# Mahragan El Keraza 2023

### .....So that you surely



## English Edition

Kindergarden



"Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD chooses, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice." Deuteronomy 16:15







## H.H. Pope Tawadros II

Pope of Alexandria & Patriarch of the See of St. Mark



# H.G. Bishop David

Bishop of the Diocese of New York and New England



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Through the prayers of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II and His Grace Bishop David, we want you to be successful and use your talents. We want to invite everyone who has a special talent to join the competition to rejoice in our Lord Jesus Christ, and to continue to be smart and creative. Make sure to write your name and the name of your church on your book, so that you don't lose your book in class.

Let me introduce myself. My name is **Bozo**. My friends **Bebo**, **Uncle Happy** and the rest of our friends the clowns. We also have our friend Rashi. We spent a very beautiful day in our city, the City of Joy. We would be very happy if you came with us on our adventure this year, so you can see how

we helped our friend, **Rashi**, understand the true meaning of joy. With you and Rashi, we will learn the most beautiful stories and information during our celebration this year, titled: *"So that you Surely REJOICE"* 

Together, we will learn about the following wonderful stories:

### 1. The story of the Nativity Star

In this story, we will learn the true meaning of joy, which comes from our Lord

"My Joy comes from God"

#### 2. The Processions in our Church

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In this lesson we will learn how the church shows her joy by doing processions ("Zaffa"). "My Joy is in His house, Spirit and Life."

#### 3. The Faith of the Servant of the Queen of the Ethiopians.

In this story we will learn that the words of the Lord are the source of our joy.

our joy. "I am Joyful when I Live His Commandments."

#### 4. Elijah, the Ravens, and the Widow's cake

We will learn in this story that our relationship with our Lord is through prayer and is the reason for our joy.

> "My Joy is Everlasting as Long as I am With Him."

5. Saint Verina who Made Everyone Joyful We will learn that when we give to

others, that will make us happy too.

"My Joy is the Good Behavior fit for His heaven."



Bozo: (singing) My heart is always joyful.... For I am Pitcho the clown Come with me and stay happy. If your heart is full of God, you will find yourself joyful, and every person will be happy too. You and I are here to play, and we will not forget the words of our Lord. The message of joy and happiness: You will find it in His commandments.

The City of Joy is full of many fun games. The exit gate is designed to measure the real joy in children. Every child going out of the gate is checked. If a child comes out of the gate unhappy, a loud bell rings around the city "Ding! Dong!"

Bozo: Wait! Wait! Please! I'm Bozo, what's your name?

Rashi: And I am Rashi.

Bozo: I am here to cheer anyone

up who walks out of our city feeling unhappy. Tell me how I can cheer you up.

Rashi: Honestly, Bozo, all the games





played here made me laugh, but when the game was over, the laughs was over as well. I mean, I'm not upset, but I'm not joyful either.

**Bozo:** I wonder if you went through the Happy Star Gate!

**Rashi:** The Happy Star Gate?! No! I've never heard about it. Can you take me there? in fact, I am a hero. A hero in obedience. My story was written in the greatest Book on Earth.

Bozo: Of course! Let's go!





**Rashi:** Wow! What is this? I see the whole world from up here. Where is my house?

**Bozo:** No, you won't find it, because what are seeing now happened many many years ago. It happened when the Lord Jesus was born.

**Rashi:** I know that our Lord Jesus was born in a city called Bethlehem.

Bozo: Great job, Rashi. Bravo!

**Rashi:** Look! What a big star! How is it shining so brightly in the morning while the sun is still up?

**Bozo:** This is not just an ordinary star. This is an unusual star that shines very brightly all the time, in the morning when the sun is up and at night among the stars, It moves in the oppesite way from all the other stars.

**Rashi:** This is very strange! I am sure that everyone who saw this star were very surprised.

**Bozo:** Very true, Rashi. A group of Scientists called the Wise Men (the Magi). They were watching the stars in the sky and how they moved. They lived very far away from Bethlehem in the East. They read in their books about a strange star that will appear in the sky. This star will show them the place the Great King is born. When they saw **this star in the sky**, they rode their camels to Bethlehem. It was such a long trip. It took them **2 whole years** to get to Jerusalem where the star showed them.

.....So that you surely Rejoice!

**Rashi:** What did they do when they arrived in Jerusalem? Did they find the King they were looking for?

Bozo: Let me tell you, Rashi, what they did. When

they first arrived to Jerusalem, they went to the **palace of King Herod** who was the king of the city, to ask him about the Newborn (baby) King.

