

Cindy Cottone

The Bible Corner



The journey

Even though Abdul was at a distance, the city of Ramses made a strong impression on him. Abdul slowed, still uncertain of his decision. Pharaoh had ordered the Hebrew slaves to build this city as a monument to his own power, and Abdul could almost see the silhouette of the king in the tallest structure.

Abdul was leading a sheep by a rope and every few yards, the animal stopped and let out a few mournful bleats, as if she was aware of what awaited her in Ramses. Hannah was old and she rarely provided milk anymore, but she might fetch enough money from the butcher to repay most of Abdul's debts. Both problems weighed heavily on Abdul's mind as he and Hannah approached Ramses.

"I'm sorry, Hannah," Abdul sighed. "There's just no other way."

Hannah looked up at Abdul, and he patted his old companion gently on the head. His friend, Benjamin, had given him the sheep as a gift long ago. "We call her Hannah, a proper Hebrew name, but you can name her anything you like."

"She will be known as Hannah, then," Abdul had replied, not wanting to offend Ben-

jamin. "We are not so different, after all, you and I!"

Abdul was an Egyptian, and he lived in a small village that bordered Goshen, the land of the Hebrews. But in many ways, he felt more kinship with these foreigners than with his own people. It was difficult for Abdul to believe in the whole series of deities that were part of the Egyptian religion. The Hebrews, on the other hand, worshipped only one God.

One day, Abdul asked Benjamin, "This God of yours, do you pray to Him about all of your problems?"

"Yes, I do," Benjamin replied solemnly. "He is the greatest hope of my people."

"Your God seems so far above the gods of Egypt, who are subject to the same moodiness of people and are easily displeased."

"That is because our God is unchanging," Benjamin explained. "He is the same yesterday, today and always."

Abdul didn't quite understand, but as soon as Benjamin had told him this about the Hebrew God, he felt a great sense of comfort and relief. He had never felt this way about any of the Egyptian gods. It was believed that Pharaoh was a descendent of the sun god, Ra, and therefore should be worshipped. Abdul shuddered at the thought. There was

something very wrong with a "god" that made slaves of people like Benjamin.

"Someday," Benjamin told Abdul, "our God will take us out of Egypt, far away from Pharaoh. God has promised to give us a new land of our own where we will finally be free."

"Perhaps your God is bringing this to pass," Abdul suggested. "The days are filled with strange events."

Hannah stopped again, and this time, although Abdul tugged firmly on the rope, she would not budge. And for the first time, Abdul noticed how dark the sky had become. Huge clouds had formed over the city, and Abdul continued to pull Hannah toward Ramses in an attempt to reach the city before the storm.

But the more Abdul pulled Hannah, the more insistent the poor creature seemed to become. Abdul was puzzled by her strange behavior, and finally he allowed her to lead him by the rope. Soon they were climbing up a familiar mountain slope where Abdul had taken the sheep often to graze on the thick vegetation.

"So it is your stomach that you are worried about after all, Hannah?" Abdul said, chuckling. "Well I don't suppose a few moments will make any difference."

But, much to Abdul's surprise, the sheep continued up the mountain, not even pausing to consider the lush grasses. Hannah led Abdul halfway up the mountain slope until they had reached the entrance of a cave. She finally stopped inside the narrow entrance.

At the exact moment that they entered, Abdul heard the first crash of thunder and saw the jagged flash of lightning cut through the sky. It seemed as though the bolt had

ripped open the thick clouds that had hung so heavily over Ramses. The rain and hail beat against the ground with such force that all the plant life was destroyed. Even the trees were split open, and darkness fell upon the land even though it was midday.

Abdul led Hannah into a corner of the cave. "You'll be quite safe here, old friend," he said.

Abdul knelt down and prayed for a long time to the Hebrew God. When he had finished, he turned to the old sheep and said, "Don't worry, I have asked our God to protect us. And I know that He already has."

This was the seventh plague that had been inflicted on the land of Egypt. It was the worst storm that had ever been seen. The hail destroyed all of the crops and killed all of the people and animals that had remained outside. Once again, the Hebrews had been spared, as had those Egyptians who believed in the one, true God.

For discussion:

- 1) Why did Abdul not believe in the false gods of the Egyptians?
- 2) Benjamin told Abdul that the Hebrew God is the same yesterday, today and always. What other characteristics describe God?
- 3) Is God for just a certain group of people? What is necessary on our part for God to watch over us?
- 4) Abdul learned about the one, true God from his friend, Benjamin. How can you teach others about Jesus?

For further reading:

- 1) The story of the sixth and seventh plagues is found in Exodus, Chapter 9:8-35.
- 2) God is described as "unchanging" in Numbers, Chapter 23:19.

Mooney blanks Aquinas

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The Lady Cardinals, who have been seeded number three in this year's Section 5 Class AAA tournament, received a bye from first-round play and will await the winner of the Brighton (6) vs. Canandaigua (11) contest. Mooney played Brighton to a 1-1 tie earlier in the season.

In other Class AAA games: Mercy (12) will take on number five Brockport, and in Class AA, Aquinas will square off against North Rose-Wolcott (14). Nazareth (7) will take on Midlakes (10), and Bishop Kearney (15) will battle Victor (2).

Former M*A*S*H star to lecture at St. John Fisher College

The St. John Fisher College Student Association has landed Larry Linville for its lecture series on Tuesday, October 28, in the Kearney Auditorium at 8 p.m. Linville is best known for his portrayal of Major Frank Burns on the hit television series M*A*S*H.

After Linville's performance he will conduct a question and answer session and mingle with the students.

In addition to M*A*S*H, Linville has appeared on such television shows as Room 222, Mission Impossible, Bonanza and The F.B.I. He is currently on a tour speaking to college audiences, and is playing character parts in various theaters across the country.

This presentation is free and open to the public.

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