

# 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



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At the Beehive Kingdom there are many activities. The bees make wonderful beeswax candles and healthy honey. In this year's Mahragan adventure you will meet: Quinn: The Active Queen of the beehive. Dado, Lulu, and Beelo: The bees. Sunny: The

vation

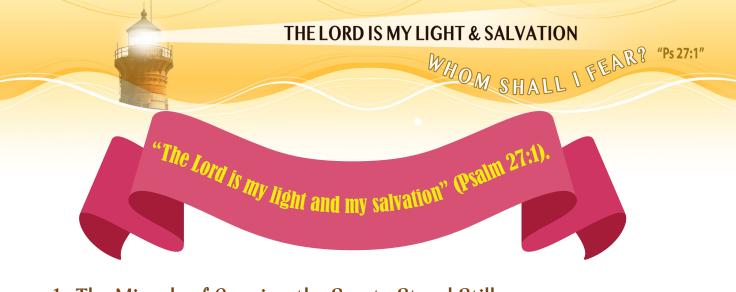
beautiful sun. Marakibino: The boat. Bibo: The kind bear.

Mahragan 2024 The Lord is My Light and My Sal



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





1– The Miracle of Causing the Sun to Stand Still In this lesson, we will learn about God's traits and how is in control of every thing so we know **"The Lord Our God"** 

2– The Candles, The Lights and The Role of The Pulpit in the Church In this lesson, we will learn about the places where the lights are placed in the church. We will also learn that the pulpit is where we hear stories from the Holy Bible. It will help us to know that **"The Lord is the Light to Our Path."** 

3– The Miracle that the Lord has Done for Saint Athanasius In this lesson we will learn that the Lord Jesus Christ is **"The Mystery of Our Saluation."** 

4- The Prayers of the Church for Saint Peter the Apostle In this lesson we will learn that our fellowship in prayer for one another is "The Fortress for Our Lives."
5- David the prophet with the Lion and the Bear In this lesson we will learn that everyone who loves our Lord always lives in

peace, whatever the circumstances are, because the Lord makes us feel His "Peace in Our Troubles"



he Lord

is Our God

WHOM SHALL I FEAR? "PS 27:1"

In the garden, there are pretty flowers and tall trees. Near the edge, there is a big lake with many fish. Every day, the sun shines on the garden. There is a big tree with a beehive among the other trees. The bees buzz around, gathering nectar from the flowers

Sunny: Good morning beautiful bees. You always wake up very early in the morning and fly and land on the sweetest roses to make honey.

**Dado:** Good morning, Sunny! We are making the sweetest honey and the most beautiful candles. We have to work so hard. Can you see our amazing hive from high above?

Sunny: Yes! I see it! Your hive is gorgeous, Dado. Are you planning to live here forever?

**Dado:** No, we have stay here until we find a new place, a large hive just like our old one. Our queen, Quinn, has sent Beelo to find a good place to build our new hive.

Sunny: I would love to see your new hive because all the hives you make are so organized and beautiful; and all the bees in your hives always work hard.

Who is this? Who is sitting

there? Is that you, Lulu?

Sunny: Good morning, dear. Why are you sitting all by yourself there?

Lulu: Good morning, Sunny. I am tired from flying around the pretty flowers all day. I need to collect lots of nectar before it gets dark because I

can't see well at night. Can you, please stay up here

all day to help me see better and work longer?

**Sunny:** Lulu, that can't happen. What you're saying isn't possible because it's not how God made things work.

Dado: So we can't change this system?

Sunny: No, nobody can change when I wake up and go to sleep. It's because of the special system that makes me do that every day, Lulu. It's like a special rule that only God can control. He is very powerful and can make everything happen. He is the ruler of all, the Pantocrator. Lulu: What does it mean that our Lord is the Pantocrator?







Sunny: The Pantocrator means that everything is created by Him and is controlled by a system that He made. You see the seasons happen the same way every year. First, it's Summer, then Autumn, next Winter, and finally Spring.



The sun goes away in the night. Then it comes back in the day. Our Lord alone is the One who decides when I rise and shine so it is day time and when I go down, so that the night comes. God created me because He is...



