

OUR LORD'S MOTHER VISITS EGYPT

Condensed from book by
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In the land of Egypt at Zeitun, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ came to visit earth in April, 1968. Zritun, a suburb of Cairo rather than a district in it, borders the vicinity that was once a part of ancient Heliopos, (in Egyptian known as ON, in Greek known as CITY OF THE SUN).

At the intersection of Tumanbay Street (the main street)and Khalil Lane in Zeitun there is a rather small Coptic Oryhodox Church of the Virgin. Khalil Laane is named after the Khalil Ibrahim family , a family known to have been vary dedicated to the church. It has been revealed that about 1918 one very wealthy member of the family who owned a small pice of Land here suffered a family crisis. During this time the Virgin Mary appeared to him in a vision or dream and told him to build a Coptic Church on this land in her honor and in fifty years she wold bless the church. So in this respect it is believed that this church was built with a cause. The church was completed in 1924.

"It was on Thesday night April 2, 1968, at 8:30 p.m. when som4e workmen at the garge that belonged to the street from the church were at the gate as usual for the changing of shifts. There were also some women crossing the street . All of a sudden there appeared an unusual movement up at the cross. This movement attracted the attention of the women and two of the garage workmen who were enjoying a cup of tea at the gate of the garage. (They were of Moslem faith.)

The scene appearing in the darkness seemed to be of a young lady in white kneeling by the cross at the top of the dom. This scene, most unusual because the dome has a round smooth, very sloping surface, held the men and the women pedestrians as though they were nailed in their places. As they all pointed to the dome, one of the working gave out a cry warning the person not to jump down . Since he could not see her face, he thought she was a girl trying to commit suicide. He spoke to the man next to him and everyone started to whisper. Then these whispers became warning shouts. The lady stood up."

"They all saw her dressed as if in a bright gown of light in a view similar to that associated with the Virgin Mary. One of the ladies gave out a very long 'Za gha ruta' or cry of joy. involuntarily whe cried out, 'Settena Mar iam, which means, "Our Lady' Mary .' The woman began pleading for the Lady's blessings."

Someone ran to get the priest and another, the rescue squad. Than the Lady vanished. One of the garage workmen who had pointed his bandaged right forefinger at the Lady to have his finger surgically amputated the bandages were removed his doctor found and confirmed that his finger was completely healed.

After April 2 as time went on witnesses reported seeing the Holy Virgin Mother almost nightly. From the beginning it seemed as though the Virgin Mother stepped out before man, woman and child from behind an invisible curtain; as surely as she came it was only our Lord, Jesus Christ, Who could have opened the curtain for her.

The following testimony of a witness says most perfectly what was revealed

" The whole scene was bathed with a luminous halo surrounded with a blue circular frame all ablaze. Little by little the vision became more distinct until the figure of Mary became more evident to the vast multitudes who filled the space surrounding the church of Zeitun. The luminous circle seemed to symbolize to me the perfection of eternity in contrast to the fragmentary limitations of our seemingly dreary mechanical measure of time."

On Tuesday, April 9, another appearance was confirmed by the authorities. By this time many thousands of people were gathering nightly and were bringing their reports to the authorities. (With the appearances becoming so numerous the church authorities and newspapers began to publish this information. When thirty persons had appeared at a central office before an appointed committee with the same eye witness account of what had been seen; then this was published as an official account.)

As people gathered and waited through each night, they could hear singing and praying in many languages-Coptic, Arabic, Greek, verses were chanted from the KOFAN, and the Moslem book of prayer, etc. One of the greatest miracles wrought by our Holy Mother was that the LITURGY was sung over loud speakers and carried for blocks.

Throughout the long night's vigil numerous shooting stars or meteors were constantly seen falling overhead. Appearing from a distance they were very impressive and always stirred the crowd with anticipation and served to revive them in this long night's vigil.

Along with, and following, many of the Blessed Virgin Mother's most glorious appearances we found the fragrance of incense, described by one of the bishops as "a fragrance so great as if from a million incensers" The smoke of incense poured out of the dome actually, in large quantities; it was very bright.

Sometimes clouds like a thick fog would roll in toward the church as if they were being channeled down the streets in all directions to completely cover the church. They seemed to absorb the incense and its fragrance and carry it to the crowd of people and spread it over them like a canopy. One could reach out as if to touch it or move his hand through what seemed like a thick film of heavy air. The sky above would turn to a deep reddish-purple and seem to express tangibly the joy of the people.

A burst of light would appear over the church then within it, the Virgin would appear.

Some nights the appearance of the Virgin Mother Mary would vary from a few minutes to eight hours. People would be able to go home and return with families, friends and cameras, and still find

her there in all God's glory. moving as a living person, bowing to the people . Sometimes she waved at the people in blessing. Sometimes she carried a cross with which she blessed people, other times just appearing radiant, shimmering, with a brilliant star in her crown, silently hovering over the church. she moved as if gliding, her feet did not seem, or appear, to touch the church roof.

