

# The Arabic Gospel of the Infancy

## Chapter 1

We found this in the book of Joseph, the high priest who existed in the time of Christ—some have said it was Caiaphas. He asserts that Jesus spoke while in the cradle, and said to his mother: “I am Jesus, the Son of God, the Word, whom you have borne, as the angel Gabriel announced to you, and my Father has sent me to save the world.”

## Chapter 2

In the year 309 of Alexander, Augustus ordered that each individual be registered in their own country. Joseph rose and took Mary, his fiancée, and went to Jerusalem. He arrived in Bethlehem to be registered there in his village with all his family. When they reached the cave, Mary said to Joseph: “The time for my delivery has come; it is impossible for me to go to the village. Let us rather enter this cave.” At that moment, the sun was setting. Joseph hastily went to bring Mary a woman to assist her. Meanwhile, he saw an old Hebrew woman, originally from Jerusalem. He said to her: “Come here, blessed woman. Enter this cave: there is a woman about to give birth.”

## Chapter 3

1. The old woman, accompanied by Joseph, arrived at the cave when the sun had already set. They entered: it was filled with lights more beautiful than lamps and torches, more intense than the brightness of the sun. The child, wrapped in swaddling clothes, was nursing, lying in the manger, receiving milk from his mother, Saint Mary. 2. While the two visitors marveled at this light, the old woman said to Saint Mary: “Are you the mother of this newborn?” Saint Mary said: “Yes.” The old woman said: “You do not

resemble the daughters of Eve.” Saint Mary said: “As my son is incomparable among children, so his mother is incomparable among women.” .../... (Note 1) The old woman replied in these terms: “O my Lady, I have come without ulterior motives, to obtain a reward.” Our Lady, Saint Mary, said to her: “Place your two hands on the child.” She placed them, and immediately she was healed. She went out, saying: “From now on, I will be the servant and the slave of this child all the days of my life.”

## **Chapter 4**

At that moment, the shepherds arrived. They lit a fire and rejoiced greatly. And the heavenly hosts appeared to them, praising and glorifying God—may His name be spoken with respect—and the shepherds also praised God. And the cave, at that moment, seemed like a sublime temple because the heavenly and earthly voices were glorifying and magnifying the birth of the Lord Christ. As for the old Israelite woman, when she saw these radiant miracles, she thanked God and said: “I thank you, O God, God of Israel, that my eyes have seen the birth of the Savior of the world.”

## **Chapter 5**

1. When the days of circumcision were accomplished, that is, on the eighth day, the law required the child to be circumcised. He was circumcised in the cave. The old Israelite woman took the piece of skin—others say she took the umbilical cord—and put it in a vial of ancient nard oil. She had a son, a perfumer by trade; she gave it to him, saying: “Do not sell this vial of perfumed nard, even if you are offered three hundred denarii.” It is this vial that Mary the sinner bought and poured on the head and feet of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which she then wiped with the hair of her head.
2. After ten days, they took the child to Jerusalem; and, forty days after his birth, they brought him into the temple in the presence of the Lord and offered the sacrifices prescribed in the law of Moses to redeem him,

namely: “Every firstborn male shall be considered consecrated to God” (Luke 2:22-24; cf. Exodus 13:2).

## **Chapter 6**

The old man Simeon saw him shining like a column of light, while his mother, the Virgin Mary, carried him in her arms, all joyful. The angels, turned toward him, surrounded him like a circle and gave him glory, like the guard of honor surrounding a king. Simeon hastened toward Saint Mary; he extended his hands toward her and said to the Lord Christ: “Now, Lord, dismiss your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your mercy, which you have prepared for the salvation of all nations, as a light for all peoples, and for the glory of Israel, your people” (Luke 2:29-32). Anna the prophetess also witnessed this and approached to give thanks to God and proclaim Saint Mary blessed.

## **Chapter 7**

Now when the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the time of King Herod, behold, Magi arrived from the East in Jerusalem, according to what Zoroaster had predicted. And they brought with them gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They worshiped him and offered him their gifts. Then Saint Mary, taking one of the swaddling clothes, gave it to them as a blessing. They accepted it from her hands, with perfect goodwill. And at the same instant, an angel appeared to them in the form of the star that had first guided them. They departed, led by its light until they arrived in their country.

