

MAHRAGAN EL KERAZA









The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? Ps 27:1







H.H. Pope Tawadros II

Pope of Alexandria & Patriarch of the See of Saint Mark



H.G. Bishop David

Bishop of the Diocese of New York and New England



Table of Contents





Through this adventure, we will learn many stories and we will learn how to praise our Lord and say:





1– God the Great Creator: This lesson will teach us about some of God's characteristics, so that we can get to know "The Lord Our God"

2– Saint Mark the Evangelist of Egypt: This lesson will teach us about how Saint Mark faithfully brought to us the light of the knowledge of our God so that the Lord can become **"The Lord is the Light to Our Path."**

3– Saint Joseph the Carpenter, the Servant of the Mystery of the

Incarnation: This lesson will teach us about the life of Saint Joseph the Carpenter, the servant of the Mystery of the Incarnation. We will learn that the Lord is **"The Mystery of Our Salvation."**

4– The Church – Structure and Meaning: This lesson will teach us that everything in the church, including its structure, is designed to make us feel that the church is **"The Fortress for Our Lives."**

5– Saint Theognosta: This lesson will teach us that everyone who loves the Lord will live in everlasting peace under any circumstances, because the Lord always makes us feel "Peace in Our Troubles"





In a garden full of tall, strong trees, there lives the clever carpenter, Uncle Amin. He has many smart tools. The woodpecker, Dodo, also lives in the beau-

tiful garden. They help each other to make the most beautiful shapes out of strong, durable wood. One day, the tools woke up to the strong sound of Dodo knocking and pecking on the window of Uncle Amin's house.

Dodo: Help, Uncle Amin!! The fence of the garden is broken and some people are cutting the trees down!

Uncle Amin: Cutting down trees? Who are these people? Come, Dodo, show me these people. Why are they doing such a terrible thing? This way, we won't be able to find wood to make the beautiful pieces! Come show me where they are.





Sheero: What do you mean? We have the best carpenter in town. He can make all kinds of beautiful wood. We don't need the trees.

Dodo: No, Sheero. Uncle Amin makes beautiful things out of the wood, but the One who created the wood is God. Uncle Amin cannot create wood.

Sheero: Create? Make? What's the difference?

Uncle Amin: Oh, there is a big difference, Sheero. I'll explain. Come with me, I'll tell you on our way.

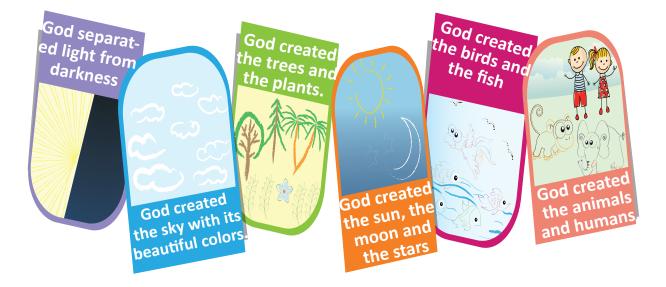




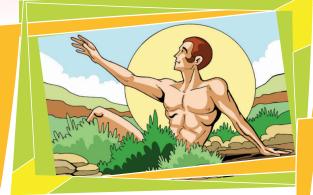


Uncle Amin: God has many characteristics. In order for us to know Him more, we need to learn about His characteristics. Among His characteristics is that He is God the Creator.

No one else shares this characteristic with God. He is the only creator.



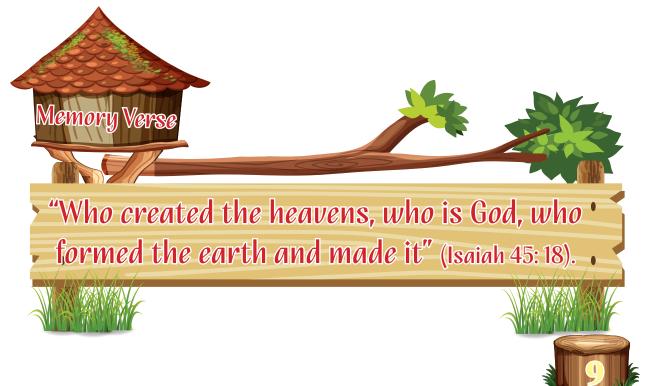
After God finished creating everything we need in the most beautiful way, Our Lord created mankind in a different way. He created Adam from the dust of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life.



He then took a rib from Adam's ribs and created Eve. Man is the only one whom God created in



His image and likeness. God is unique in that He is the only **Creator of** all things. This verse confirms that



Even when a person invents or makes anything, he has the tools or the materials with which he can work. A human can only make things out of the materials that God created. Sheero: I do not understand! Uncle Amin: Basically, God is the one Who creates all the materials that we use to make things. For example, when I make a chair, I have to have wood, and the wood comes from the trees that God created. In order to design a chair, I think

a lot about how to make it. And when I think, I need to use my brain, which God gave me.