#### "The living God, who created heaven and earth" (Daniel 14: 4).

**THE LORD IS MY LIGHT & SALVATION** 

WHOM SHALL I FEAR? "PS 27:1"

Because of this, He is the only One who can change this system, and nothing can happen, big or small, with-

Lulu: You mean you have never, ever changed this order in your life? You have always stood all day illuminating the Earth and have never gone down until the time to set?

Sunny: That is true. But one time this changed. It happened only when

God was the One who commanded me to change it.

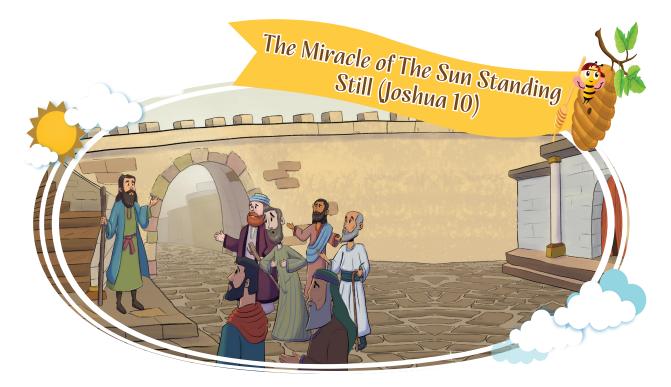
**Lulu:** When was this? Seriously, can you tell us?

RAMON

Sunny: I will tell you all about it...



**Sunny:** This story happened a long time ago. Joshua, was leading the God's people to the land of Canaan. One day, people from a city called Gibeon came to Joshua and told him that there 5 kings with their armies were coming to fight the city of **Gibeon**.



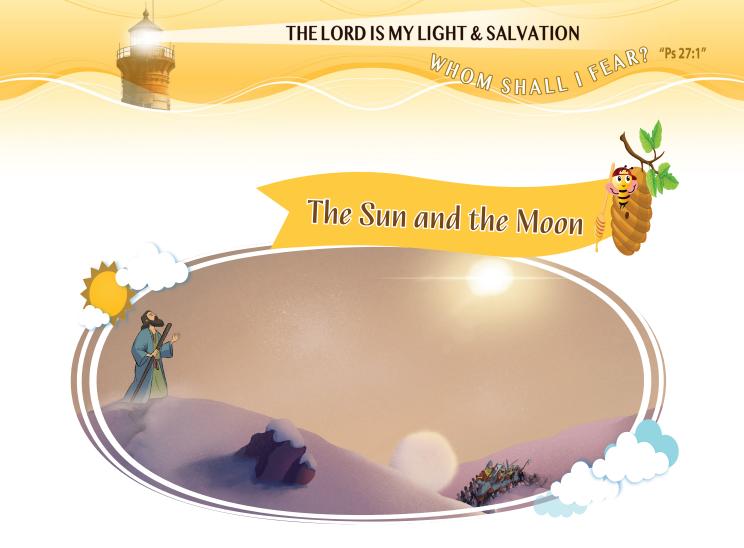
The Gibeonites sent to Joshua asking him to come to them quickly, to save them and help them because all the kings were gathered against them. So Joshua went to help them, and all his fighting force with him. The Lord said to Joshua, **"Do not fear them."** 





The Lord helped Joshua. God made it to rain so hard. Hailstones and rain fell from the sky on the enemy, so many of them died. Something else happened to show that God only one who can control all things, and He alone is the One who can change the whole world that He created.





#### Lulu: What else happened?

**Sunny:** When it was time for me to set and the moon come to the spot, Joshua prayed to our Lord and asked Him to keep me up and shining until he is done with the war.

Only by the power of our Lord can nature change its plan. God said to me: **"O sun, stay shining on Gibeon."** That meant that I remained standing in my place until Joshua defeated the enemies and saved the city of Gibeon.



The Lord God is the Pantocrator. He is in control of all things, and He is the One who can change the order of the whole world He made. Lulu: Oh! This is a great miracle. You are right, Sunny, to say that only God can change the system of nature.

Sunny:

He is God the **Pantocrator** and can do all things because He alone is God the Creator.



A Billion



Sunny: Lulu, do you know that God is the One who gives each person an advantage that distinguishes him/her from the other creatures? Lulu: What does it mean that each one has an advantage? Sunny: Advantage means a pleasant quality or trait.

