



Becoming Fire...

Kindling other Fires

Friday, 17 July Moses, Heir of his Fathers



Exodus 3: 1-15

Photos: The Desert of Neguev

Music: Relaxing Music – Desert
Richard Jurgens : Flute

Songs : Taizé

Shema Israël

MUSIC

It is a day like any other, a day of burning sand with the sun high in the sky. Moses is here, a Hebrew child *quasi* Prince of Egypt, today a refugee in a desolate land... His daily task is to lead his flock to clear waters.... What is left of his ideals, his commitment towards his exploited brothers? Can he hope for a different life?

Definitely, because the Lord has placed a mountain in his desert...

It is good for us to know that in the midst of our own deserts, the Lord always provides a mountain to shelter us, to refresh us and to be a meeting place with him....

"Come, let us go up the mountain of the Lord. He will show us his paths and we will walk in his ways."

Isaiah 2:3

MUSIC

Today, Moses is not expecting anything unusual. He is just looking for the best pastures. He knows where every little watering hole is... With determined steps he goes to "the other side of the desert" ... What is this obscure search that is urging him to "go beyond" without knowing towards what, towards whom? Getting to the bottom of this question that is gnawing at him is like crossing the desert to find the central question, to find the existential "Who Am I?", to find self-knowledge before God who will make a new man of him.

If we want to seek and find God in our everyday life, we must dare to experience silence and solitude. This is the inwardness to which we are called!

MUSIC

"He arrived at Horeb, the mountain of God." Exodus 3:1

In the mid-day heat his eyes search the caves of Horeb....

And there, while looking for coolness, Moses meets what eye has not seen nor ear heard....

A fire enflamed the brambles with the brightness of the sun but did not burn them... He stopped...

The Lord saw that he turned in order to see better...

and God called him from inside the bush, "Moses, Moses" and he replied "Here I am." Exodus 3: 4 ...

That day, even the brambles spoke!...
Moses heard his name twice!...
Was this meeting planned?... Moses stands still before the Presence...

He finds that he is expected, recognised, freed from his distress, given a new dignity. Moses could have just gone on his way... ignored the call of the thorn bush... However he allows himself to be touched by the voice which disturbs his peace and promises him an unknown place of exile...

Will the desert be the place where nothing will blur the voice of the One who is calling him?...

Lord, you see how Moses changes direction; you accompany him on his journey... What will my change of direction be like?... "I will be with you"... This promise invites trust; how many times has it been renewed...?

♪♪♪ Dans nos obscurités/ ♪♪♪ «Within our darkest night,/ ♪♪♪ En nuestra oscuridad



"Take off your sandals because the place you are standing on is holy ground" Exodus 3: 5

On the fiery sand, in front of the burning bush, Moses undoes the straps of his shoes...
It is with his feet that Moses makes contact with the burning desert sand...
That is when he remembers the prosperity promised to the ageing Abraham,

"I will multiply your posterity like the stars of the heavens, like the sands of the seashore." Genesis 22: 17 ...
Step by step, Moses now embarks on the ways of faith claiming the SPIRITUAL PATRIMONY of his Fathers..
"I am the God of your Fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob". Exodus 3: 6...

Moses has never forgotten that he is the son of a Hebrew, but today he discovers that he is heir of another heritage... He finds that he is a link in the great chain that begins with Abraham and connects him to his Fathers... He understands that down through history it is the Lord who keeps the links together...
He is part of the lineage of those who have known the true God... The lineage of those who believed in the one true God... He belongs to the same tribe as the great Patriarchs and Matriarchs who welcomed the grace of the Covenant...and to whom the author of the Letter to the Hebrews paid homage,
"By faith Abraham responded to God's call, he obeyed and left for a land that would be his inheritance; and he set out without knowing where he was going." Hebrews 11:8.
He does not know it yet, but through faith Moses will leave Egypt without fearing the King's fury: and because he saw the Invisible, he stood firm...Hebrews 11:28.

What does it mean to belong?... Where will my roots be nourished? Are they like the daily Manna of the desert?...

♪♪♪ « Dans nos obscurités.../ ♪♪♪ "Within our darkest night.../ ♪♪♪ « En nuestra oscuridad...

"If the children of Israel ask, 'What is your name?' what will I reply?"
God then said to Moses, "I am who am".

And he added, "This is how you will speak to the children of Israel, 'I Am has sent me to you'
Exodus 3:13b-14

Following in the footsteps of Moses

Following in the footsteps of Moses means approaching the burning bush... abandoning oneself to this **Name** which murmurs, **I will** always be the beginning of your future, whatever way the wind blows, whatever the weather... It is a call to begin each day in a covenant with **The Voice** which murmurs our name from our mother's womb... **The Name** gives the invitation to remain on the threshold like Abraham who stood "at the entrance to his tent" (Genesis 18:1) reaching towards what was not yet. To welcome "**The Name which is above all names**" means trusting, believing that **I will be** will be on my lips, in my strengths, at my weak point, with what I have difficulty loving in myself. **The Name** announces itself as infinite tenderness... Let us allow ourselves to be touched by the deep burning of his transforming flame. Let us offer him our desire to live for him alone. However lame and stammering we may be, **the Name** will lead us step by step "from the other side of the desert" to "the place" which we do not know.

A member of each Vocation will approach the burning bush barefooted and light a small candle in our name from the fire of the bush. Then together we will say aloud in our own language, Lord, to whom would we go? All our springs are in you. (Ps 87:7)

Light in us the fire that will never go out.

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד  
Sch'má Israëġ Adonaġ Elohenu Adonaġ ehad (Deuteronomy 6:4)

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is One!

 « Dans nos obscurités allume le feu qui ne s'éteint jamais, qui ne s'éteint jamais » bis 

 "Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away, that never dies away" (2) 

 "En nuestra oscuridad, enciende la llama de tu amor Señor, de tu amor Señor" bis 