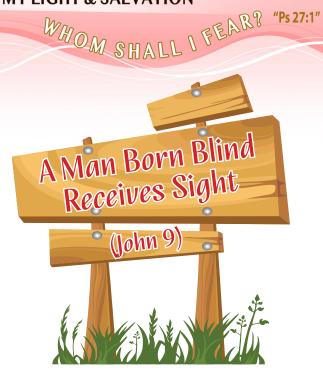
God is the One who created materials (the wood) for us to make things in our shop, and He's also the One that created for man the mind with which he thinks about how to make things. Because God is the Creator,

> He is the One that can give us life, for He is the Giver of Life. If something happens to His creation, He is the only one that can restore it to its original form. **Kiko:** I still don't understand what you mean. **Uncle Amin:** Let me tell you a story. It'll explain to you what I mean.

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT & SALVATION

One time, the Lord Jesus was walking with His disciples, and He saw a man who was born blind. This man sat on the ground and asked people to give him money.

The Lord Jesus spat on the ground and made clay. He placed the clay where this man's eyes should've been. Jesus told him to go wash his face in a nearby pool called Siloam. The blind man



obeyed Jesus and as soon as he washed his face he was able to see! New eyes were created and he was able to see everything around him. The Lord Jesus was the only One who could create eyes for the man

who was born blind. He created the eyes from dust just as He created Adam from dust, because He is God the Creator.

Kiko: Now I understand that God is the only One who has the unique





characteristic of creation. He is the One who created matter and he is also the Giver of Life.

Uncle Amin: God also has another unique characteristic, which is that He is the Pantocrator, the ruler of all. Sheero: What does Pantocrator mean?

Uncle Amin: Pantocrator means that everything that God created is governed by an amazing and mysterious system. That is very obvious in the systems of nature: you will see that night is followed







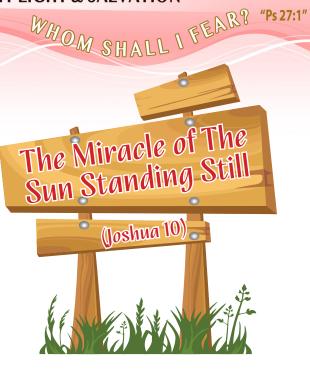
by day and that the seasons of the year follow the same order and arrangement every year: Summer – Fall – Winter – Spring.



THE LORD IS MY LIGHT & SALVATION

And because God created these systems, He's the only One that can change them! Just like in the days of Joshua.

Everyone: What happened? Uncle Amin: This story happened when Joshua, the leader of the people of our Lord, was leading them to reach the land of Canaan. Joshua went to



war with the enemies. And because God was always with His people, He helped Joshua and his army in that war. He made the enemy flee. He even helped them by making the sky rain huge hailstones on the enemy. When the sun started to set, Joshua prayed to God and asked him to make the Sun stay up until the war was over. And by the power of God, he said, "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." This meant that the sun would keep shining on the land of Gibeon all day and the moon would stay up in the Valley of Aijalon all day.

Dodo: The sun stayed up as well as the moon? No one can do that! **Uncle Amin:** God is the Great Creator, The Pantocrator, the ruler of all things. He is the only One who can change anything in a system that He created.



Indeed, God listened to Joshua and the sun stayed up until Joshua defeated the enemy and the land of Gibeon was saved, because He is

"God the Creator, The Pantocrator."

Sheero: Oh! This is a great miracle. I thought that creation was something anyone can do but now I know the difference between making and creating. There's a big difference between The Creator and a maker. Naila: Thank you, Uncle Amin, for explaining to us.

Dodo: Here we are! Look, there is the broken fence.

Uncle Amin: Wow! So many trees are cut down and have fallen on the ground. And they weren't even cut the right way. These trees will never grow again.







Sheero: What's the problem if they cut the trees? Maybe they were

The Light to Our path

trying to help us. **Dodo:** I don't think so, Sheero. If they wanted to help, they wouldn't break the fence surrounding the garden, or cut the trees the way they did.



THE LORD IS MY LIGHT & SALVATION

WHOM SHALL I FEAR? "PS 27:1"

Uncle Amin: This is not what I learned from my family. We do not cut



down many trees; instead, we choose the large trees, and we preserve the roots. Because as long as the roots are good, the tree can regrow. But these trees are cut in a way that does not allow them to grow again. They will die because they were cut down from the roots.



Naila: I wonder why the roots are so important? Dodo: The roots deliver food to the tree and help it grow. They are the base of the tree and they stabilize it in the ground. The stronger the roots, the stronger the tree and the bigger it will grow day after day.

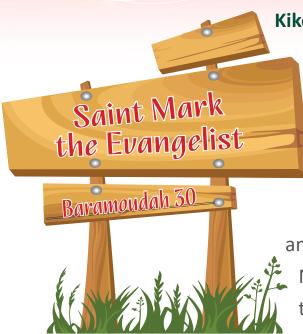


Uncle Amin: Everything that has a foundation will be strong and stable, just like our faith which our Lord Jesus established. He handed it down to our holy fathers, and they are the ones who faithfully handed it down from one to the next. They commanded us to be steadfast in the teaching that our Lord handed down to us.

Kiko: I remember the story of the first person to plant the seed of faith in the land of Egypt. You told me his story when I first came here, Uncle Amin. That's the story of a great saint whose name means "hammer," like me!

Uncle Amin: Bravo, Kiko, I'm glad you remember that story. Do you think you can tell them the story while Dodo and I look around this place and see what the root of the problem is?





