

# **THE MIRACLE OF MUKATTAM**



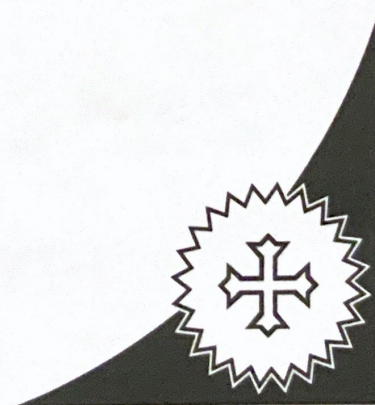
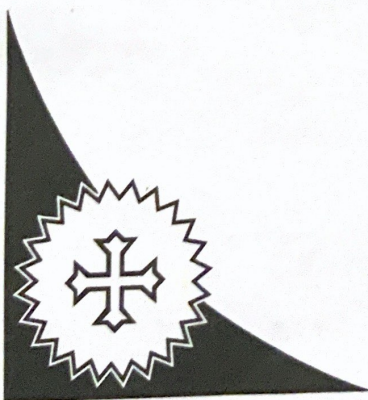
• Abba Abraam Ibn Zara •  
• & Simon the Tanner •



ST . MARK  
COPTIC ORTHODOX  
CHURCH  
OF WASHINGTON D.C.

*When the mountain  
m o v e d !*

***THE MIRACLE OF  
MUKATTAM***



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***HIS HOLINESS  
POPE SHENOUDA III***  
POPE OF ALEXANDRIA and  
PATRIARCH OF THE SEE OF ST. MARK



TO  
OUR DEAR CHILDREN

Ever heard of a **mountain** shake and move? Here's a real story from the 10th century. A mountain near Cairo, Egypt, did **shake** and **move**. There was no earthquake to shake it, but deep faith and prayer. It is a real, exciting and historic event.



**I**n the tenth century A.D. Egypt was ruled by "Al-Mo'izz" who was very much fond of mysteries. One day, when the *ruler* was sitting in his palace, one of his secretaries said to him, "You know, Prince, it is written in the *Bible* that if a person has *faith* as much as a grain of a mustard seed, he can *move* a mountain. Such a person would simply say to the mountain "*move*", and it will soon obey and move. Why not ask the Coptic Pope to prove it? This will prove whether Christians are good, or bad and should be punished.





**M**o'izz thought for a while, and to him the idea was good. "Let me ask them move it, and if they really did, I would order that houses and schools be built in its place. If they failed, it would be my chance to put an end to all Christians with the sword. "Bring me their *Pope*", said Mo'izz to his guards. When the Pope *Abba Abraam* came, the ruler asked him, "Is there really a verse in your book which states that *any one with faith, even as little as a grain of a mustard seed, can order the mountain to move and it would?*"





**T**he Pope said, "Yes. These words are in the Bible. They are the words of our Lord *Jesus Christ*." The ruler then said, "There are many thousands of Christians living in Egypt. Find one of them who can do such an amazing thing - *move the mountain*." As the Pope was deep in thought, the ruler said, "If the mountain moves, you and your people will live; or else every Christian living in this land shall *die* with the sword. No man, woman or child will be left alive. I give you three days to move the mountain."





**T**he Pope was very sad as he left the ruler's palace. "*How can the mountain move?*", he kept asking himself. "It is not simply a stone to roll, nor a cart to be pulled by horses, but a mountain," he thought, "This time Mo'izz is not asking Christians to pay money which we could collect, or even borrow, to satisfy him. He is not asking for silver or gold, but...strangely enough, he wants us to *move the mountain!*"





**T**he Pope raised his face towards Heaven and said, "I wish he asked me to heal a sick man, or even to raise a dead person. Men of God did that before with the help of God, but we never heard of any one who could move a mountain. The Pope, Abba Abraam, headed for the *Church of "Mu'allakah"*, then sent for the priests and the people and told them what the ruler wanted - that unless the mountain moved, they would all die.