Rashi: For sure they were so happy to

see the Newborn King.

**Bozo:** No, Rashi. They didn't find the Newborn King. They asked King Herod about Him saying: "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."



### Rashi: What did King Herod do?

**Bozo:** Herod became so angry and was afraid the Newborn King would become the king instead of him.

Herod found out that this Newborn King will be born in Bethlehem. He told the Magi to go find Him. Herod asked them to come back and him where the Newborn King is so Herod could go and see him too. The Magi went to find that Newborn King. When the Magi left, they were so happy.

### Rashi: Why?

**Bozo:** They were so happy to see the star.



Rashi: So, the Newborn King is the Lord Jesus?

**Bozo:** Yes, Rashi, you are right. The Newborn King is the Lord Jesus the King of kings. That is why the star led the Magi to the place where Baby Jesus was staying. When they saw Him, they rejoiced greatly, and worshipped Him. They opened their gifts and offered





Him gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Rashi:** So, they gave Him gifts because He is the King of kings, and that is why they gave Him the best gifts. What did the Magi do after that?

**Bozo:** After they saw the Lord Jesus, and gave Him the gifts, they had a dream that they should not go back to Herod. The Magi decided to return to their country another way.

**Rashi:** Wow! I am sure they were very happy because they saw the Lord Jesus, and they will never forget this story. This joy will be always inside their hearts.

**Bozo:** Yes, this is the real joy, Rashi. The thing that will keep us joyful all the time is knowing that God loves us so so so much and will never leave us alone. For that reason, He came to earth and was born from Saint Mary. He lived with us (His name is Emmanuel, which

means God is with us.) He was crucified, died and rose from the dead to save us. Now we can live with Him forever. That's why our joy never ends bcause it is a joy that comes from-God.

**Rashi:** You are right, Bozo. The joy that comes from God



Rejoice! Deuteronomy 16:15

is a true joy that never ends regardless what happens around us. I feel this joy right now. Thank you, Bozo, for teaching me about the meaning of the meaning of true joy.

**Bozo:** I am happy too that you now know the true joy.







As we left the Gate of the Star of Joy, we found all my friends, the clowns, gathered.

**Clown 1:** Bozo, help! The city flag of Joy is missing! We can't find it! We need it so we can start our party and do the procession ("Zaffa")

**Bozo:** What? How did this happen? We had everything ready for the party, and we gave the sign of the city to Bebo the Clown?

**Clown 2:** True! But we can't seem to find Bebo either!

**Bozo:** I know where we can find Bebo. Come with me, Rashi. We will go get Bebo.

**Rashi:** I have a question. What is the sign of the City of Joy? Why do you have to find it in order to start your party?

**Bozo:** I will tell you the whole story on the way there! Let's go look for Bebo.



**Bozo:** (while on their way to Bebo...): At the start of the celebration of the city of joy, we make a big procession (zaffa) so that the whole city can participate in the joyful event. When we celebrate the Day of the City of Joy, we line up in a long line following the sign of the City of Joy. We pass by everyone in the city and we celebrate with the people and make them happy.

Rashi: What a nice idea! Where did you learn that from?

**Bozo:** Let me tell you, Rashi. When we first built the City of Joy, we looked around for the best way to celebrate and show our joy. We found that the best way to celebrate is to copy the way the church does the procession (Zaffa).

**Rashi:** I know the procession (zaffa) and love it so much. Does the procession have a special order?

**Bozo:** Yes, of course, let me show you. The church procession makes everyone in the church joyful. Everyone participates in this joy. Abouna, the deacons, and all the people are joyful during the Zaffa. The deacons praise God with the cymbals and the triangle while they walk around the church. The people are always joyful and singing with deacons. Everyone sings the most beautiful hymns, and get blessed by the procession (Zaffa).

Rashi: Yes, that is so true! I usually wait for the big icon to pass by me, so





I can take its blessing. Although, I'm not sure when the icons pass during the procession.

Bozo: Let me explain to you the order of the procession (Zaffa)

from the beginning, so that you know.





Rejoice! Deuteronomy 16:15

The Processions in Our Church

**Bozo:** All the way in the front of the line of the Zaffa, the first deacon holds the big Cross. On the cross has a picture of our Lord Jesus crucified on one side and a picture of our Lord Jesus resurrected on the other side. This is because the cross is the source of the joy of the whole church because it is the sign of victory and triumph.

