

BLOG

Kidnapped priest accused of sorcery

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An artist's rendition of the sorcerer disguised as a priest who is attempting to convert Muslims in Baalbek to Christianity. (Image via obsidianportal.com)

The plot thickens in the kidnapped priest saga.

Earlier this week I wrote about the case of a priest named Father Elias Maroun Gharios who baptized a Muslim girl who had run away from her family's house and converted to Christianity. The priest was kidnapped, presumably by the girl's family, only to later be released after Hezbollah's intervention.

Well, the father of the girl, Sheikh Ahmad Kataya, has now come out and accused Gharios of sorcery. Yes, Kataya told LBC that "a number of monks and priests practiced witchcraft and sorcery" on his daughter to make her convert to Christianity, adding that this racket of Christian holy men were "trying to convert all Shia kids in Baalbek" with their witchy ways.

That makes a lot of sense—far more sense than the idea that maybe Kataya's daughter actually *wanted* to be Christian and was exercising something called "personal will" in her decision to switch faiths. But "personal will" is less conceivable than sorcery for Kataya.

At any rate, I hope Father Gharios uses his powers of sorcery to foresee any more kidnappers coming his way, and I also hope the runaway girl - who is still at large - is safe, sound and happy, even if she's been put under a spell.

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