## **Chapter 8**

Their kings and leaders gathered around them and said: “What have you seen and done? How were your journey and return? And what do you have in your possession?” They showed them the swaddling cloth that Saint Mary had given them. At this, they celebrated a feast; they lit a fire, according to their custom, and worshiped it. They threw this swaddling cloth into the fire: the fire took it and

penetrated it. When the fire had extinguished, they took out the cloth: it was in the same condition as before, as if the fire had not touched it (cf. Daniel 3:50). And they began to kiss it and place it on their eyes, and they said: "Indeed, this is a great miracle: the fire could not consume or damage it." They took it and kept it preciously in their homes, with deep reverence.

## **Chapter 9**

As for Herod, when he saw that the Magi were lingering away from him and not returning, he summoned the priests and the sages and said to them: "Tell me where the Messiah will be born." They said to him: "In Bethlehem of Judea." And he began to think of ways to kill the Lord Jesus Christ. Then the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said: "Arise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Egypt" (Matthew 2:13). So he arose at the crow of the cock and set out.

## **Chapter 10**

1. While he pondered how he would accomplish his journey, dawn broke, and he had already traveled halfway. At daybreak, he was near a large village. There was an idol there, along with all the other idols and deities of the Egyptians. A priest resided near this idol to serve it. Each time the demon spoke through the mouth of this idol, the priest transmitted the oracle to the people of Egypt and its provinces. This priest had a three-year-old son who was possessed by several demons. He would say and utter all sorts of things. When the demons took hold of him, he would tear his clothes, remain naked, and attack people with stones. In this village, there was a hospital dedicated to this idol.
2. When Saint Mary and Joseph arrived in this village and went to the hospital, the villagers were extremely frightened. All the chiefs and priests of the idols gathered around the idol and said: "What is this upheaval and disturbance that has occurred in our land?" The idol answered them,

saying: "A hidden god is present here; he is the true God, and there is no other to serve but him, for he is truly the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54). At the news of his approach, this land has moved; when he descended upon it, it trembled and was shaken. We greatly fear the violence of his attack." At that instant, the idol fell, and its collapse brought together all the people of Egypt and beyond.

## **Chapter 11**

1. The priest's son was seized with his usual fit. He entered the hospital while Joseph and Saint Mary were there. Everyone had fled, abandoning them. Lady Saint Mary had just washed the Lord Christ's swaddling clothes and hung them on the wall. The possessed boy came and took one of these swaddling clothes and placed it on his head. Immediately, the demons fled, starting to exit from his mouth like crows and serpents, and at once, the child was healed by the command of the Lord Christ. He began to praise and thank the Lord, who had healed him.
2. His father, finding him healthy, said to him: "What happened to you, my child, and how were you healed?" He said to him: "When the demon struck me, I went to the hospital. There, I found a noble woman with a child. She had just washed his swaddling clothes and laid them on the wall. I took one, placed it on my head, and the demons, leaving me, fled." His father, overjoyed, said to him: "My child, it is possible that this little boy is the Son of the living God, who created the heavens and the earth. For as he passed by us, the idol broke, all the gods fell and were destroyed by the force of his power."

## **Chapter 12**

Thus the prophecy was fulfilled, which said: "Out of Egypt I have called my son" (Matthew 2:15). And when Joseph and Mary learned of the fall and destruction of this idol, they were seized with fear and dread, and they said: "When we were in

the land of Israel, Herod sought to kill Jesus, and because of him, he killed all the small children of Bethlehem and its surroundings. There is no doubt that if the Egyptians learn of the accident that broke this idol, they will deliver us to the flames.”

### **Chapter 13**

(Joseph and Mary) left there and arrived at a place where there were brigands who had plundered a group (of travelers), stripped them of their clothes, and bound them. These brigands heard an immense clamor, like the clamor caused by a powerful king leaving his capital accompanied by troops, cavalry, and drums. The brigands took fright and abandoned everything they had seized. The others then rose; they unbound each other, retrieved their belongings, and left. Seeing Joseph and Mary approaching, they said to them: “Where is the king whose loud and tumultuous train the brigands heard, after which they abandoned us and we were freed?” Joseph said to them: “He will arrive in our footsteps.”