**H**e asked them to pray and not to touch food for three days. Abba Abraam stayed alone in the church praying, asking the help of our Lord *Jesus Christ*. He asked the help of saints and, most of all, *the blessed Virgin Mary*. Everytime he closed his eyes and imagined how the soldiers would break into every Christian home to kill Christians, he cried out in tears. Turning to the sacred icon (Painting) of the Virgin Mary, he called: "*help us Mother of true light.*"





**F**or three days and nights Abba Abraam knelt in prayer. Before dawn of the third day, the holy Virgin Mary appeared to him and said, "Fear not, O faithful shepherd. They will not kill my sons and daughters. The mountain *will move*. Go out now and you are going to meet a *one-eyed man* with a pitcher for water on his back. Get hold of him, for he is the man God has chosen to move the mountain."

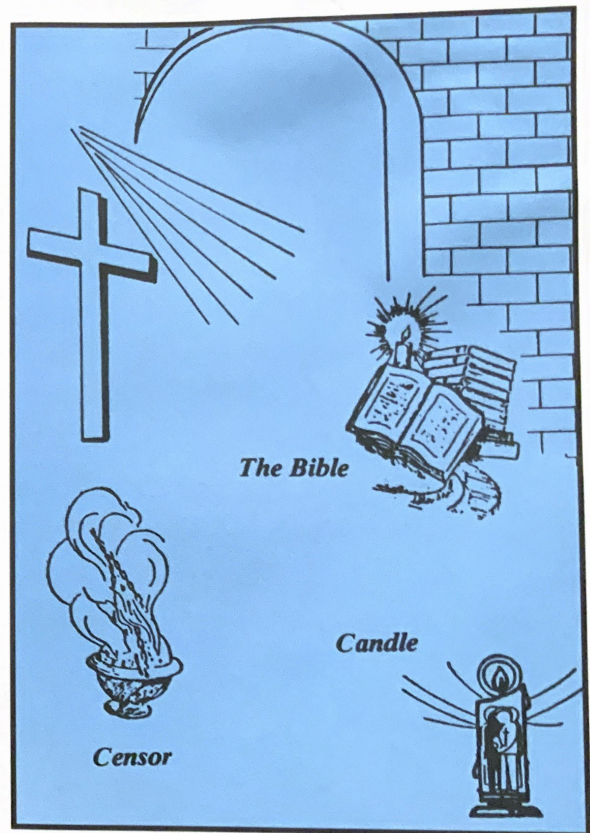


**T**he Pope was very happy and his heart was filled with peace. His hopes were now high that his people would be saved. He went out of the church and there he found the one-eyed man. He took him inside the church. The pope told him of what he had seen and asked him who he was. The man replied, "My name is *Simon the tanner*. I am a simple man. I wake up at dawn to fill the pitcher with water and, without being noticed, I give the water to the aged and the sick who cannot afford paying for their daily water. Then, I go to the tanning house where I earn my living as a worker."





**A**bba Abraam and Simon agreed to what was to be done. Simon said, "Go up to the mountain with your priests and people. Carry the *Bible*, *censors*, *Crosses* and *candles*. When you stand up there, read parts of the Bible, and then chant '*Kyrie-layson*' (Lord have mercy). Everyone shall see the glory of God."

