

Copyright © 2004 by The Light, Inc. & Işık Yayınları
Second Impression

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system without permission in writing from the Publisher.

Published by The Light, Inc.
26 Worlds Fair Dr
Somerset, NJ, 08873, USA
Translated from Turkish by Muhammed Çetin

ISBN 1-932099-62-X

Printed by
Güzel Sanatlar Matbaası A.Ş. Istanbul, Turkey
September 2004

Mary

by
Abdullah AYMAZ

Hannah, the grandmother of Jesus,
The mother of Mary,
The wife of Imran,
The mother-in-law of Zachariah,
The daughter of Fazuka,
On realizing that she is pregnant,
Prayed to God in utmost sincerity:
“O my Lord! I do dedicate to You
What is in my womb for Your special service,
Free from all worldly work,
To serve Your temple.
So accept this, from me.
You are indeed All-Hearer and the

All-Knowing.”

Though she was aware that
God knew best what she brought forth,
When she delivered, she said:
“O my Lord!
I have given birth to a female child.
The male is not like the female.
I have named her Mary.
I commend her and her offspring
To your protection from Satan, the Rejected.”

So her Lord accepted her right graciously.
He made Mary grow in purity and beauty,
Like a beautiful flower . . .
Yet Mary was an orphan at birth,
For she lost her father
While she was in her mother’s womb,
And soon after her mother too
Bid farewell to the world.

Thereupon all her kith and kin came together
And decided to contend between them
By casting lots with their pens
As to which of them should be charged with
The honor of taking care of Mary.

The Family of Imran was such a blessed one
In the eyes of each and every one.
And then they threw their lots into the river,
It turned out to be in favor of
Prophet Zachariah,
The husband of Mary’s aunt.
Mary grew under God’s special protection,
Her growth was indeed a “goodly growth.”

One day the angels said to her:
“Mary! God has chosen you, and purified you;
Chosen you above the women of all nations,
And gave you such blessings.
Therefore, O Mary,
Worship your Lord devoutly.
Prostrate yourself and bow down
Along with those who bow before Him.”
Thereupon Mary took refuge
In one corner of the temple,
Behind the curtains,
Where she submitted herself with obedience
To worship and remembrance.

Again, she was addressed by the angels:
“O Mary!
God gives you glad tidings of a Word:
His name will be Jesus, the Messiah,

The son of Mary, held in honor
In this world and the next,
And of those the nearest to
The Almighty Creator.
He shall speak to the people
In the cradle and in manhood;
He shall be of the righteous indeed.”

Jesus was an extraordinary wonder,
Blessed with a special creation.
A manifest “Word” of God.
Therefore, the age in which he spoke
Would be unlike any other.
“Word” is but speech
Designated by the Creator, All-Mighty God.

Mary said: “O my Lord,
How can I have a son
When no man has ever touched me?”
The angel answered:
“Thus shall it be.
God creates whatever He wills.
When He decrees something,
He but says:
‘Be’ and it is.
And God will teach your son the Book,
The Wisdom, the Torah, the Gospel,
And he will be messenger
To the Children of Israel.”
And when Jesus came to them he said:

“I have come to you
With a sign from your Lord.
I will make for you
From clay the likeness of a bird,
And then I will breathe into it
And by the leave of God
It will become a bird.
I will also heal the blind
And the leper, and by the will of God
Will bring the dead back to life.
I will also inform you
Of what things you eat
And what you treasure up in your houses.

Surely this is a sign, a message, for you
If you are true believers.
And I have come to confirm the truth of Torah,
And to make lawful to you
Some of the things
Which had been forbidden to you.
I have come to you
With a sign from your Lord;
So have fear of God
And obey me.
Surely God is my Lord and your Lord;

So serve Him, worship Him alone.
This is the straight way.”

This was how the angels heralded
The glad tidings to Mary.
Whenever Zachariah went into her sanctuary
He would find various kinds of food and fruits,
Even some of which were
At that time out of season.
And he asked:
“O Mary! From where did this come to you?”
She said: “God provides sustenance,
Beyond all reckoning, without measure,
To whom He wills and He pleases.”

Devoting all her time to remembering God,
Mary withdrew from her people
To a place in the east;
Drawing a curtain, to screen herself from people.
God says:
“Whereupon We sent to her Our spirit
And he appeared to her as a well-formed man.
Seeing him in her special compartment,
Mary exclaimed: ‘I surely take refuge from you
With the most Compassionate Lord.
If you are at all God-fearing,
Do not come near or touch me.’

“He said: ‘I am
A bearer of a message from your Lord,
Come to grant you a most pure son.’
Mary said:
‘How can a son be born to me
When no man has even touched me,
Nor have I ever been unchaste?’
He said: ‘Thus shall it be.
Your Lord says: ‘It is easy for Me
And We shall do so
In order to make him a sign for mankind
And a mercy from Us.
This has been decreed.’”

Annunciation and conception.
As is destined beyond time,
In the eternity,
God’s will came true,
And she conceived Jesus.
She left her sanctuary
And retired to a remote place.
Then the pains of childbirth
Drove her to beneath a palm tree.

And she said:
“Oh, would that I had died before this
And had been forgotten and out of sight!”
But a voice cried to her from beneath:

“Grieve not, for your Lord has provided
A rivulet beneath you, at your feet.
Shake the trunk of the palm-tree
And fresh and ripe dates shall fall down for you.
So eat and drink and cool your eyes
And if you see any person say,
'I have vowed a fast for God,
The Most Compassionate,
And so I shall not speak with
Any human being this day.'”

What is the reason that
The fresh date and a rivulet were
Given a place in the Qur'an, Holy Book?
What could be the wisdom that
They come on the scene on such a blessed occasion?
Why was there a date palm and rivulet
At the time of Jesus' birth?
Alas, only recently has science discovered
The contribution that the date makes
In increasing the milk
In the mothers' breast.
And the fresh water of the rivulet,
And the sound it makes
Gives comfort and eases the birth.
This is a message
To modern science and the man of fact.

And Prophet Muhammad said:
“Were there something else better than the date,
God would have granted it to Jesus
When his mother gave birth.”
At length Mary brought the baby
To her people carrying him in her arms.
They said: “O Mary!
Truly an amazing thing you have brought.
O sister of Aaron!
Your father was not an evil man,
Nor was your mother an unchaste woman.”
Thereupon Mary pointed to the child.
They said: “How can we speak to one
Who is a child in the cradle?”
And then one of God's miracles
Granted to Jesus took place.

Whereupon the child said:
“I am indeed a servant of God.
He has granted me the Revelation, the Book,
And has made me a prophet
Making me blessed
Wheresoever I might be, enjoining upon me
Prayer and charity
As long as I live,
And making me dutiful to my mother.

“He has not made me oppressive,

Nor bereft of God's blessings, or wicked.
So peace be upon me the day I was born
And on the day I will die, and on the day
I will be raised up to life again."