### **Chapter 14**

They then reached another village where there was a possessed woman. (In fact) one night, while she was out fetching water, the demon, the accursed rebel, had pounced on her. She could no longer bear to be clothed or to stay in inhabited places; each time she was bound with chains and fetters, she would break them and flee naked into the wilderness. She would settle at crossroads and in tombs and assault people with stones. Her family was greatly distressed. When Saint Mary saw her, she had pity. And at the same instant, the demon left her and fled in the form of a young man, crying out: “Woe is me because of you and your son!” And the woman was healed of her torment. She came to her senses and, ashamed of her nakedness, returned to her family, avoiding people. She put on her clothes and told her father and family in detail what had happened. (Now) her family were the most notable people in the village. They gave hospitality to Saint Mary and Joseph with generous magnificence.

## **Chapter 15**

The next day, (Mary and Joseph) left, well-provided for the journey. That evening, they arrived in another village where a wedding was being celebrated. By the ruse of the accursed demon and the spells of the enchanters, the bride had become mute and had not regained her speech. When Lady Saint Mary entered this village, carrying the Lord Christ in her arms, this mute bride saw her: she extended her hands toward the Lord Christ, and drawing him to her, took him in her arms, embraced him, and kissed him. A breath from his body exhaled upon her. The knot of her tongue was loosened, her ears were opened, and she praised and thanked God who had restored her health. That night, there was great joy among the inhabitants of the village, and they believed that God and his angels had descended upon them.

## **Chapter 16**

(Joseph and Mary) stayed there for three days, surrounded by honors and splendidly treated. They left their hosts, well-provided for the journey, and arrived in another village where they intended to spend the night, as it was well populated. In this village, there was a woman of honorable reputation. One day she went to the river to bathe; and the accursed demon, taking the form of a serpent, leaped upon her and coiled around her abdomen. Every night at dusk, he would lie upon her. When this woman saw Lady Saint Mary, carrying the Lord Christ in his early childhood, she was filled with affection for him and said to Lady Saint Mary: "O (my) Lady, give me this little child, so that I may carry and kiss him." (Mary) gave him to her. And when (the child) was brought close to her, the demon let go and fled. From that day, she never saw him again. All the onlookers praised the Most High God, and this woman treated (Mary and Joseph) magnificently.

## **Chapter 17**

When the next day came, this (same) woman took perfumed water to bathe the Lord Jesus. And after washing him, she took the bathwater. (Now) there was a young girl whose body was white with leprosy. She poured some of this water over herself and bathed in it; immediately she was cleansed of her leprosy. As for the people of the place, they said: "Without a doubt, Joseph, Mary, and the child are gods and not humans." And when (Mary and Joseph) decided to leave, this young girl who had been leprous approached them and asked to be taken with them.

## **Chapter 18**

1. They consented, and she left with them. However, they arrived at a village where there was a castle belonging to a notable chief. He had a palace for hosting guests. They went there. The young girl went and entered the house of the chief's wife, finding her in tears and sorrow. She said: "Why are you crying?" The wife replied: "Do not be surprised by my tears, for I have a great sorrow that I have not been able to share with anyone." The young girl said: "If you tell me and reveal it to me, perhaps I will have a remedy."
2. The chief's wife said: "Keep this secret and tell no one. I am married to this chief, who is a king whose power extends over a vast territory. I have lived with him for a long time without giving him a son, and when I finally bore him a child, he was found to have leprosy. When he saw him, he refused to acknowledge him and said: 'You will kill him or give him to a nurse to raise in a place where no one will hear of him. As for me, I no longer have anything in common with you and will never see you again.' I do not know what to do, and my sorrow is immense. Alas, my son! Alas, my husband!" The young girl said: "I have found a remedy for your sorrow, which I will explain to you. For I, too, was leprous and was cleansed by God, who is none other than Jesus, the son of Lady Mary." The wife said: "Who is this God you speak of?" The young girl said: "He is here, in your house." She



said: "How so? And where is he?" The young girl said: "Here are Joseph and Mary: this child they have with them is called Jesus, and he is the one who healed me of my affliction." The wife said: "And can you tell me how you were healed of your leprosy?" She said: "Willingly. The child's mother gave me some of the water that had been used to bathe him; I poured it over myself, and I was cleansed of my leprosy."