The rest of the deacons hold small crosses with a picture on it and line up behind the first deacon. Then at the end of the line another deacon holds the icon and walks backward in front of Abouna. Abouna holds the censer and gives incense



in front of the icon. Behind Abouna, walks a deacon holding an incense box. The incense in the church is a sign that our

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Lord Jesus is present with us. This is what brings blessings and joy to everyone in the church. And every time we pray, our prayer goes up to God just like the incense goes up. When we pray, we ask God that our prayer goes up to Him just like the incense.

**Rashi:** That is so true! I am always happy during the procession. But I am not sure why they walk back and forth in the whole church?

**Bozo:** Good job paying attention to the dtails, Rashi. I will tell you. The Zaffa starts at the altar.

First, Abouna and the deacons go around the altar 3 times. Then, they go out of the altar and walk around the whole church. They go from the left to the right for the first and the second



time. On the third time, they walk in the middle of the church all the way until they go back to the altar. In the altar, they walk around the altar one last time. At the end, the deacon





who is holding the icon, stands with his back to the altar, and all the priests who are present give incense in front of the icon.

**Rashi:** I am very excited that I now understand the order of the church processions. Tell me please, Bozo, when does the church do the Zaffa? I don't want to miss it.

**Bozo:** We do the Zaffa in the church so many times. From the Feast of the Resurrection (Easter) to the Feast of the Ascension. You can also attend it I on, the feasts of our friends the saints whom we love. That way, the church shows us that the good children of God make God happy, and we should do good things like them.

**Rashi:** Our church is so beautiful and full of joy.

**Bozo:** This is very true, Rashi. The church always teaches us to sing and praise when we are joyful. The Holy Bible tells us:





Narrator: Bozo and Rashi finally made it to Bebo. They asked him why he is crying and where is the sign of the City of Joy.

**Bebo:** When I was trying to get everything ready for the party, I wanted to carry the sign of the City of Joy through the door. It was so big and heavy. I tried my best to be careful but the sign bombed the door and broke. I was trying to fix it but couldn't understand the instructions in the book. I don't know what to do.

Bozo: Did you try to ask Uncle Happy? He is the only one that can fix it.





**Bebo:** No, I was afraid that he would be mad at me and kicks me out of the City of Joy. I want to stay here with all of you. Can you please help me get the tall ladder and I will fix it.

**Bozo:** Bebo, Uncle Happy will never get mad at you. In a matter of fact, he likes it when we ask him questions to understand. He always tells us that when we understand things, we will be more joyful. Just like what happened to the eunuch of the queen of the Ethiopia. Do you know the story?

**Bebo:** No, I don't. Who is the eunuch of the Queen of Ethiopia?

Rashi: I know that story!



**Rashi:** This eunuch, was a Jewish man from Ethiopia. He worked for the queen of Ethiopia. One day he was going back home from Jerusalem. He was riding his wagon with many horses. On the ride, he was reading

out loud the word of God from the Book of Isaiah in the Old Testament. All of a sudden, he saw a man walking next to his wagon. That man heard the eunuch reading.



Bebo: Who was that man?

**Bozo:** That was Philip, one of the seven deacons. God sent him a message to go walk next to the wagon. Then Philip ran to the eunuch and asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The eunuch said to Philip, "How can I understand, if no one explained it to me? Can

you, please, come sit next to me in my wagon and tell me what these words mean?"

Philip hopped on and rode with him in his wagon and explained to him what he was reading about the Lord Jesus. When Philip finished, the eunuch was so happy that he now understands the word of God just like the verse says:

....So that you surely Rejoice!





After the eunuch heard the stories of the Lord Jesus and believed, he wanted to become Christian.

Bebo: Do you mean he wanted to get baptized?

**Rashi:** Yes, Bibo. While they were riding the wagon, they saw water. The eunuch asked Philip if could get baptized. Philp told him that if he believed from his whole heart, he could. The eunuech said "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 8:37) The eunuch ordered to stop the wagon and both the eunuch and Philip went down into the water and Philip baptized the eunuch. When they finished, the eunuch was joyful because he became Christian and a son to God. When the eunuch went back home to Ethiopia, told all the people there about the Lord Jesus and His love to us.



**Bebo:** What a beautiful story!

**Bozo:** And here we are. We arrived at Uncle Happy's place.



When they saw Uncle Happy, they told him all what happened.



**Uncle Happy:** Don't worry, friends. I will fix it and it will be as good as new. Can you please bring my tools?

**Rashi:** Wow! Uncle Happy, how do you walk while standing on these long sticks? And fix the broken sign. This is great!