It may be small or big, but we are asked to use it wisely and honorably. We must try to make it grow and develop. And you are right! No one else knows how to do the things that you do.



The same for me also - no one can do my job. God made us all special.

Lulu: You are right, Sunny! God made me special. I am the only one who knows how to make honey and wax. Look at this new wax that I made.

Sunny: You do all of this, Lulu? For real? You are very smart.

**Dado:** For sure, Lulu is very smart, and her wax is the best for making candles in our hive. I am very happy for you, Lulu, and I

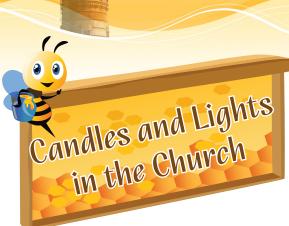
have wonderful news for you. Your wax was chosen among the best wax to make candles that will be used in the church services.

Lulu: What?! No way! I worked so hard to make this wax to build our new hive. I don't want my wax to be used for anything else.

**Quinn:** You don't know how wonderful the church is, Lulu. That's why you are refusing to send your wax there. If you know, you will change your mind. Let me explain to you.



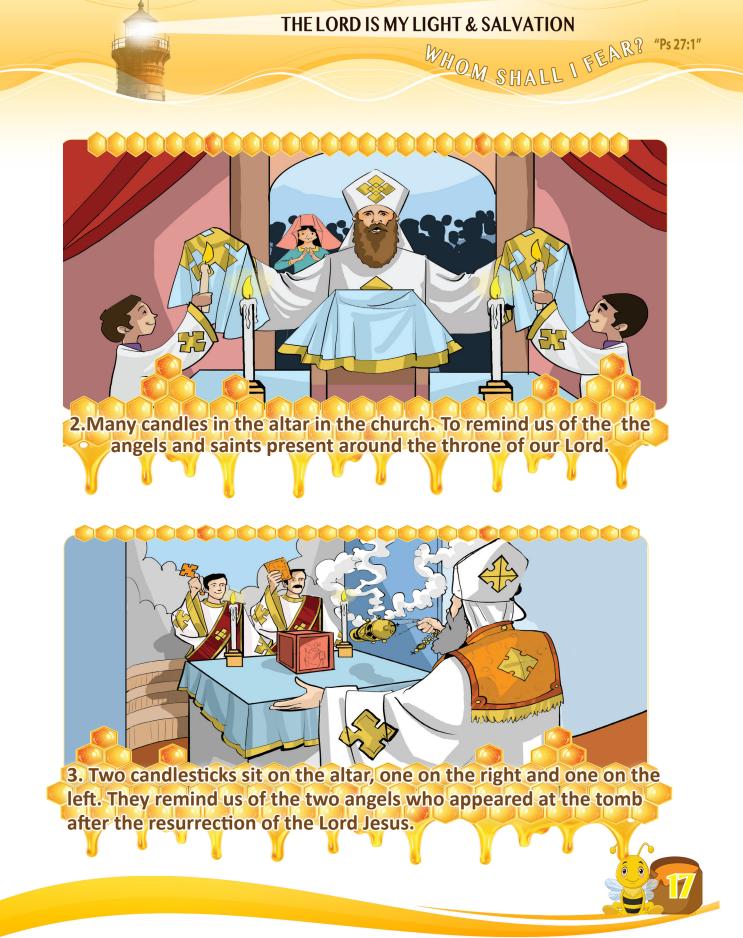




Quinn: Because our Lord is the true light, and because the church is the house of our Lord, we always find the church filled with light. Also, our Lord gave a commandment

long ago that His house must always be illuminated (for the servant: Exodus 27: 20-21). For this reason, candles are present during all the prayers. In our church, every candle teaches us something (it symbolizes something). I will give you some examples:

1. We light candles in front of icons of holy saints in church. This shows us that the saints did good things, and God is happy with what they did: These saints were lights for everyone.



4. Two decons hold candles when the Gospel is read. One on the right and another on the left of the "Mangalia." The Gospel is the word of God that fills the lives of all who hear it, memorize it, and be kind.