3. Upon hearing this, the chief's wife rose and invited (Mary and Joseph) to be her guests; she offered Joseph a great feast, to which many men were invited. The next day, at dawn, she took perfumed water to bathe the Lord Jesus. She also took her son and bathed him in the water she had just used. At that moment, her child was cleansed of his leprosy. She thanked God and glorified him. She said: "Blessed is your mother, O Jesus! How is it that water from your bath cleanses men of their leprosy?" She made magnificent gifts to Lady Saint Mary and escorted her with the greatest honors.

## **Chapter 19**

From there, they arrived at another village where they intended to spend the night. They went to the house of a newly married man, who was kept away from his wife by a curse. And when they took lodging there that night, the curse was lifted. In the morning, they were thinking of leaving; but this young husband detained them and offered them a splendid feast.

## **Chapter 20**

1. The next day, they set out again. As they approached another village, they saw three women returning from the cemetery on foot, weeping. Seeing them, Saint Mary said to the young girl who had joined them: "Ask them what has happened to them and what misfortune has befallen them." She asked the question. They, without answering her, said: "Where are you from and where are you going? The day is over, and night has come." The

young girl said: "We are travelers and are looking for a place to stay for the night." The women said: "Come with us and spend the night at our home."

2. They accompanied them. The women had a new house, well-decorated and richly furnished. They introduced them into this house. It was winter. The young girl also entered with the women and found them both weeping and lamenting. Near them was a mule covered with a brocade cloth, in front of which they had placed sesame. They were kissing it and feeding it. The young girl said: "O my ladies, what is this mule doing here?" They replied in tears: "This mule you see was our brother, the son of our mother here. Our father died and left us a great fortune. We had only this one brother: we were thinking of finding him a wife and marrying him according to the law of humanity. But women became jealous of him and cast a spell on him without our knowledge."
3. One night, shortly before dawn, while the doors of our house were closed, we cast our eyes upon our brother: he had become the mule you see. We have no father to help us out of this grief, and we are in the sorrow you witness. There is no sage, magician, or enchanter that we have failed to consult. It has been of absolutely no use to us. And whenever we lose heart, we rise, go with our mother to weep at our father's tomb, and then return."

## Chapter 21

1. Hearing the story of these women, the young girl said to them: "Console yourselves and weep no more: the remedy for your affliction is near; it is in your house and in the midst of your home. For I, too, was once leprous. But having seen this woman here with this little child named Jesus, one day when his mother had just bathed him, I took some of the water from his bath, poured it over my body, and was healed. I know that he has the power to remedy your affliction. Now, rise, go to Lady Mary, his mother,

bring her to your house; reveal your secret to her, and plead with her to have mercy on you.”

2. When the women heard the young girl’s words, they hastened (to go) to Lady Saint Mary. They brought her into their house and, sitting before her, said in tears: “O Lady Saint Mary, have mercy on your servants. We have no elderly relative, no head of family, no father, no brother to intercede for us. This mule you see was our brother: women have reduced him by their spells to the state you see. We implore you to have pity on us.” Then, touched by their misfortune, Lady Saint Mary took the Lord Jesus and placed him on the mule’s back. She wept, and the (three) women wept as well. She said to Jesus Christ, her child: “My son, by your mighty power, heal this mule and restore him to the rational human being he once was.”
3. And at the moment these words came out of Lady Saint Mary the Virgin’s mouth, the mule changed form and became a young man, free from any infirmity. Then he, his mother, and his sisters prostrated themselves before Lady Saint Mary. They placed the child on their heads and began to kiss him, saying: “Blessed is your mother, O Jesus, Savior of the world! Blessed are the eyes that have had the favor to behold you!”

## **Chapter 22**

1. The two sisters said to their mother: “Now that our brother has returned to his normal state, through the help of the Lord Jesus Christ and thanks to this young girl who introduced us to Mary and her son. Our brother is not married; the best course is to unite him with this young girl who is in the service of this family.” They asked Saint Mary about this. She consented to their request. They then celebrated the young girl’s wedding magnificently, passing from sorrow to joy and from lamentation to cries of festivity, exulting, rejoicing, expressing their happiness, and singing. And in their excessive joy, they donned their most precious clothes and

adornments and, singing hymns of praise, said: "O Jesus, Son of David, who turns sorrow into joy and grief into happiness!"