Kiko: This story is about the great saint Mark. His name means "hammer." His paents were Jewish and very rich. Saint Mark lived in Cyrenaica, Libya with his mom Mary and his dad Aristopolos. His parents raised him in the love of our Lord, and they cared for his education. Saint Mark moved with his mom and dad to Jerusalem.

St. Mark met the Lord

Jesus. He believed in Him and became one of the 70 apostles that the

Lord Jesus chose, along with the 12 disciples, to serve with Him. St. Mark learned from the Lord Himself and saw many of His miracles. He learned everything from the Lord Jesus Himself.

Our Coptic Orthodox Church gives him many names:



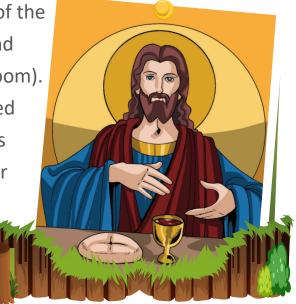




St. Mark's mother, St. Mary, was one of the women who served the Lord Jesus, and hosted him in her house (the upper room). That's where the Lord Jesus established the sacrament of the Eucharist. That is why the house of St. Mary, the mother of St. Mark, became the first Christian church in the world.

After the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit descended

on the disciples and apostles. Then, the disciples, along with St. Mark, began their preaching in Jerusalem and many other places.







Our Lord performed many miracles at the hands of St. Mark, and many people believed in our Lord Jesus. St. Mark would talk to them about the Lord and all the teachings he received from Him. He wanted the Lord to be a light to their lives.



Naila: But Kiko, you said that St. Mark was the first person to plant the seed of faith in the land of Egypt. Did he actually go to the land of Egypt?

Kiko: Yes, St. Mark went to preach in the land of Egypt. When he entered the city of Alexandria, his sandals broke, so he went to a cobbler (a person who fixes shoes) to fix his sandals. The cobbler's name was Ananias. While he was fixing the sandals, the awl (a tool he





uses to fix shoes) pierced Ananias' finger and he cried out and said, "Oh, the only God."

Christian belief spread from Alexandria to the rest of Egypt.

That's how St. Mark established the church in Egypt, and how he brought to Egypt all the teachings of the Lord.

St. Mark ordained Ananias as the first bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Alexandria. He also ordained 3 priests and 7 deacons. God healed his finger through the prayers of St. Mark.

> St. Mark took advantage of the situation and began teaching Ananias about the Lord Jesus, the only God.

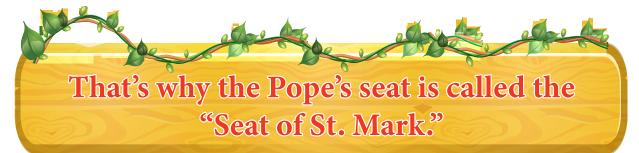
Ananias and his family believed in the Lord Jesus and were baptized by St. Mark. They were the start of the spread of Christianity in the land of Egypt.

Uncle Amin: That's how St. Mark became the first Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church. The faith continued to be passed down from one patriarch to the next, until the late 117th Pope Shenouda the Patriarch, to the current 118th Pope Tawadrous. Each patriarch passes along the





same holy teachings he received from the patriarch before him, which was all received from the Lord Jesus himself.





Kiko: Thank you, Uncle Amin. You are back!!Uncle Amin: I came back a while ago and heard the wonderful story you were telling. I will finish the story for you, Kiko.St. Mark actually did many other things:

The Theological School of Alexandria

Saint Mark founded this school for people to learn about the true Christian faith. This school became a reliable source for Theological knowledge to the whole world.



Saint Mark wrote the Divine Liturgy

He wrote the prayers of the Divine Liturgy and gave it to Saint Annianus and the rest of the priests. (Later on, Pope Cyril added more prayers and was named the Cyril Liturgy".)

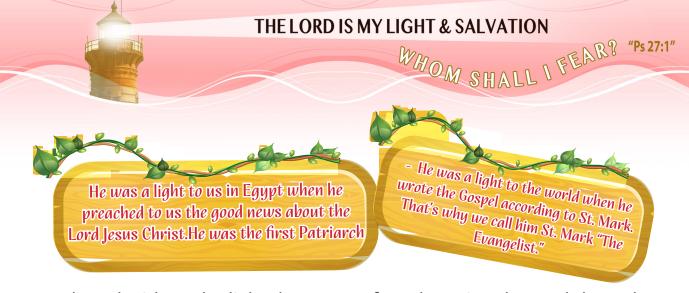






Kiko: St. Mark was truly a light to all who were around him. **Uncle Amin:** And he taught us how to bring God's light to all who are around us.





He shared with us the light that comes from knowing the Lord through his words and his teachings. Now , it is our turn to keep the faith that was given to us by our forefathers and to teach it to others from generation to generation, doing what God told us to do when He said:



Naila: Honestly, Uncle Amin, after I learned about St. Mark, now I know why you are the most brilliant carpenter; because you keep and preserve what you received.





Sheero: Uncle Amin, did you figure out what happened to all the trees? Uncle Amin: No, I did not, but we have to protect the garden from any future intruders. We must first rebuild the fence as quickly as possible. Naila: We will need a lot of help.