**THE LORD IS MY LIGHT & SALVATION** 

WHOM SHALL I FEAR? "PS 27:1"

" Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path

Lulu: What is a pulpit (mangalia)?

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Quinn: Mangalia is a Coptic word. It means the place where

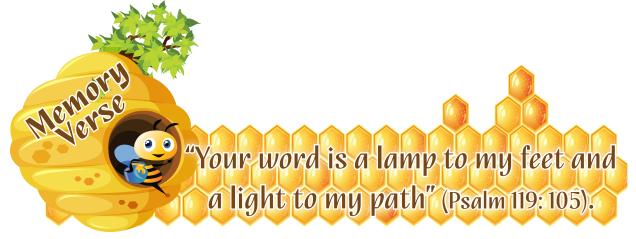
2

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" the Bible is placed in the church.

 ✤ We put the books we read from church on the Mangalia.He who reads has to stand up.

There are two Mangalias. One Mangalia looks to the east (towards the altar). We read the Coptic readings. The other Mangalia looks to the west (the people side) and we read the English readings on it.

✤ The Mangalia is made of wood and decorated with crosses. Written on it are verses from the Holy Bible. These verses explain to us how the word of our Lord is a light to the lives of all who hear it and follow it.

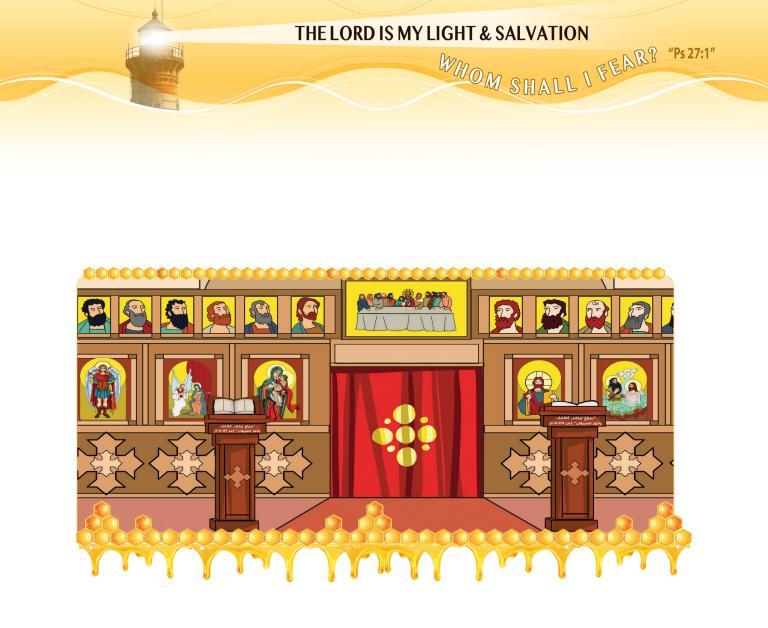


So when we hear the word of God and thinks about it, we will learn how to do behave well and be a light for everyone around us. **Lulu:** Oh, I am so happy, Quinn, that you chose my candle to go to church. I promise you that I will work hard to make the best wax to be used in candles for the church.

Quinn: Good job, Lulu!











Dado, Lulu (together): Quinn,
Quinn! We see Beelo coming back!
It looks like she found a good place
for our new hive!
Beelo: Dear Queen Quinn, my
fellow active bees. I'd like to
announce to you that I found a very
beautiful place for our new hive.
It is a sturdy, solid place that smells

really good with many flowers around it.

Quinn: Good job, Beelo. Let's go see it quickly. Dado and Lulu are

coming with me.

**Beelo:** Let's go! The road is this way. It's on the other side of the lake.

Quinn: How can we cross? This is a very long distance. We will not be able to fly all the way there.

Beelo: Don't worry. I have it all



planned. Let me introduce you to Marakibino. He is the one who helped me cross the lake before. Hurry!

Quinn: Hello, Marakibino!

Marakibino: Hello, Quinn, the beautiful queen of the Beehive.

Welcome to all the active bees!



Beelo: Wait a minute, how can our honorable queen ride in such a small

boat? She's The Queen.