2. Saint Mary and Joseph stayed there for ten days. Then they left, receiving signs of respect and veneration from these people, who came to bid them farewell and, after the goodbyes, returned in tears, especially the young girl.

## Chapter 23

1. After leaving there, they arrived in a deserted land, and they learned that it was unsafe. Joseph and Saint Mary decided to cross this land during the night. As they traveled, they saw two brigands who were asleep, along with a group of their companions who were also asleep. These two brigands they encountered were Titus and Dumachus. Titus said to Dumachus: "Let these people pass freely so that they may go, and our companions do not notice them!" Dumachus did not consent. Titus said to him: "I give you forty drachmas; take this as a pledge." And he presented him with the belt he wore around his waist to persuade him to keep silent and say nothing.
2. When Lady Saint Mary saw the good conduct of this brigand towards them, she said to him: "The Lord God will protect you with his right hand and grant you the forgiveness of your sins." The Lord Jesus spoke and said to his mother: "O my mother, in thirty years, the Jews will crucify me in the city of Jerusalem and, with me, they will crucify these two brigands, Titus on my right and Dumachus on my left; and after that day, Titus will precede me in paradise." She said to him: "May that be spared you, my son!"
3. From there, they went to the city of idols. And when they approached it, it was overturned and reduced to a mound of sand.

## Chapter 24

From there, they went to the sycamore tree, which is now called Matarieh. And in Matarieh, the Lord Jesus made a spring flow where Saint Mary washed his tunic. And the sweat of the Lord Jesus, which she wrung out in that place, caused the balm to grow there.

## **Chapter 25**

From there, they went down to Misr (Egypt). They saw Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Misr for three years. And the Lord Jesus performed many miracles in the land of Misr, which are not written in the Gospel of the Infancy or in the complete Gospel.

## **Chapter 26**

After three years, they left and returned from Misr. And when they reached the land of Judea, Joseph feared to pass through it. Learning that Herod had died and his son Archelaus had succeeded him as king of the country, he feared to go to the land of Judea. The angel of the Lord then appeared to him and said: "Joseph, go to the city of Nazareth and stay there."

O miracle, that the Master of the lands should be carried and traveled across the lands like this!

## **Chapter 27**

And when they entered the city of Bethlehem, they saw many cases of a serious illness affecting the children's eyes, and they were dying. There was a woman who had a sick son, already close to death. She brought him to Lady Saint Mary, whom she saw bathing Jesus the Christ. This woman said to her: "O Mary, my Lady, look at my son here; he is suffering terribly!"

Saint Mary replied: "Take some of this water where I just bathed my son and sprinkle it on yours." So she took some of this water, as Saint Mary had told her,

and poured it on her son, who stopped convulsing and slept for a while. Then he awoke from his sleep in perfect and full health; his mother took him and brought him to Saint Mary. She was all joyful. Saint Mary said to her: “Thank God who has healed your child.”

## **Chapter 28**

There was another woman, a neighbor of the one whose son had been healed. She also had a son suffering from the same illness: his eyes had ceased to see, and he cried out night and day. The mother of the healed child said to this woman: “Why don’t you take him to Saint Mary, as I took my son to her, who was about to die, and he was healed by the water in which she had bathed her son Jesus?”

When this woman heard this, she also went there, took some of that water, and washed her son with it. His body and eyes were healed at that moment. His mother brought him to Lady Saint Mary and told her everything that had just happened. Saint Mary said to her: “Thank God for having restored him, and do not speak of this story to anyone.”

