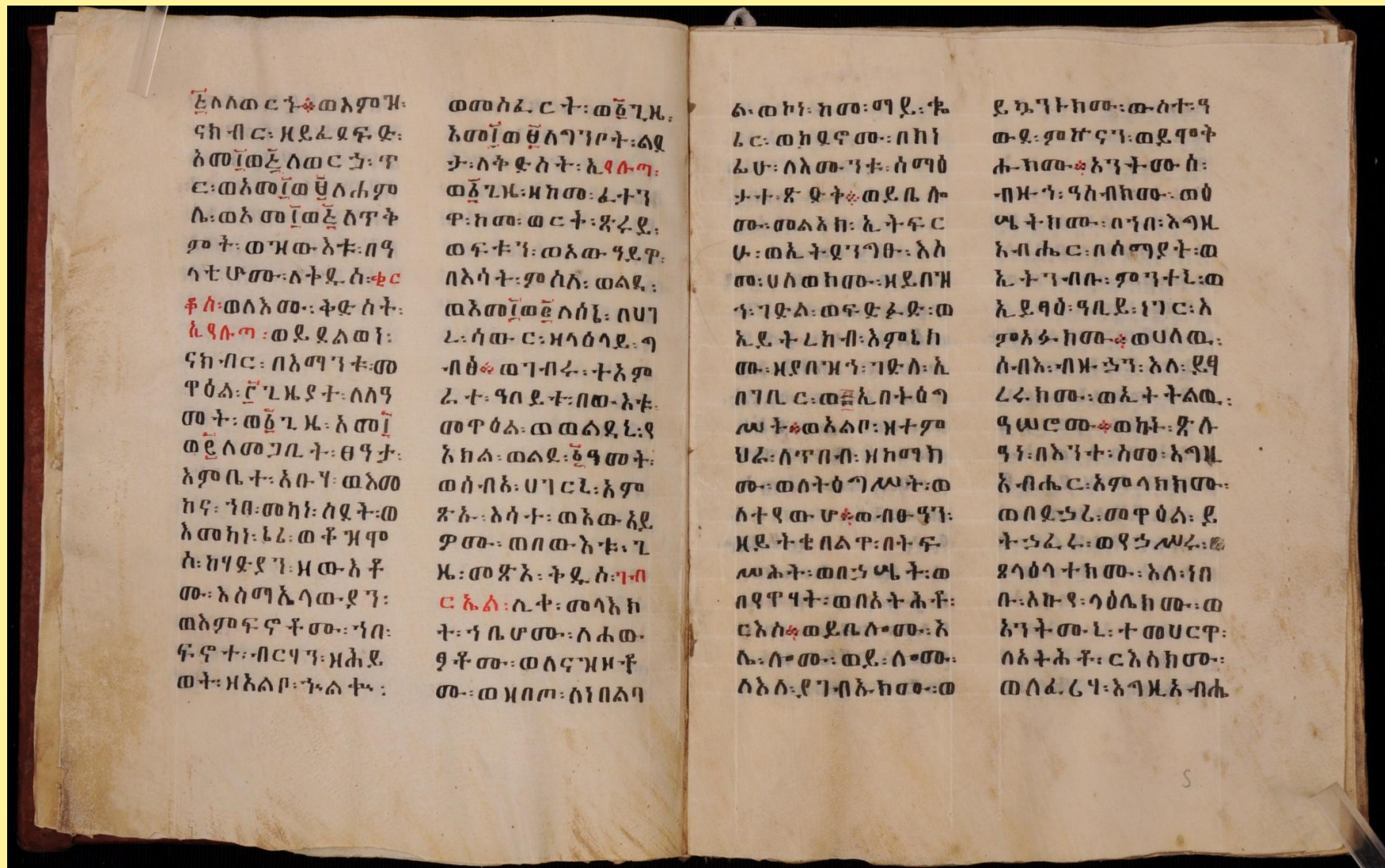


**Church of Qānda°ro Qirqos (East Təgray, wäräda Ganta °Afäšum):**  
1 MS on Qirqos (20th cent.)





MS QDQ-006: *Gädlä Qirqos, Tä'amrä Qirqos*  
 First half of the 20th cent., 30.7 x 27.4 x 7, fols. 130, 2 columns





**Church of Wälwalo Qirqos (East Təgray, Sa'ṣi Şa'ḍa ʾEmba):**  
1 MS on Qirqos (19th cent.?)









MS WQ-006: *Gädlä Qirqos, Tä'amrä Qirqos, Mälk'a Qirqos, Sälam lä-Qirqos*  
19th cent. (?), 27.0 x 22.7 x 3.3, fols. 35, 2 columns.



fol. 2r, incipit page of the *Gädlä Qirqos*