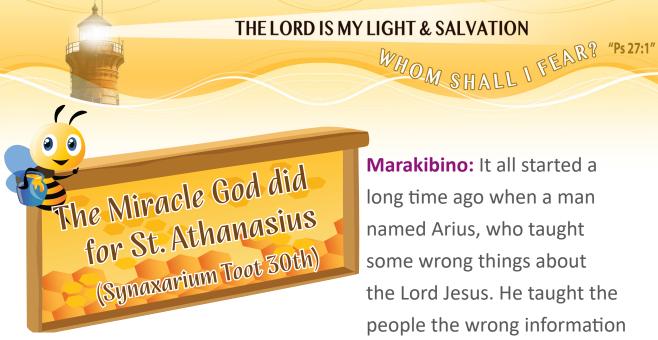
Marakibino: You may see me as a small boat, but my family and I have a great history. Many great kings and fathers rode on our boats. My family



journeyed to many places and took these great people exactly where they wanted to be. Get on board and I will tell you the story of a hero among the heroes who my family helped in the past. Let me tell you the story as we cross the lake.







Marakibino: It all started a long time ago when a man named Arius, who taught some wrong things about the Lord Jesus. He taught the people the wrong information

about the Lord Jesus. Arius said that Jesus was not God. The church refused his teaching and asked all the Bishops to gather together for a big meeting, a council. Many bishops from around the world came to the council. Saint Athanasius was very brave and he spoke the truth about the nature of Jesus. Saint Athanasius taught Arius that Jesus Christ is our Lord, and that He came and was born from the Virgin Mary to redeem and save all people.





**Quinn:** Saint Athanasius was very strong in his response to Arius' false teaching.

**Marakibino:** You are right, Quinn. Because of Saint Athanasius' faithfulness, God chose him to be the 20th Pope of the Coptic Church. He was teaching people the right doctrine and he was opposing everyone who taught the wrong teaching, like Arius. Unfortunately, there was an evil king who liked Arius. This king and many other people were wrongly taught by Arius. Pope Athanasius continued to teach his people in Alexandria, and traveled to teach many people around the world the right teaching. He was so brave that he decided to travel far and go to the king to tell him that what he was teaching the people about Christ was wrong.

Beelo: Was he scared of the king?

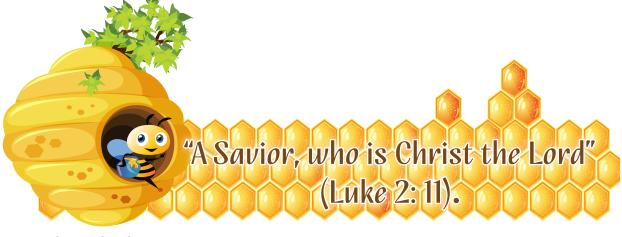
Marakibino: No, he was not. He trusted that God was with him and that





He would keep him from all evil.

**Dado:** What happened when St. Athanasius went to meet the king? **Marakibino:** Saint Athanasius confirmed to the king that Jesus Christ is the Lord who came to redeem all people and to save them.



But when the king heard the words of Saint Athanasius, he became very angry, and ordered his soldiers to put Saint Athanasius in a small



boat, just like me. They left him in the small boat floating in the middle of the great sea without any food or drink.

Lulu: But wouldn't he die this way?

**Quinn:** Perhaps the sea waves would rise and put him in danger of drowning.



Marakibino: Of course that's true, but a great miracle happened. Our Lord sent His angels around the boat to protect Saint Athanasius until the boat reached the shore of Alexandria safely.

**Beelo:** Oh! Our Lord brought Pope Athanasius back home to his people, to the shores of Alexandria.

**Marakibino:** Yes, indeed. My great grandfather, the small boat, brought Saint Athanasius home to his people. The people went out joyfully to greet him with candles and melodies. They entered the church with a great celebration, and since that day the church celebrates the great miracle that our Lord performed with Saint Athanasius on the 30th of Toot every year.

**Dado:** Oh, you are right, Marakibino! You have a family of small boats, but they served great people.

**Marakibino:** And now, with my small boat, I am happy to help the queen of bees, Quinn, to cross the lake. As they finished the beautiful story, they reached the shore.





The Lord is the Fortress of Our Lives Beelo: How about if we make our hive here? What do you think? Lulu: Very nice!I love the roses around it. They smell so nice. This place is perfect for our new home. Let's check it out from the inside.