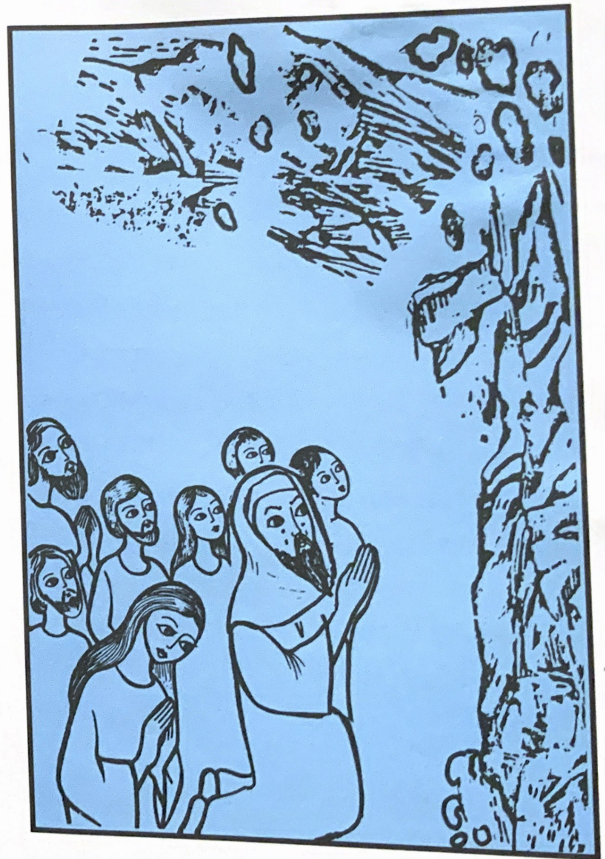


**I**n the morning, there were many people at the top of the mountain. The Pope and his people with Simon present were at one side, the ruler and his group at the other. There were *prayers, spiced incense and candle light*. The gospel was read and 'Kyrie-layson' was chanted. This was followed by a moment of silence, and all Christians, with the Pope at their head knelt down. When they rose, the Pope made the sign of the *cross* on the mountain. A wonderful thing happened: the mountain shook, and a loud sound was heard. Then, the *mountain moved* a little from where it was.





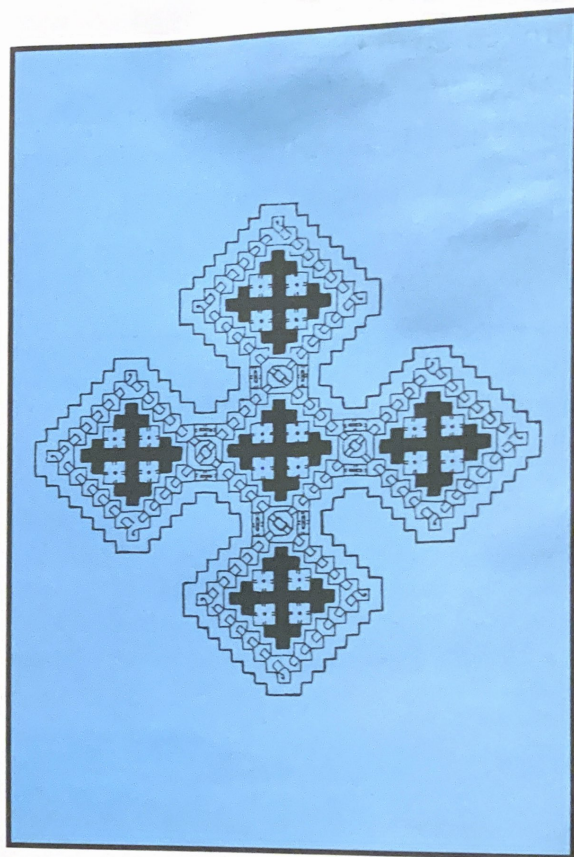
**T**hey knelt down again and, on rising, the Pope made the sign of the cross on the mountain for the second time : a loud sound broke the silence and farther did the mountain *move* apart. For the third time they knelt and the Pope mad the sign of the cross on the mountain. Like thunder, louder sound filled the air and the mountain shook and moved away. The ruler was filled with great fear, and turning to the Pope said, "*This is enough...your God must be all powerful and great..*"



**T**he Pope turned around to look for Simon but he was nowhere to be found. An angel had taken him away, and no one ever saw him on this earth again.