**Uncle Happy:** I lived with Grandpa Farhan for many years. He taught me everything.

Rashi: Who is Grandpa Farhan?

**Uncle Happy:** He is the one who built The City of Joy. He taught me everything I know now.

**Rashi:** This is wonderful! I think you are very lucky, Uncle Happy. I am sure you were always joyful when you are with Grandpa Farhan.





**Uncle Happy:** Yes, but Grandpa taught me that there is one source of perfect joy. He told us that when we live with Him, we will always be



joyful. He told us a beautiful story to show us who is the source of real joy.

Rashi: What story? Can you, please tell us? Elijah, The Ravens, and the Widow's Cake too! (2Kings & 1Kings 17:2-16)

> **Uncle Happy:** There was a man his name was Elijah. Elijah was a great prophet

(the man of God). and he prayed to God all the time. Elijah knew that God is always with him and leading his way. At that time, many people forgot about God, but Elijah followed God's commandments with joy. He followed God's word even when there was no food at all (famine).

Rashi: No food? Why? What happened?

**Uncle Happy:** God told Elijah to leave his place and go stay next to Brook Cherith. God ordered the ravens to bring Elijah food every day.

**Bebo:** But how?! Ravens usually snatch food and fly away. God made them bring food to Elijah.

**Rashi:** Wow! That is so strange. God must have loved Elijah so much and cared for him.



Uncle Happy: Yes, that's true, Rashi. So, Elijah went and did exactly what

God told him to do and stayed by the

river. Every day, God sent ravens to bring him food. They brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening. When Elijah felt thirsty, he drank from the river.

**Rashi:** Did the ravens continue to bring him food?

Uncle Happy: No, Rashi, let me finish the story. It happened after a while that the river dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. But God always cares for His children, so He prepared another place for Elijah to live.





**Bebo:** Where is that place?

Uncle Happy: God told Elijah, saying, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. When you go there, stay at the widow's house I told her to take a good care of you. She lives in her house with her son.



Rashi: Did Elijah follow God's orders?

**Uncle Happy:** Of course, Rashi. Elijah did exactly what God told him. When he arrived at the city, he met a widow gathering some wood. Elijah called the widow and asked her to bring some water for him to drink and some bread to eat.

The widow noticed that he is one of the people of God. She told him

"I have no bread at all. All I have is a little bit of flour and a tiny bit of oil. And here I am gathering some wood to make a



small cake for me and my son to eat."

**Rashi:** Oh no! What is he going to do?

Uncle Happy: Look Rashi, Elijah told the widow not to worry. He told her "Don't worry. Just make a cake for me first and then make to yourself and your son. For God promised: "The bin of



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flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth." (1 Kings 17:16.)

.....So that you surely

This means that she will never run out of flour or oil until it rains again, and the plants grow.

Although the widow was not from God's people, she obeyed and did just like what Elijah told her. She had enough food for Elijah, her family and for many days. She never ran out of flour or oil until the rain poured down again.

**Rashi:** Wow! The widow must have been very happy. It is very true, when I walk with God, love Him, and follow His commandments He will surely make me joyful no matter what.

**Uncle Happy:** Very true, Rashi. Those who love God and keep His commandments have the true joy just like the verse says:



**Rashi:** Thank you, Uncle Happy for the wonderful story.

**Bozo:** And thank you for fixing the sign. I knew it that you would be able to solve the problem. Now the whole city will rejoice because of this wonderful news.





Narrator: Bebo, Rashi, and Bozo picked up the sign and walked back to see their friends. As they were walking back...

**Rashi:** I wish I could celebrate with you the procession of the City of Joy. I wish I could do something to help the children who are coming to the City of Joy feel joyful.

Bozo: I wonder what you can do, Rashi?

**Bebo:** I have an idea! You can dress up like a clown like us. I will teach you how to do face painting. This way you can greet the children at the door, paint their faces and teach them about keeping themselves and the city clean.



Rejoice! Deuteronomy 16:15

**Bozo:** Great idea! You can also tell them nice stories while you do the face painting.

**Rashi:** Wow! Colors, painting, stories. I love it! But I am not sure what story to tell them!

Bebo: Yeah what story?

Rashi: I can tell them a story to teach them about cleaning,

**Bozo:** I wonder which story is that.

Rashi: Saint Verina? Can you tell us her story please!

Bebo: Can you please tell us the story?



**Rashi:** Saint Verina is an Egyptian saint. Her name means "the good fruit". She was born in Garagous in upper Egypt. When she was little, she learned to love God and to pray to Him every day. She also, loved everyone and helped others to be joyful. That's why she was always loved by everyone. Saint Verina served and helped in the church. She made tonias for the priests and deacons. She served many people in other countries outside of Egypt.