**Dado:** Wow, this will be a big hive.

Lulu: I will set my bed here.



Beelo: Ahhh! A bear is coming!!!Quinn: Hurry, bees, let's fly away quickly!Bibo: What brings you here? Are you coming to pinch me?! My

name is Bibo the bear. I will lock you in this cave. You will not be able to come close to me or pinch me.



**Quinn:** Hurry, bees! Hurry, let's fly away quickly. Let's get out of this place.

Quinn was able to fly out of the cave. She meets Marakibino by the lake.

Marakibino: What's wrong, Quinn? Where are the rest of the bees?

Quinn: Bibo the bear locked them up in the cave with a large stone. No one was able to get out. I was the only one that was able to fly away from the cave. Can you



please take me back to the hive so I can get help?

Marakibino: Oh, Bibo is a kind bear. He loves honey so much!! One time he tried to take some honey from the beehive but the bees attacked and pinched him hard. Since then he is afraid of bees, even though he loves honey very much.

**Quinn:** Oh! He loves honey that much? We can make him some honey and give it to him as a gift. This way he will know that we will not hurt him and that we will be his friends.

Marakibino: Great idea! But he will probably want a lot of honey; like a BIG jar!

**Quinn:** If we all gathered and worked hard through the night, we could make





a lot of honey for him to save our friends. I will go convince the other bees.

Marakibino and Quinn went to cross the lake to the beehive to get honey for Bibo to save their friends. On the way there, Marakibino continued to tell Quinn the Queen many stories about the brave heroes of the seas until they reached the beehive.

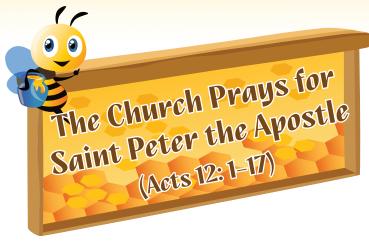
**Bees in the beehive:** This will require a lot of effort and hard work!! How can we make all this honey in such little time?

Quinn: We are one of the most active beehives in the world. If we worked hard and stayed up late, we would be able to save our friends. I will tell you a story that Marakibino told me. It happened a long time ago and it is about a brilliant fisherman. His friends gave what they could and stayed up all night until God saved him.









Quinn: This story happened after the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven. A fisherman named Peter was one of the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. King Herod arrested Saint Peter and took him

into a dark deep prison. It was the last cell in the prison. He was arrested because he taught the people about the Lord Jesus so that they may believe in Him. In the prison, they tied his two hands with two chains. They chained his hands to a soldier on each side and they locked the prison door with padlocks. Two soldiers stood in front of the cell to guard the door. Four of the guards were taking turns guarding St. Peter's door all the time. Despite this difficult situation, Saint Peter was relaxed and slept peacefully. He was at peace and not afraid, knowing that God was in control.

**Bee 1:** Oh, how come Saint Peter was not afraid in the midst of all this? Quinn: Yes, he was not afraid because he was confident that God was with him and guarding him. At the same time, the church of the believers in St. Mark's house was awake all night, praying and asking our Lord to be with Saint Peter.



#### Bee 2: They all joined together to pray for Saint Peter?

**Quinn:** Our Lord listened to their prayers and sent an angel to St. Peter in the dark jail, and his light shone in the darkness. The angel struck St. Peter on his side to wake him up from his deep and peaceful sleep. The angel told him to arise quickly, and the chains fell off his hands. The angel told St. Peter to gird himself, to put on his sandals and garments and to follow him. St. Peter thought he was dreaming. He followed the angel and all the gates opened before them until they reached the



street; then the angel departed from him and disappeared. At that moment, St. Peter looked around and knew he wasn't dreaming, and said, "Now I know for

certain that the Lord has sent His angel and has delivered me from the hand of Herod."

**Bee 1:** God really saved him in a miraculous way! What did Peter do after that?

**Quinn:** St. Peter went to the house of Mary, the mother of Saint Mark, where many were gathered together praying. When St. Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer.



When she recognized his voice, because of her happiness, she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that St. Peter was at the door. The disciples didn't believe her, but she kept insisting



that it was St. Peter at the door. They answered, "It is his angel." Peter continued knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. St. Peter told them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison.