After awhile with the intensity of her appearing so frequently many would try to photograph her. At the time of the appearance most people became so transfixed in wonder, amazement and ecstasy that all action seemed impossible. Arms and fingers could not move to adjust cameras. But somehow, by the grace of God for the sake of all posterity, photographs were made.

All of the photographs, photo-drawings, artist's drawings shown have been verified by many witnesses in expressions to the effect..."She looked just like this !" "That is the way I saw her!" "Where did you get this photograph? That is just the way I saw her in April 1968!",ect.,ect.

Computer enhancement studies have been done on some of the pictures by scientists and declared there is no trickery.

Artists present at Zeitun during our Holy Mother's visits used their talents to draw what they had seen and they, it seems, captured more of her heavenly beauty than the photographs. When actually viewing the Virgin Mother it was difficult to distinguish distinct features but some could describe her figure and the color of her skin. She was mostly described as "dark and light" Sometimes yellowish and radiating, luminous, beautiful, young, healthy; like a QUEEN.

Through the last two weeks of April and on into May we find the most glorious of the appearances of the Virgin Mother Mary described and along with her appearances the crowds multiplied. On some nights it was estimated to be a quarter of a million people gathered around the church.

"We had to stand straight as a statue with our arms at our sides hardly able to breathe and were pushed forward or backward by the waves of the crowd. Once we were in the crowd it was almost impossible to leave until they dispersed early at sunrise."

As the crowds became larger and larger and some of the people became frantic over the possibility of its being a hoax , the governmental authorities realized that the people must be protected from this. Some were beginning to get to the top of the church to try to touch the apparition. Authorities investigated for a 15 mile radius to see if any electronic devices were used, they turned every inch, but after making thorough investigations and with the help of the Blessed Virgin who kept coming again and again they became convinced of its authenticity and gave orders to prepare the church and surrounding area to receive her properly.

The government ordered the garage that covered the whole block on the south side of the church to be removed to accommodate the masses. It was from the entrance of this garage that the Virgin Mother was first noticed. Actually some persons thought that the sight they saw on the garage. However, after the garage was removed the apparition of Virgin Mary continued.

The trees around the church were cut away so that the people would not climb into them to fall and be hurt; the larger ones were so trimmed that they were very difficult to climb. Actually, when the

Virgin Mother appeared near or over the palm tree some said the branches created an illusion, after it was trimmed she appeared as bright as before.

The dove-like objects, round and golden in color were seen to emit a light and would generally be seen with wings but the wings did not move. The Cairo Zoo keeper who was consulted and came to Zeitun determined that doves do not fly by night, when thrown up they fall to earth. These birds, doves, pigeons-spiritual beings were seen before, during and after our Holy Mother's visits, every hour during the night and in the early evenings. Sometimes they would appear without the Blessed Mother in two's or seven 's in the form of a cross, sometimes 12 would be destined to lead the rest. If they disappeared they would return in the same formation.

Thousands flocked to Zeitun and saw our Holy Virgin Mary and were comforted and edified. As these faithful waited and prayed clouds seemed to gather together from nowhere, like a fluorescent lamp flashing out light suddenly and then giving its light. There she stood, full length figure wavering quietly and gently in the air, standing on the domes or over a palm tree with one foot seeming to rest on it, or even see on the ground. Her clothes and veil moved in the breeze. She turned from side to side and a profile was also seen as clearly as a front view.

Her appearances were two or three times weekly for nearly two years. One had to be present at the church of St. Mary at Zetun to witness her appearance. The time of her appearance was unpredictable. she did, however, appear more frequently on Feast Days or the eves of them. There are 32 Feast Days in the Coptic Calendar honoring the Mother of Jesus, our Holy Virgin Mother.

"Our Holy Virgin Mother or St. Mary appeared in about 10 different ways. God sent her in ways, by nature, we would know her. When she appeared she would greet the throngs of people, bow to them, bless them and then turn back to the cross. In 9 out of 10 appearances she was found in an attitude of prayer, she was saying in a sense 'do as I do, the world needs prayer for salvation' and I believe her appearances are' the further preparation before the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior, JESUS CHRIST."

The miraculous cures seem to speak for themselves. This added to the great joy surrounding the deaf could hear and the blind could see, the deaf could hear and the mute could speak after they had been present during one of her appearances. Many of those who were physically ill, with obvious deformities, saw, and in their faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ, were cured by HIM, God the Father, through her intercession.

On May 5, 1968, one month after the beginning of the visits of our Holy Virgin Mother, His Holiness, Kyrollos, VI, issued THE PAPAL STATEMENT authenticating that this was truly the Virgin Mother Mary, MOTHER OF GOD. He most firmly believed our Holy Mother came because she had found refuge in Egypt before with her Son, JESUS CHRIST, and Joseph.

The church of St. Mary at Zeitun is located very near the route of the Holy Family when they fled from Herod and travelled through Egypt. Along this route, according to tradition, there are today about 14 shrines commemorating this flight and many faith-ful have received comfort and graces upon visiting these holy places.