



GREGORY OF NYSSA

Gregory of Nyssa

d. 395

9 March

Bishop and Theologian

- ✠ Taught by Macrina and Basil
- ✠ Pioneer mystical theologian
- ✠ Married to Theosebeia before becoming monk (in Basil's house), then bishop
- ✠ Deposed by Arians for financial irregularities, but restored to his see two years later
- ✠ Wrote *Commentary on Song of Songs*, *Life of Moses*, *Catechetical Orations*, *Contra Eunomius*
- ✠ Not the smooth operator that Basil was, but a rough, candid, perhaps impulsive leader

The whole city is full of it, the squares, the marketplaces, the crossroads, the alleyways; rag dealers, money-changers, food-sellers, they are all busy arguing. If you ask someone to give you change, he philosophizes about the Begotten and the Unbegotten; if you inquire about the price of a loaf, you are told by way of reply that the Father is greater and the Son inferior; if you ask, "Is my bath ready?" the attendant answers that the Son was made out of nothing.

"On the Deity of the Son" PG xlvi, 557b

It is enough for the proof of our doctrine that the tradition has come down to us from the Fathers, like an inheritance which was handed down from the apostles by the saints who came after. *Contra Eunomius* III, 2, 98