**Bee 2:** God saved him in a very strange way because the church was united in prayers for him.

Quinn: They were happy because,





**Bee 1:** Let's get to work. We have to work hard to make honey for Bibo to save our friends.

The bees stayed up all night and worked very hard in unity to make a large jar of honey to save their friends.







WHOM SHALL I FEAR? "PS 27:1"

At Bibo's house, Dado, Beelo, and Lulu were locked up. They were so scared and worried!

Lulu: I am very scared. Quinn is taking so long. She left a long time ago. I feel she will never come back to save us.

**Dado:** Do not be afraid, Lulu. Quinn will never leave us.

**Beelo:** Quinn, our queen, always takes care of us and worries about us. She taught us not to be afraid because she



was always watching over us. Do you remember the stories she told us about how the kings and shepherds care for their flocks.

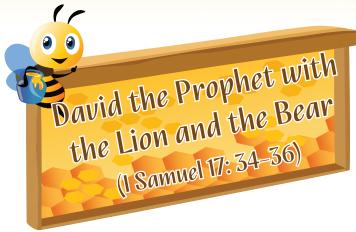


Dado: That's true! I remember the

first story Quinn told us was about David the shepherd and how he protected his sheep. We will tell you the story to remind you that Quinn will never leave us here.



Beelo: David was a clever shepherd. His name means "The Beloved."



He loved everyone. He always made God happy. David always prayed to God and sang praises and songs for Him. David had 7 brothers and 2 sisters. He was the youngest in his family.

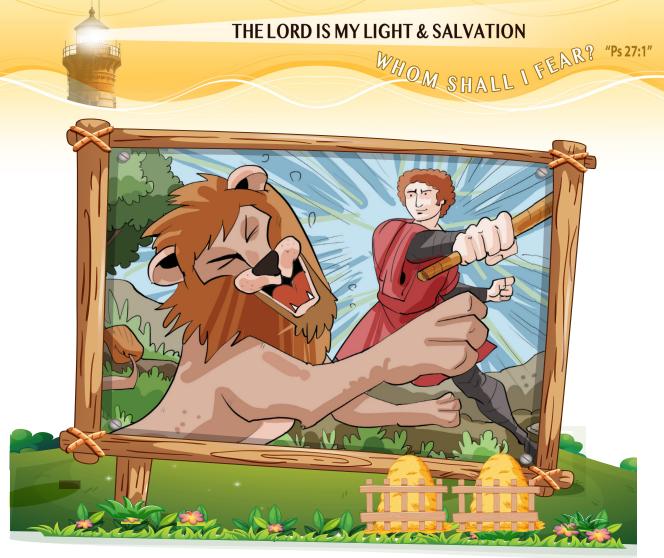
**Dado:** David played beautiful music on his harp. He sang and praised to thank God for everything He did for him.

Beelo: David's dad was named Jesse. He had lots and lots of fluffy sheep.

Every day, David took the sheep to a pretty field. David was a brave shepherd. He used his stick to keep the sheep safe from any scary

animals. He made sure all his sheep were safe.

Lulu: Wow, did David watch every single one of his sheep?



Beelo: Remember, Lulu? I told you that David was very clever, and he was brave, too. He knew for sure that God would be with him, and God was the source of his power. One day, when David was with his happy sheep, he was singing and praising God, playing on his harp, a lion and a bear came to eat the sheep. They quickly snatched a sheep.
Lulu: Oh no! What did David do to get his sheep back?
Beelo: David was not afraid of them. He chased them and with the power of God he saved the sheep from the lion and the bear.
When the lion tried to attack David, David asked God to help him,





**Lulu:** This story made me not scared anymore! What is that sound? Can you hear it?

**Quinn:** I came back, my friends. Let's go and give Bibo our gift and show him how much we love him. Oh Bibo, Bibo!!

**Bibo:** What?! So many bees! Oh no, they are going to pinch me. I have to run away from them.

Quinn: Wait, wait, Bibo. We are not going to do anything to hurt you. We love you. We are bringing you a nice gift. Please wait! Bibo: Gift? What gift?! For me?