Uncle Amin: I will go ask as many of my carpenter friends as I can so they can help us rebuild the fence. Can you please go back to the work-

shop until I come back? Dodo and the tools went back to the workshop while Uncle Amin went to get help.

Naila: It's a lot of work for Uncle Amin to gather all his friends to help him rebuild the fence.





Sheero: He loves us and loves the garden so much. He always



 works hard to keep it in good shape.
Kiko: Uncle Amin loves the garden and his workshop very much. Ever since I moved here, I see him working very hard to take care of everything here, including every one of us.

Dodo: Kiko's words are so true! I once asked Uncle Amin why he loved this place and each one of

us so much. He told me that he was raised in this place and he considered it his home. He considers us all his family and doesn't want any harm coming our way.

Kiko: He took these characteristics from a very close friend! His intercessor! He was also a carpenter. He always told us stories about him. Do you and Sheero remember his story?





Sheero: Yes, of course. It's St Joseph the Carpenter, the "Servant of the Mystery of the Incarnation." Uncle Amin always told us about him. That is why I am confident that Uncle Amin will be able to protect our family from any harm; just like his intercessor.

Naila: What does the "Servant of the Mystery of the Incarnation" mean? Who is St. Joseph the Carpenter? Can you tell me about him and what he did?

Dodo: First I will tell you the story of man's salvation from the beginning so you can understand.



God loved man very much. He made many beautiful things for him before creating him. Then, He made man in His likeness and image. But when Adam and Eve didn't listen to God and ate from the tree, they had to face the sentence of death and their nature became corrupt. Adam, Eve and all their children after them had





to face the punishments. They can no longer live with God, and they had to face death. They were no longer close to God. They needed someone to save them and their children from these consequences.

God promised man a savior would be born and die instead of man-

kind so we can live with God again.

People waited a long time for Baby Jesus to be born. Many prophets talked about how Baby Jesus would be very special and be born of a virgin girl that hasn't been married. They wrote many things about her

characteristics.

Many years went by, everyone waited for that special girl to be born. This special girl would be the mother of Baby Jesus, the Savior. Then, at the perfect time, God came down to be



born as a baby. He came to save people, just like He promised.



Naila: For sure, the girl chosen by God must be very special. She could

be a princess or a famous person. Sheero: Actually, you know, Naila, there was a little girl named Mary. Her mom's name was Anna, and her dad's name was Joachim. When she was only 3



years old, they took Mary to live and help at the temple of God. At the temple, Mary prayed and served God. Her love for Him increased day after day. Years passed and her mother and father passed away. When Mary turned 12 years old, it was time for her to leave the temple because girls were not allowed to live in the temple after they turn 12 years old.

Naila: Oh, what did Mary do? I wonder where she went.

Kiko: Not to worry, Naila! God always has His eyes on all His children and He protects them. I will tell you what happened:

God told Zechariah the priest to ask 12 of the best men in the city that Mary was from (To the servant: from the tribe of Judah where Mary was



from) to bring their staff to the temple. Each one wrote his name on his staff the Zechariah took them all and put them in the temple. The owner of the staff from which a sign appeared would be the one whom

God chose to take care of Mary in his house and be her fiancé. The next day, they saw that Joseph the Carpenter's stick had tiny plants growing out from it (sprouted). They also brought a beautiful white dove and it landed on the head of Joseph the carpenter while he was picking up his staff. They knew that God picked Joseph to look after Mary when she left the temple.



Naila: Is this the same St. Joseph the Carpenter that you were talking about earlier? Is this the one who will take care of Mary in his house? Sheero, Kiko, and Dodo: Yes, he is, Naila.

Naila: Can you tell me more about him?

Sheero: St. Joseph was born in the city of Bethlehem in Jerusalem. He lived in a city called Nazareth and he worked as a simple carpenter.



His wife died, and he continued to live his whole life in obedience to God, until God chose him as the one who would care for Mary in his house. At the time, Joseph was an old man, and Mary stayed with him and served him. One day something very strange happened! **Naila:** What happened?

Sheero: One day, God sent Archangel Gabriel to Mary to bring her very good news. He said to her: "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name JESUS" (Luke 1:

31).

When Mary heard the angel's words, she was very confused because she was not married. She asked the angel "How can this be since I do not know a man?" (Luke 1:34) The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be



called the Son of God" (Luke 1: 35). The Virgin Mary humbly obeyed the





words of God, given to her by the angel.

Naila: That's how God kept His promise to man. And how God, who fills the heaven and earth and is the Creator of all things, was born of the Virgin Mary. Oh, how lucky she is!

Sheero: That's why our church celebrates the day of the angel's Announcement to St. Mary, the Feast of the Annunciation. It's celebrated on the 29th day of Baramhat each year.

Dodo: St. Joseph continued to take care of our virgin mother Mary. He had a very big role in protecting her and the child Jesus until Jesus grew up.

Naila: That's why you told me that he was the "Servant of the Mystery of the Incarnation." Can you tell me what else he did?

Dodo: After the angel announced the good news to the Virgin Mary, an angel appeared to Joseph the carpenter in a dream and reassured him and told him the good news he told the Virgin Mary...





(For the servant, the name Jesus is the Greek pronunciation of the name Yeshua or Joshua, meaning "the Lord saves").