## **Chapter 29**

1. There were also two women married to the same man in that place. Each had a son, and both children were suffering. One of these two women was named Mary, and her son’s name was Cleopas. She rose, took her son, and went to Lady Saint Mary, the mother of Jesus, and gave her a beautiful veil, saying: “O Mary, my Lady, take this veil and give me in return a single swaddling cloth (of your child).” Mary did so. Cleopas’ mother left and made a tunic from this cloth, with which she dressed her son. He was healed of his illness. The son of her rival died, which caused enmity between them.
2. They used to take turns doing the housework, each for a week. When it was Mary, the mother of Cleopas’ turn, she wanted to bake bread. After

heating the oven, she went to get the dough and left her son Cleopas near the oven. While she was gone, her rival saw the child alone, and the oven blazing. She took him and threw him into the oven, then left. When Mary, his mother, returned, she saw Cleopas playing in the middle of the oven where he had been thrown, and the oven was already cooled, as if the fire had never been kindled. The mother understood that it was her rival who had thrown him into the fire. She took him out of the oven and brought him to Lady Saint Mary, telling her the story. Saint Mary said: "Be silent and do not speak of this story to anyone, for I fear for you if it were revealed."

3. Later, when her rival went to the well to draw water, she saw Cleopas playing near the well. No one was around. She took the child and threw him into the well, then returned home. When people came to the well to get water, they saw the boy sitting on the water. They went down and pulled him out. Extremely amazed by this boy, they praised God. His mother, arriving, took him and carried him in tears to Lady Saint Mary, saying: "O my Lady, see what my rival has done to my son, how she threw him into the well. It is inevitable that she will try to kill him."

Saint Mary said: "God will avenge you on her." So, when her rival went to draw water from the well, her feet got caught in the rope, and she fell into the well. Those who came to rescue her found her with her head crushed and her bones broken. She died a miserable death, fulfilling the saying: "They dug a pit, they made it deep, and they fell into the hole they opened" (cf. Psalm 7:15).

## **Chapter 30**

1. There was another woman who had twin sons. Both fell ill. One died, the other was dying. The mother, weeping, took her son to Lady Saint Mary, saying: "O Mary, my Lady, help me, assist me! I had two sons, and now I have buried one, and the other is about to die. Hear my prayer and supplication to God." And she began to say: "O Lord, who are merciful,

compassionate, and kind, you gave me two sons; you have taken one, leave me the one who remains!"

2. Seeing her burning tears, Saint Mary had pity and said: "Lay your child on my son's bed and cover him with his clothes." She laid him on the bed where Christ was. He already had his eyes closed, ready to leave life, but when the scent of the clothes (cf. Genesis 27:27) of the Lord Christ Jesus reached the boy, at that moment, he opened his eyes and, crying out loudly, said to his mother: "Mother, give me bread!" She gave it to him, and he sucked it. His mother said to Lady Saint Mary: "I now know that the power of God resides in you, so much so that your son heals his peers by the mere contact of his clothes." And this child who was healed is the one called Bartholomew in the Gospel.

## **Chapter 31**

There was also a woman afflicted with leprosy. She went to Lady Saint Mary, the mother of Jesus, and said: "O Mary, my Lady, help me!" Saint Mary said: "What help do you need? Money, gold, or that your body be purified of leprosy?" The woman said: "And who has the power to give me that?" Saint Mary said: "Have the patience to wait a little while I bathe my son Jesus and lay him on his bed." The woman waited patiently, as Mary had said. And when Mary had laid Jesus on his bed, she took some of the water that had been used to bathe him and, giving it to the woman, said: "Take this water and pour it over your body." And when she did, she was immediately cleansed and gave praise and thanks to God.

## **Chapter 32**

1. After staying three days with (Mary), she left. Arriving in (her village), she saw a lord who had married the daughter of another lord. Observing his wife, he noticed traces of leprosy like a star between her eyes.



The marriage was annulled and declared null. When this woman saw them in this situation, overwhelmed with grief and weeping, she said: "What is the cause of your tears?" They said: "Do not question us about our situation. We have a sorrow we cannot speak of to anyone, and it must remain between us." She insisted and said: "Reveal it to me; perhaps I can provide a remedy." They then showed her the young girl and the traces of leprosy she had between her eyes.

2. Seeing this, she said: "I too had this disease. Traveling to Bethlehem for an affair that had befallen me, I entered the cave and saw a woman named Mary, who has a son named Jesus. Noticing that I was leprous, she had compassion on me and gave me the water used to bathe her son; I poured it over my body, and I was cleansed of the leprosy." The women said: "O our Lady, would you be willing to go with us and show us Lady Saint Mary?" She said: "Willingly." So they rose and went to Lady Saint Mary, bringing rich gifts with them.
3. Arriving at her place, they offered their gifts and showed her the little leper who accompanied them. Saint Mary said: "May the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ descend upon you!" And she gave them some water that had been used to bathe Jesus Christ, saying: "Wash this poor child with this water." After they washed her, she was immediately healed. They thanked God, they and all the onlookers. Then they returned to their country, praising God for this. And when the lord learned that his wife was healed, he brought her back home, celebrated their wedding a second time, and thanked God for his wife's healing.

