



Nativity Fast Competition 2025/2026
Study on the Book “Contemplations on Nativity” by HH Pope Shenouda III – Part 1

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Date of Submission: _____

First: Place a check (✓) for true or a cross (X) for false:

- 1- When the Lord emptied Himself and took the form of a servant, this was not limited to the event of the Nativity alone, but rather encompassed His entire life, which cannot be fully enumerated. (.....)
- 2- He emptied Himself of the glories surrounding Him and of the greatness of heaven, but He did not empty Himself of His essence or His nature. (.....)
- 3- The Lord descended to the world with the ranks of the angels, on a great cloud in a chariot of light, surrounded by the Cherubim and Seraphim, and the heavens shook for Him along with all the powers of nature. (.....)
- 4- He was born to a poor, orphaned mother who had no one to support her. The priests entrusted her to her betrothed Joseph so she could live under his care. (.....)
- 5- For the sake of faith, He did not wish to dazzle people with miracles. He wanted their faith to be motivated by love and conviction, not because of miracles. (.....)
- 6- Christ was not among those holding priestly ranks, even though He was from the tribe of Levi and was entitled to it. (.....)
- 7- He filled the world with teaching, and they called Him “Teacher” and “Good Teacher” because He was from the Scribes and Pharisees. (.....)
- 8- The Lord wanted His disciples to also empty themselves. They were merely disciples who knew no occupation other than following Christ, who had no official position, no job, and no fixed place. (.....)
- 9- He lived as a simple man without status or title; even His natural title “Son of God” He did not use often, and most of the time He replaced it with the title “Son of Man.” (.....)
- 10- He emptied Himself of wealth and status, living poor, owning nothing, while being the One to whom glory belongs—He who enriches all. (.....)

Second: Choose the correct answer(s):

1- In his contemplations, H.H. Pope Shenouda III balances two contradictory things that appeared in the Nativity to indicate the greatness of the mystery. What are these two things?

- a) Temporal authority and spiritual authority
- b) Divine love and satanic hatred
- c) Spiritual struggle and physical relaxation
- d) Earthly poverty and simplicity versus heavenly greatness and glory

2- What is the theological term that H.H. Pope Shenouda III uses to describe the Son's perfect union with human nature without any change in His divine nature?

- a) Sanctification
- b) Purification
- c) Transfiguration
- d) Incarnation

3- What is the primary purpose of the star appearing to the Magi according to the contemplations in the book?

- a) Guiding them to the place of the King's birth
- b) Symbol of Babylonian magical power
- c) Warning King Herod
- d) Determining the day of the Nativity celebration

4- H.H. Pope Shenouda III emphasizes that the Nativity was not merely an event but was preceded by a period of preparation specific to the Virgin Mary:

- a) Building churches in her time
- b) Abundance of prophetic readings
- c) Her journey to Elizabeth
- d) Her pure life and complete obedience

5- What is the message that the angels announced to the shepherds after Christ's birth, as mentioned by H.H. Pope Shenouda III in his contemplations?

- a) Rejoice, O people of Bethlehem
- b) The birth of the Great High Priest
- c) Salvation and redemption of humanity
- d) Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace

6- In his contemplations on the Virgin Mary, what virtue does H.H. Pope Shenouda III consider as the key to her acceptance of the angel's message?

- a) Her courage in facing the unknown
- b) Her absolute obedience and complete surrender to God's will
- c) Her material inheritance that allowed her to travel
- d) Her physical strength and ability to endure hardships

7- The book addresses the theological meaning of “the Word of God” who became flesh. What is the significance of this expression regarding the work of salvation?

- a) That the Word of God “Logos” united with human nature to complete for man what he could not do himself
- b) That God can incarnate in any righteous person
- c) That God gave humanity merely a new verbal message
- d) That the Word is only an attribute of God and not an independent hypostasis

8- The book discusses the role of the angels in the Nativity. What is the main meaning of their praise that the shepherds heard: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace ...”?

- a) Confirmation that humanity can achieve peace on its own
- b) Indication that angels are the only mediator between God and humans
- c) Announcement that the Nativity is a theological event
- d) Its purpose is to glorify God and achieve peace among people

9- H.H. Pope Shenouda III focuses on the idea of “Christ’s kingship.” How does he describe this kingship compared to earthly kings?

- a) A political king distinguished only by social justice
- b) A king limited to heaven with no relation to earth
- c) A spiritual king that extends to hearts and eternity, not an ordinary worldly king
- d) A military king aiming to liberate the Jews from the Romans

10- The book addresses the idea of “preparation for the Nativity.” What quality does H.H. Pope Shenouda III call on the believer to rid from their heart to be ready to receive Christ?

- a) Excessive fasting and prayer
- b) Love of fame, self, and pride
- c) Being occupied with ordinary daily tasks
- d) Excessive focus on study and knowledge

Third: Choose the appropriate word to complete each sentence

1- The manger was not a suitable place for the birth of _____, but it was suitable for the nature of His mission, which is simplicity.

2- H.H. Pope Shenouda III sees that the Magi represent the Gentiles and the arrival of _____ non-Jews to faith in Christ.

3- The Virgin Mary gave us a model in _____ and obedience when she said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”

4- Herod’s goal in asking about the place of Christ’s birth was _____ against this newborn out of envy and fear for his kingdom.

5- The true spiritual preparation for the Nativity is to prepare our hearts to be _____ pure and ready to receive the Lord.