Immediately, St. Joseph obeyed the words of the angel, and continued

to care for our Mother the Virgin in his home. When it was almost time for her to give birth to our Lord Jesus, Caesar Augustus, the king, ordered all people to go back to the town where they were





born to register themselves. So, St. Joseph traveled with Virgin Mary from the city of Nazareth to the city of Bethlehem where he was born to register. Even though it was far and Mother Mary was going to have a baby, St. Joseph cared for her. When they arrived to Bethlehem, they found the city very crowded, and it was time for Baby Jesus to be born. St. Joseph couldn't find a place except a manger. Baby Jesus was born there to fulfill His promise to save the people. Saint Joseph took good care of the Virgin Mary and the child Jesus, and he kept them safe on

their trip to Egypt. Naila: You said

Egypt? Did they go to Egypt?

Sheero: Yes, the Holy Family visited Egypt and blessed its lands. After the birth of the Lord Jesus, King Herod, the



King of Judea, learned from the Magi that a great King was born. The king was afraid that the kingdom would be taken from him. **Naila:** Do you mean he thought that Baby Jesus will become the king instead of him?



THE LORD IS MY LIGHT & SALVATION

Sheero: Yes! That what he thought. King Herod ordered that any child in Bethlehem who was younger than two years old must be killed! So, the angel appeared to St. Joseph the Carpenter in a dream and told him: "Arise, take the young child and His mother, flee to Egypt." The angel told him to stay in Egypt until God tells him to return back. Naila: Wow! Saint Joseph was able to walk that long walk! He is already old and the trip must be hard for him, especially since our Lord Jesus was still a baby. I wonder how he did it!

Sheero: St. Joseph obeyed God and did not care about how difficult the roads are or his old age. He took the Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus and immediately traveled by night. The Holy Family came to the



land of Egypt, and they continued to move from one place to another. They lived in Egypt for more than 3 years. When King Herod died,





the angel appeared again to Saint Joseph and told him to take Baby Jesus and His mother and return back to Nazareth.

Dodo: St. Joseph the carpenter continued to care for the Lord Jesus and our Virgin Mother Saint Mary until the last day of his life. The church celebrates him on the 26th day of Abib every year.

Naila: His story is so beautiful.

Uncle Amin: I am back!







Uncle Amin's friends the carpenters came to help him rebuild the fence.



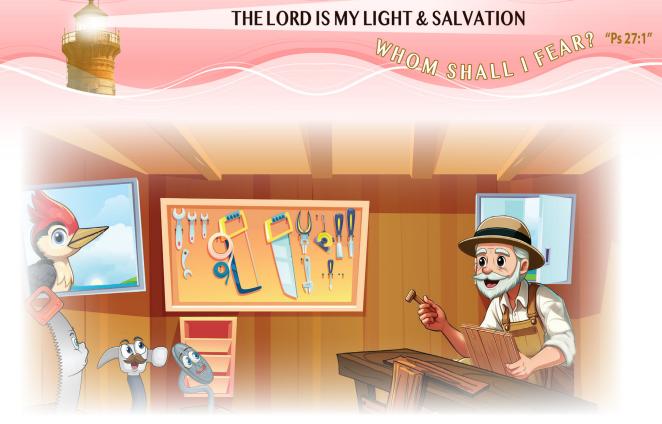
Uncle Amin: Now that I'm back, we have to organize our work so everyone knows exactly what their task is.

Sheero, when your friends arrive, you will cut down a lot of trees into straight pieces of wood.

Kiko and Naila, the two of you along with the rest of the carpenters will start rebuilding the broken part of the fence.

Dodo, you will work with your woodpecker friends to make sure that the wood we were going to use is free of pests and then you will help me in nailing the planks together.





Sheero: Why do we need to cut down a lot of trees? The part of the fence that needs to be rebuilt does not need all that wood.

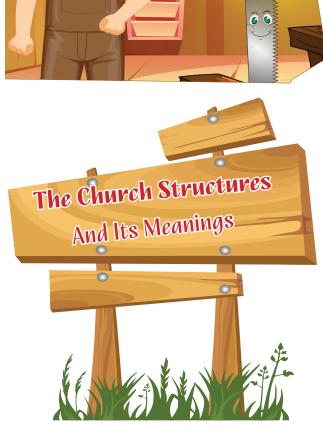
Dodo: Sheero is right. We don't need that much wood, and I can do it all by myself I don't need any help. Uncle Amin: We will not only rebuild the fence, but we want to protect the garden from any future dangers. I want everyone in here to be safe.

Naila: Great idea, Uncle Amin, it is always important to live in a





place where you feel safe and happy, and not afraid of any dangers.



Uncle Amin: Sure, Naila, that is indeed a very sweet feeling that I, myself feel as soon as I enter my real home, the church. I feel at peace and safe.

Everyone: How? Uncle Amin: I will explain it to you.

Uncle Amin: The church is God's house, and in it, the believers gather to pray to Him. It is where we learn how to live with our Lord here on earth. The church helps us to be ready to live with Him in heaven. It is the place where we feel safe because our Lord is there with us. In church, we enjoy the beauty of heaven while we are still

here on earth. That is why being part of the church, and participating in its rites and prayers, makes me feels safe and happy. For example, the



E

shape of the church building itself makes everyone feel safe and happy because it teaches us how the church is a fortress for everyone who stays connected to it. Let me explain.

