



JOYFUL REFLECTIONS REFRESHED

‘THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL
COME UPON YOU,
ANSWERED THE ANGEL, AND
THE POWER OF THE MOST
HIGH WILL COVER YOU WITH
ITS SHADOW’
LUKE 1;35

Did this young Jewish girl recall
the words of the Lord to
Abraham when Sarah laughed at
the idea of having a baby at her

age, ‘Is anything too wonderful for Yahweh ? Gen. 18;14

**HAIL MARY, FULL OF GRACE, THE LORD IS WITH THEE ,
BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN, AND BLESSED IS
THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS.**

**HOLY MARY ,MOTHER OF GOD, PRAY FOR US SINNERS NOW AND
AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.AMEN**

**PRAYER;
PLEASE HELP ME TO ECHO YOUR RESPONSE,MARY**

'LISTEN! YOU ARE TO CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND YOU MUST
NAME HIM JESUS

Luke 1 ;31

This must have puzzled you Mary ? You knew , in your Jewish culture, it was the Father who always named the child and in so doing legally adopted him into his inheritance. You also knew the name given to every Hebrew at his circumcision, revealed the destiny he was to fulfil,

Yeshua - Jesus- means 'one who saves' (see Mathew 1;21) You must have wondered what on earth your baby would save .

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There are so many things in my life that I do not understand, that seem to contradict my way of thinking, help me, Blessed Mother, to trust and discern the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Help me to explore the meaning of my name.

'THE ANGEL SAID TO HER , 'MARY, DO NOT BE AFRAID, ' LUKE 1;30

But the sound of the screams of pregnant, unmarried girls being stoned to death, until the white sack they were put into turned red and silent, were familiar to you, young Mary. But you still said ' yes', if your spite of your fear.

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Pray for me, Blessed Mother, that my trust in God is greater than my fears.

‘THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU, AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL COVER YOU WITH ITS SHADOW’ Luke 1;35

I wonder if this was the first time you had experienced the covering of the Holy Spirit, dear Mother ? We know it was not the last. You were present with the disciples at the Jewish feast of Pentecost when the Holy spirit covered you all with it’s fire shadow and activated the wonderful gift of prayer in Tongues in each of your hearts. You must have been full of the Holy Spirit when you spoke the words at Cana , which have echoed through the centuries, “Do whatever he tells you “

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Help me to be ever open to receive a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit and to keep your profound words of wisdom ever in my mind, Holy Mary.

‘AND SO THE CHILD WILL BE HOLY, AND WILL BE CALLED SON OF
GOD ‘ Luke 1 ;35

As an Orthodox Jewish girl , knowing your scriptures and liturgical prayers
well, you must have been surprised at the reference to your
child being called ‘son of God’ , Mary?

It would be years before you, too, could understand his own, growing
consciousness of divine sonship, and unique personal
relationship to ‘ABBA’ as ‘ MY FATHER ‘ rather than the
traditional Rabbinical way of addressing GOD as ‘ABINU ‘,
OUR FATHER .

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Dear Mother, help me to be willing to accept surprises from God that I
may not yet understand. And to be able to grasp the truth that,
through your bravery and trust, I , too , can enjoy the
relationship of a child and loving father, through Jesus.

'REJOICE , SO HIGHLY FAVOURED ! THE LORD IS WITH YOU,' Luke
1 ;28

No wonder that you were 'deeply disturbed ' by these words, Blessed Mother, and ' asked yourself what it could mean'. Betrothal in your culture was a time set aside for preparation, known as kiddushin, set apart unto God and each other in holiness, in remembrance of the covenant of Sinai when God told Moses to prepare the people before entering into a holy relationship (Exodus 19;6)

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**DEAR MOTHER, HELP ME TO TRUST IN THE WISDOM OF GOD EVEN
WHEN I AM DEEPLY DISTURBED**

‘THE LORD GOD WILL GIVE HIM THE THRONE OF HIS ANCESTOR
DAVID; HE WILL RULE OVER THE HOURS OF JACOB FOR
EVER AND HIS RULE WILL HAVE NO END ‘ Lk.1;32

What did the ‘warrior king David ‘ mean to you, Blessed Mother ?
Did you remember his anointing, as a shepherd boy, in the town of
Bethlehem -House of bread - or his military conquests or his
joyful , uninhibited dancing the ark of the covenant from Kyriat
Yearim to Jerusalem ?

You did not know that you , by daring to say ‘yes ‘, yourself ,would
become the ‘ark of the covenant’ within whom would develop
the Bread of Life , whom you would deliver to us in the city of
David, Bethlehem , and whose rule would have no end.

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So much for a young girl to try to absorb, and yet you did not fall
into despair, or negativity or self pity. No wonder we love and
honour you, little mother. Please pray for me

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'Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord, through the prophet : the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God is with us '
Matt.1;23

You, Mary, were familiar with the words spoken by the prophets, which were read in the synagogue in Nazareth every service- the same synagogue in which your unborn child would later also quote the prophet Isaiah. Like all your people you were waiting and praying for the messiah to come... did you imagine that you would be that virgin ?

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**PRAY FOR ME ,DEAR MOTHER , THAT I MAY DEEPEN MY LOVE OF
THE SCRIPTURES AND SEE THE FULFILMENT OF THE OLD
TESTAMENT IN THE NEW.**

'Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, FOR NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GOD'
Luke 36-37

Another astounding announcement for you to absorb, Mary ! No wonder you hurried across the Judaeen hills to the household of your cousin, in En Karem, to confirm the truth of what you had been told. And what a joy to know that what the angel had spoken to you was not just a dream !

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Help me to trust ever more deeply that nothing is impossible to God, even when I do not understand what is going to happen.

‘When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do; he took his wife to his home and , though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son and he named him Jesus ‘

You were doubly blessed, dear Mary , to be placed by God in the loving care and protection of such a ‘ Righteous ‘ man, Joseph, Who was very close to Our Father in prayer and obedience.

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Pray for those of us , dear Mary, who have never experienced such loving care and protection.