Bebo: Other countries like where?

**Rashi:** Saint Verina went with a group of soldiers from Luxor to help them in the war until they arrived in Switzerland. In Switzerland, Saint Verina made clothes and sold them to be able to buy food. She learned their language and told them about the Lord Jesus the true source of Joy. For that reason, many people loved her and believed in the Lord Jesus.

Bebo: That is so amazing! And that is how

she pleased our Lord Jesus Christ's heart and made Him so happy. She was able to help many people get to know our Lord Jesus and believe in Him.

**Rashi:** Very true, Bebo. Not only that, but Saint Verina also kept helping the poor and serving the sick. She also showed them how to stay clean and taught them to wash their clothes and face with soap and water. She taught them how to comb their hair and how to clean their homes.

**Bozo:** Saint Verina made everyone around her Joyful.





Rashi: You're right, Bozo. Everyone talked about what Saint Verina taught

them. When the king of the city (who did not worship God) learned that Saint Verina was a Christian, and that she was teaching the people about our Lord Jesus, the king put her in jail.

**Bebo:** Why did he do that?! What did Saint Verina do?

**Rashi:** Because our Lord filled Saint Verina's heart, she was always happy, Bebo. Even she was in jail, she was always joyful because the source of her joy is the Lord Jesus. He is the source of our joy. She prayed, as the verse says:





And because God never leaves His children, I will tell you what happened next. After a few days, the king got very sick. He asked the guards to bring Saint Verina from the jail to pray to our Lord Jesus that he would feel better because he knew that she always prayed for all the sick and they were healed.

Bebo: Did he feel better?

**Rashi:** Yes, Bebo. Saint Verina prayed for the king to get better, and our Lord



heard her prayers. The king ordered that she be released from prison, and Saint Verina continued to help others and made everyone happy all her life. The church celebrates her departure to heaven on the day of the 4th of Tut in the Coptic Calendar. Here, I have a picture of Saint Verina with me.

**Bozo:** This is a very beautiful picture of her. She is holding a comb in her hand and a jar of water in the other hand.



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.....So that you surely





**Rashi:** You are right, Bozo, because she taught many people how to maintain their hygiene. That is why everyone became joyful and many churches were built after the name of the Saint Verina. May the blessing of her prayers be with us.

**Bebo:** Saint Verina's story is very beautiful. Everything she did teaches us that whoever helps everyone, and makes everyone joyful, will be truly happy.



The celebration in the City of Joy began with great joy. Rashi was at the door greeting the visitors with her beautiful smile. The day was full of games, shows, toys, and balloons. Finally, the time of the procession was very joyful. The sign of the city started circling around the town with the delightful sounds of bells.





**Everyone (singing):** I rejoice with great joy, with a beautiful smile, say

it with me and sing it. This joy comes from my heart every day, be happy, and as soon as you wake up and shine... laugh loudly. I am happy... I am happy, this is real joy. He is the Lord Jesus... When you approach Him... He will wipe away any tears. Read the Bible carefully. Pray to Him at all times. Go to His house, practice the sacraments. You will find your heart always delighted.





# THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

# Бен Фран иФшт нец Пщнрі нец Піпнетца сөотав отнот† нотшт. Дцинн

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Me morization







Heaven ....

Our Father Who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, in Christ Jesus our Lord. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.





# Memorization $X \in \Pi \in \Pi \cup U$ $T \in J \in \Pi \cup U$

Хе Пениют ет бен нифноти: маречтотво ихе пекраи. Иаресі нже текметотро. Петегнак маресуши: ифрит бен тфе нем гіхен пікагі. Пеншк ите раст инісі нан ифоот. Отог ха инетерои нан евол: μφρη εων ήτενχω εβολ ηνηέτε отон итан ершот. Отог иперентен еботн епірасиос: αλλα μαεμεή έβολ γα πιπετεωογ. **Бен Піхрістос Інсотс Пенбоіс**: χε θωκ τε τμετογρο неи τχου неи пішот ща є́нег. Динн.





Through the grace of God and under the auspices of His Grace Bishop David, Bishop of the Diocese of New York and New England and the current Papal Exarch of the Archdiocese of North America for H.H. Pope Tawadros II, this Mahragan book was translated and formatted by the blessed servants of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of New York and New England. All material was translated from the Arabic Language to the English Language.







# **COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE**

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