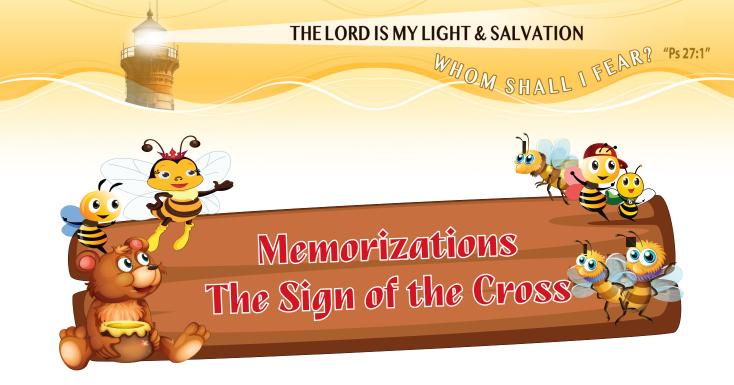
**Quinn:** Here you go, Bibo. A jar of honey for you, to show you how much we love you and we don't want to hurt you.



#### Bibo,

the bear was hap-Py with the gift and he became friends with Quinn and all the rest of the bees. He helped them build their new hive next to his house. They all lived together in peace, joy, and love in the beautiful field full of flowers.

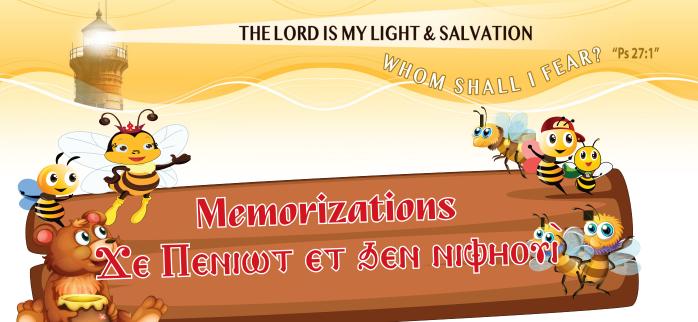




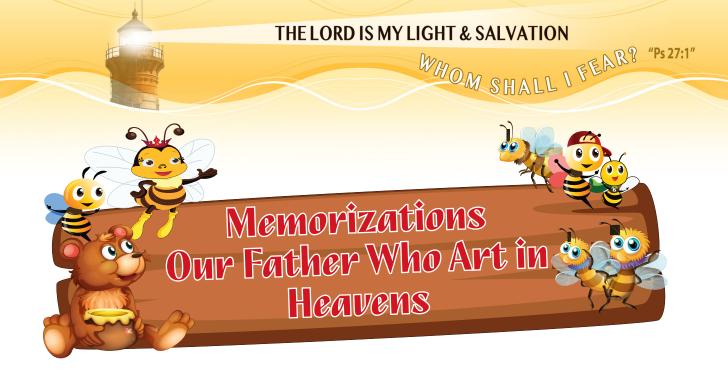
### Бен Фран иФіют нем Пунрі нем Піпнетма евотав отнот† потют. Дмнн

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





Хе Пеніют ет бен ніфноті: марестотво ихе пекраи. Иаресі ние текметотро. Петегнак маречуюпи: μφρη σεν τφε νευ ειχεν πικαει. Пеншките раст ини нан ифоот. Очог ха инетерои нан евох: μφρη εων ητενχω εβολ ηνηέτε οτον нтан ершоч. Отог иперентен едотн епірасиос: αλλα μαγμεμ εβολ γα πιπετγωογ. **Бен Піхрістос Інсотс Пенбоіс**: χε θωκ τε τμετόλρο μεπ τχοπ μεπ пішот ща енег. Дини.



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.



### Memorizations The Books of the Old Testament

Genesis	Second Chronicles	Daniel
Exodus	Ezra	Hosea
Leviticus	Nehemiah	Joel
Numbers	Esther	Amos
Deuteronomy	Job	Obadiah
Joshua	Psalms	Jonah
Judges	Proverbs	Micah
Ruth	Ecclesiastes	Nahum
First Samuel	Song of Solomon	Habakkuk
Second Samuel	Isaiah	Zephaniah
First Kings	Jeremiah	Haggai
Second Kings	Lamentations of Jeremiah	Zechariah
First Chronicles	Ezekiel	Malachi







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.





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