First - The church is built in one of

three shapes:

1– The Shape of an Ark: The church is like Noah's ark. It keeps us safe from danger. Just like Noah and his family stayed safe during the flood in the ark, everyone in the church is protected. That's why we enjoy spending time in the church, praying, singing, learning about God, and attending Sunday school.



2- The Shape of the Cross: Our Lord Jesus Christ opened the gates of heaven when He was crucified on the Cross. That is why when we go to church more often, the church leads us to heaven.

. . . .

-80

3– The Shape of a Circle: When we draw a circle, it doesn't have a start or an end. It's like our Lord who has no beginning and no end.



(To the servant: The circle reflects the eternal nature of the church, because the church, through its union with our Lord, takes on an infinite and unlimited dimension. Thus, the circle is infinite as we do not know its beginning and its end).



When we enter the church, we can see a special pool called the baptistry on our left side. It's on the northwestern side of the building. Abouna dips the baby in the water three times in the Baptismal font in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The baby has to be 80 days old if the baby is a girl or 40 days old if the baby is a boy. Right after Baptism, Abouna uses special oil called Holy Myron to



anoint the baby 36 times in every part of his body. The Holy Myron makes the child sanctified and belongs to God and stay with him all the days of his life. That is why the first room we see when



we enter the church is the Baptistery to remind us that the Sacrament

of Baptism is like the only door that we can enter to the church to enjoy its beautiful sacraments.

Baptism is like a new birth for the person who is getting baptized. When we are baptized, we become the children of God.

Right after Baptism, Abouna uses



special oil called Holy Myron to anoint the baby 36 times in every part of his body. The Holy Myron made St.

Ananias and his family believe in the Lord Jesus when they were baptized by St. Mark.

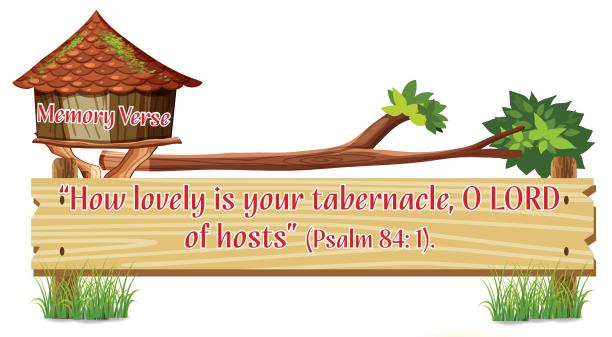








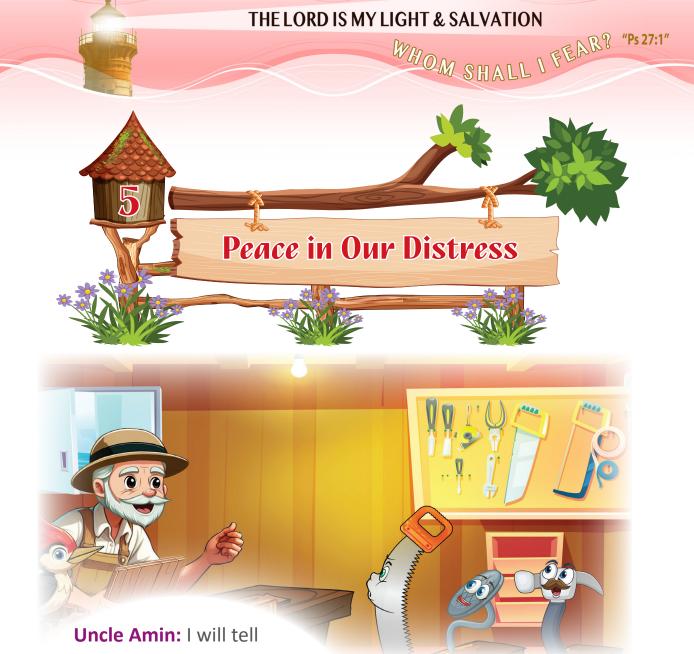
Our church is a very special place with beautiful meanings. Everything in the church helps us learn about God and shows us that the church is a safe place for everyone who is there. Indeed...



Dodo: The church is so beautiful, and its teachings are amazing. Uncle Amin: And it is best when you understand the meaning behind it. Sheero: Now, I understand what you mean, Uncle Amin. But what's your idea to protect the garden?



0



you my plan. We will make

tiny houses on the wall, like watchtowers. Dodo and his woodpecker buddies will stay there. They will tell us if someone tries to cause trouble. **Naila:** How will they tell us?

Uncle Amin: They will peck the wood very loudly with their beaks.



The loud noise will scare anyone who tries to come in and cut the wood. The noise will warn us and make us act quickly to protect our garden. Dodo: Sounds like a great plan to me, Uncle Amin.

Now I understand why you want us to cut down many trees and why you want me to get all my woodpecker friends.

Kiko: I like how you found a good idea and did not panic because of the big problem we are facing, Uncle Amin.

