

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE CAST INTO A CAULDRON OF BURNING HOT OIL

(Dictionary of Miracles by E.C. Brewer page 57)

This tale is told by St. *Jerome*, who lived 345-420 AD. In *Jovianum I* p. 14 by Tertullian, who lived 160-240 AD; *Proscriptions against Heretics*, Ch. XXXVI; by Eusebius who lived 205-338 AD and has been repeated in almost all *Lives of the Saints*.

When St. John the Evangelist was ninety years old, the Emperor Domitian commanded him to be cast into a cauldron of burning hot oil. The place appointed for the torture was a large open field before the Latin gate. A huge cauldron was prepared and filled with oil, pitch and resin, which melted over a fire of wood, and an enormous crowd assembled on the spot to see the spectacle. The evangelist, no doubt, was scourged first, according to the usual custom, and was then led forth into the field. More fire was piled up and the cauldron began to seethe and over-flow; then he was taken up and let down into the midst of the boiling mass.

The flames were so fierce and high as wholly to conceal the martyr, but the crowd distinctly heard a voice singing in the cauldron. Everyone was amazed and waited impatiently to see the end. More and more fuel was piled on the fire, till the heat was unbearable for many yards distance, and still the voice was heard singing hymns of praise.

At length the fire burnt out, and the multitude crowded round the cauldron, when lo! There sat the aged Apostle in the midst, wholly uninjured. The oil, the resin, and the pitch, had all boiled away, the cauldron was quite dry; but there sat the evangelist, not a hair of his head injured, but his face beaming like the sun, and his aged body actually invigorated. The officers lifted him out of the cauldron, and led him back to prison.

Another source:

The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible. Ed. George Arthur Buttrick et al. Nashville: Abingdon, 1989.

Tertullian says that John went to Rome, “was plunged, unhurt, into boiling oil, and then exiled on an island” (Pres. Her. 36).

[Abbott's History of Christianity \(a book Mrs. Eddy had in her library\).](#)

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The divine Love, which made harmless the poisonous viper, **which delivered men from the boiling oil**, from the fiery furnace, from the jaws of the lion, can heal the sick in every age and triumph over sin and death.

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“Tradition again relates not only that the attempt to kill John in boiling oil was a failure, but that he never died, that instead he disappeared from sight. History tells us that he was sent a prisoner to Patmos, and prisoners sent to the islands were not intended to live. Tradition, taking up the story after the release from Patmos, describes his last years at Ephesus; how the apostle would sit silent, day after day, in the meetings, only occasionally intervening with an exhortation to love; how, when the younger members pressed for some recollection of those wondrous years with his Master in Palestine, he would reply, “If there is love, that is sufficient; it was the Master’s command.” (**Applied Christianity** by Frederick Dixon, January 1914, CSJ)