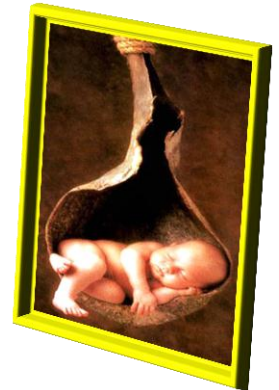


Bamboo Hut

“Humility is the foundation of the spiritual mansions (Mother Eliswa).”

The story of Moses' childhood comes from *Exodus*. In it, the pharaoh of Egypt (probably Ramses II) decreed that all the Hebrew boy babies were to be drowned at birth. Moses' mother hid her newborn for 3 months and then *placed her baby in a wicker basket in the Nile River reeds*. The baby cried and was rescued by one of the pharaoh's daughters who kept the baby. Moses grew up in the palace as an adopted son of the pharaoh's daughter. Moses received the divine call to liberate the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt. He was authorized by God to speak to the Israelites as well as to Pharaoh on his behalf. “Yahweh would talk to Moses face to face, as a man talks to his friend” (Ex.33/11).



God preserved the life of Moses, His prophet in a caulked wicker basket in the Nile River reeds, spoke to him from a burning bush and called him to liberate his chosen race from the fire of Egyptian's cruelty. On this 148th foundation day of our Congregation it's most fitting for us the members to look into our humble origin. Yes, very likely the birth story of Moses and the infancy of our origin as the Congregation of Teresian Carmelites, was sealed in the cradle of a bamboo.

Bamboo! Bamboo! Why Bamboo hut? Why wicker basket?

Bamboo is beneficial for human existence. Ecologically, it is incredibly renewable, fastest growing plant, low impact harvesting and no irrigation is required. Bamboo extract is used to treat various inflammatory conditions. The young new shoots of bamboo are eaten in Asia. Bamboo is used as an abortifacient for kidney troubles. Split stems of bamboo are used for making baskets, fences, roofs and roof tiles. In India, bamboo is used for making paper, since it provides good quality paper pulp.



Mother Eliswa chose Bamboo hut for various reasons and certainly because she wanted to impart to her sisters the importance of simple life style for the spiritual growth and the practice of virtues as a way of life of the young congregation. Moses in the wicker basket and young CTC in the Bamboo hut; both are expressions of undoubted trust in the providence of God. In a way accepting God as our security and believing in His care is the core of the spirit of our Foundress Venerable Mother Eliswa. Bamboo floats effortlessly on the water and gets consumed easily by the fire. Yes when we learn to float in the spirit of God by the regular practice of contemplation and reading of the Word of God, no fire of the rapidly changing values of the world will be able to ever consume us. Instead we would encounter God face to face and be a dazzling splendor of His presence in the world today.

These Beatification series are dedicated to Mother Eliswa our Foundress. May the celebration of her Beatification rejuvenate the spirit of our Foundress in every CTC to climb the summit of holiness.

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