Uncle Amin: We need to stay calm and have peace when things are stressful because God is always with us. He will help us with our problems. Many fathers and saints went through problems too, but they lived in peace and joy because they knew that God is with them. I will tell you a story to show you how God's children are always calm and not worried when they have a problem, because they know for sure that God is there for them.







Uncle Amin: Our story is about a saint named Theognosta. She was a nun in a monastery near a city called Rome. One day, the messengers of the King of India were visiting the King of Rome. On their way back to their country, they saw the nun Theognosta alone outside the monastery. They took her to their country and made her a slave to

their queen.

Naila: Oh, that must be terrible!

What did she do? Uncle Amin: Theognosta, the daughter of our Lord, was not

of our Lord, was not afraid, because she knew that our Lord was with her all the time, protecting her from any danger, just as the verse says:







Although she was away from home and in a strange land, she was always happy and she never complained. She did her work joyfully and her heart was full of peace.

God made the queen to like her and made her in charge of all the workers in the palace. She worked hard all day long, but she never forgot to pray and read the Bible. She lived as a nun and God worked many miracles because of her prayers.

Kiko: Can you tell us some of the miracles, please?

Uncle Amin: One day, the king's son got very sick. All the doctors and magicians could not make him feel better. The queen asked Theognosta to pray for him because she saw her pray a lot to her God. Saint Theognosta prayed to our Lord to help and heal the boy. Our Lord heard her



prayer and made him healthy again! Everyone was surprised at what happened. The king thanked Theognosta and set her free, so she is not a slave

anymore. He gave her a home by herself where she could pray. She stayed there, praying for others to believe in the Lord Jesus.

Our Lord did another miracle through her prayers.

After a little while, the queen got sick. She asked Theognosta to pray for her. God answered her prayers, and the queen got better. The queen then told her husband they

should trust and believe in the Lord Jesus that Theognosta worships. He was scared people might get angry, but one day, the king told everyone that he believed in the Lord Jesus.



Dodo: How? What happened to the king?

Uncle Amin: One day, the king went out hunting with his men in the woods. Suddenly, a dark cloud covered them, and a strong wind blew.



They got lost, and everyone

felt scared. The king then remembered St. Theognosta and how she always prayed to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Lord Jesus made her strong when she made the sign of the cross. The king cried out



asking the Lord Jesus to save him, and



immediately he saw the sign of the cross like a light in front of him. The sign of the cross guided them until they entered the city. When the king arrived at the city, all his people were wait-



ing for him because they were worried why he was late. The king told them all that happened to him and they all rejoiced and glorified God.

Sheero: What a beautiful miracle! Did St. Theognosta find out the story? Uncle Amin: Yes, the king called St. Theognosta and asked her to teach him all about the Lord Jesus. She was very happy, and she



asked the king to ask the king of Rome to send them a priest. The king of Rome sent them a monk priest. After a little while, the people and the king loved that monk so much so they asked if the Pope could ordain him that monk a bishop. The monk became the bishop. He continued to teach the faith, and the number of believers increased day after day.



Saint Theognosta continued to tell everyone about Jesus, and many girls believed because of her words and wanted to stay with her. They built a monastery where they could live with St. Theognosta. After a short period, Mother Theognosta became very sick. On the17th day of Toot, she departed in peace on the Feast of the Cross.

Dodo: Truly, God makes the best out of any problem.

Sheero: I'll start working! Let's go! Who's coming with me?

Everyone: All of us. Let's get to work.

Narrator: All the carpenters and tools came together, and they began to build the fence. Then they built a strong tower house where Dodo and his friends would sit.

Many days went by, and the bad people tried to cut down more trees, but Dodo and his friends saw them. Dodo and his

friends started making loud noise until Uncle Amin and all the tools came to save the garden. The friends in the garden saved their home and learned that God is the Pantocrator, the creator and the ruler of all. If we follow







the teachings of our fathers who came before us, we will be a light to all those around us. And we will witness to all people for our God, who came to earth to save us and gave us our beautiful church, the church that protects us, and helps us to grow day after day in our faith. We live our entire lives in peace because we know that,







Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the multitude of Your compassions blot out my iniquity. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I am conscious of my iniquity; and my sin is at all times before me.

Against You only I have sinned, and done evil before You: that You might be just in Your sayings, and might overcome when You are judged. For, behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins my mother conceived me.

For, behold, You have loved the truth: You have manifested to me the hidden and unrevealed things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with Your hyssop, and I shall be purified: You shall wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. You shall make me to hear gladness and joy: the humbled bones shall rejoice.



THE LORD IS MY LIGHT & SALVATION

Turn away Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit in my inward parts. Do not cast me away from Your face; and do not remove Your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of Your salvation: and uphold me with a directing spirit. Then I shall teach the transgressors Your ways; and the ungodly men shall turn to You.

Deliver me from blood, O God, the God of my salvation: and my tongue shall rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips; and my mouth shall declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would have given it: You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and humbled heart God shall not despise.

Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion; and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then You shall be pleased with sacrifices of righteousness, offering, and burnt sacrifices: then they shall offer calves upon Your altar. ALLELUIA.







Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Who was born of the Virgin, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Who was crucified for us, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Who rose from the dead and ascended into the heavens, have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.

O Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, forgive us our sins. O Lord, forgive us our iniquities. O Lord, forgive us our trespasses.