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At the sign of the *cross* the mountain did *move*. And it was this *simple* man *Simon* who gave us the example to follow : to look after the aged, to help the needy, and to love God in every way. Let's all remember this story of *faith*. Let's make the sign of the cross whenever we are in trouble. Let's make the sign of the cross when we are about to pray, play, study or rest.





St. John Church. Miami, FL

**A**s the mountain moved, it was broken apart. Since then it has been called "*the Mukattam*" which means 'broken.' It is still there near Cairo, as an example of the power of the cross, of deep faith, and of our Lord *Jesus Christ*.

**To our dear friends,**

*With the blessings of Our Lord Jesus Christ the following books have already been issued for you:*

- **St. Mina**
- **Pope Kyrollos**
- **St. Mark**
- **A Life of Thanksgiving**
- **Abba Abraam**
- **The Miracle of Mukattam**

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**God Bless You**

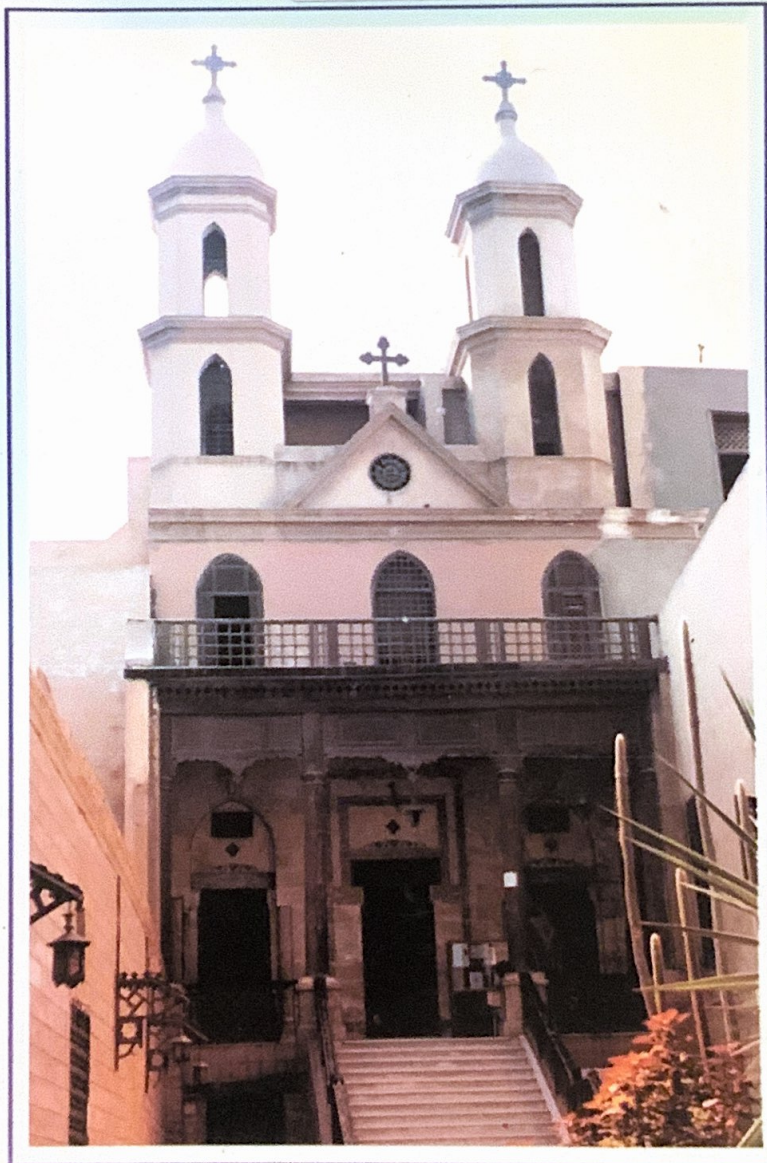


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**The Miracle of Mukattam  
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