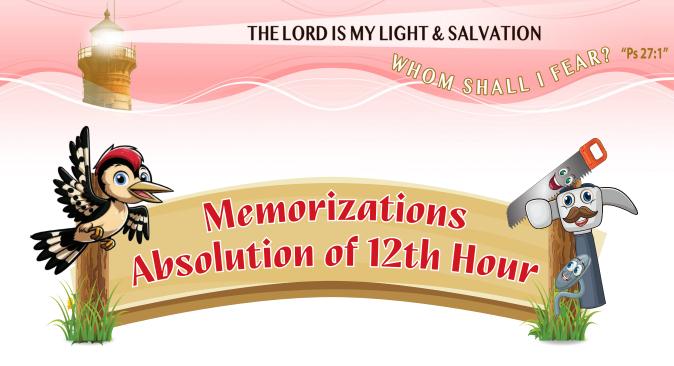




O Lord, visit the sick of Your people, heal them for the sake of Your holy name. Our fathers and brothers who have slept, O Lord, repose their souls.

O You Who are without sin, Lord have mercy on us. O You Who are without sin, Lord help us and receive our supplications. For Yours is the glory, the dominion, and triple holiness. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord bless. Amen.



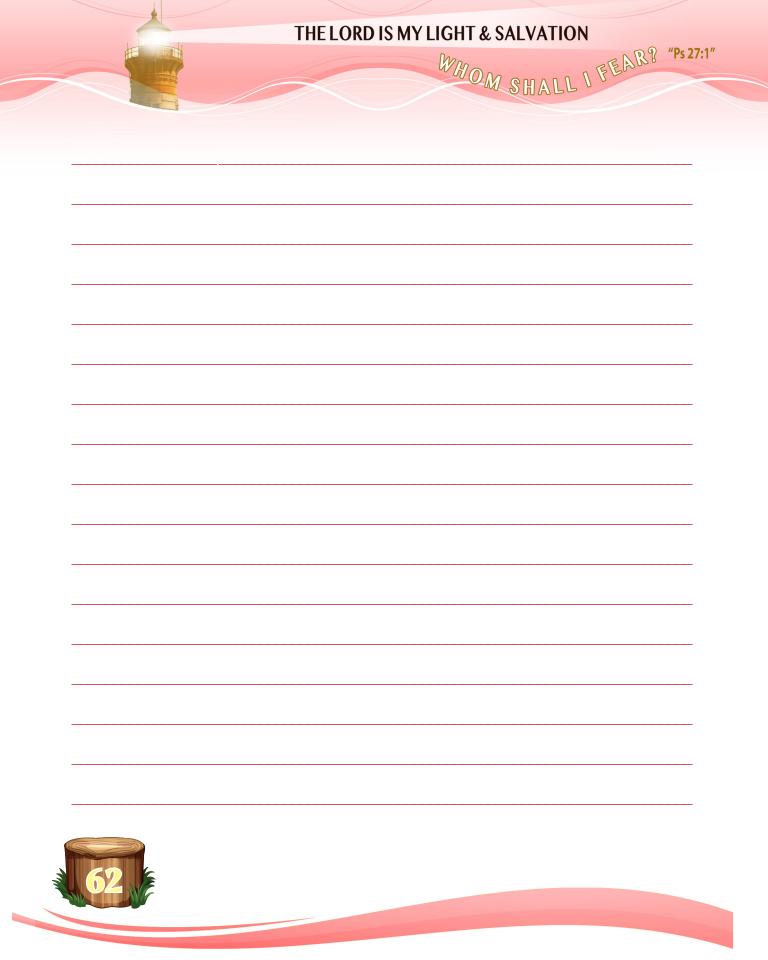


Lord, all our sins which we committed against You in this day, whether in deeds or in words or in thoughts or through all senses, please remit and forgive us, for the sake of Your holy name, as You are Good and Lover of mankind. God, grant us a peaceful night and a sleep free from all anxiety. And send us an angel of peace to protect us from every evil, and every affliction, and every temptation of the enemy; through the Grace, compassion and love of mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, to Whom is due, with You and with the Holy Spirit, the Life-Giver Who is of one essence with You, all glory, honor and dominion, now and forever and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.

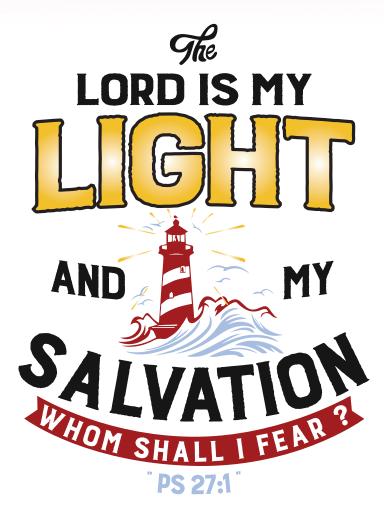


THE LORD IS MY LIGHT & SALVATION WHOM SHALL I FEAR? "PS 27:1"

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT & SALVATION WHOM SHALL I FEAR? "PS 27:1"







Through the grace of God and under the auspices of His Grace Bishop David, Bishop of the Diocese of New York and New England. 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 DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW ENGLAND

www.MahraganNYNE.org