## **Chapter 33**

1. There was also a young girl possessed by a demon in this place. This cursed one would appear to her at all times in the form of a huge dragon, making as if to swallow her. He would suck all her blood, leaving her like a corpse. When he approached her, she would clasp her hands over her head and cry out, saying: "Woe to me! Woe to me, since there is no one who can

deliver me from this evil dragon.” Her father, mother, and all who surrounded her or saw her would pity her. All who were there wept and gathered around her, all weeping and lamenting, especially when she said with tears: “O my brothers and friends, is there no one who can deliver me from this tormentor?”

2. And when the chief’s daughter, the one who had been healed of leprosy, heard this child’s voice, she went to the highest part of her “castle” and looked toward her: she had her hands clasped over her head and was weeping, and the crowd around her was weeping too. (The chief’s daughter) said to the husband of the possessed girl: “Does your wife still have her mother?” The husband replied: “Certainly, she has her mother and father.” She said: “Bring me her mother.” He brought her to her. Seeing her, she said: “Is this tormented girl your daughter?” The woman said with sadness and tears: “Yes, my Lady, she is my daughter.” The chief’s daughter said: “Keep this secret. I will tell you that I too was leprous, and I was healed by our Lady Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. If you want your daughter to be healed, take her to Bethlehem; ask to see Mary, the mother of Jesus, and be assured that your daughter will be healed. For myself, I am certain that you will return here joyfully, with your daughter in perfect health.”
3. Hearing these words from the chief’s daughter, the woman immediately rose, went to her daughter, and left for the indicated place. She went to Lady Saint Mary and told her the state of her daughter. After hearing her, Saint Mary gave her some of the bathwater of her son Jesus and said: “Pour this water over your daughter’s body.” She also gave her one of the Lord Jesus’ swaddling clothes, saying: “Take this cloth and show it to your enemy whenever you see him.” And she dismissed them kindly.

1. When they had returned from her place to their country, the time came when the demon was accustomed to assail the (young girl). Then the cursed one appeared in the form of a huge dragon. At his sight, the young girl took fright. Her mother said: "Do not fear his claws, my daughter: let him approach you and show him this cloth that Saint Mary gave us; we will see what happens."
2. When she saw the demon approaching her in the form of a horrible dragon, terrified, she shivered from head to toe. She unfolded the cloth and placed it on her head, covering her eyes with it. At that moment, flames and burning coals came out of the cloth and leapt upon the dragon.

O glorious miracle that was witnessed! At the moment the dragon looked at the Lord Jesus' cloth, fire came out and leapt upon his head and eyes. He cried out in a loud voice, saying: "What do you want from me, Jesus, son of Mary? Where could I escape from you?" And, turning around, he fled from the young girl with extreme terror, never to return. Delivered from him, the young girl and all those present at this miracle gave glory and thanks to God.

## **Chapter 35**

1. There was also a woman in that country who had a son possessed by a demon. His name was Judas. Whenever the demon attacked him, he would bite everyone who approached him, and if no one was near, he would bite his own hands and other members. When the mother of this unfortunate boy heard about Saint Mary and her son Jesus, she rose and, taking Judas, brought him to Lady Mary. Now James and Joses had taken the Lord Jesus, then a small child, to play with the other children.
2. When they went out of the house, they sat down, and the Lord Jesus with them. Judas, the possessed boy, came and sat on Jesus' right. The demon attacked him as usual, and he tried to bite the Lord Jesus. He couldn't, but he struck Jesus on the right side. The Lord Jesus began to cry, and immediately the demon left the boy in the form of a rabid dog. This boy

who struck Jesus and from whom the demon fled in the form of a dog was Judas Iscariot who later betrayed (Jesus) to the Jews; and the side where Judas struck him is the same side the Jews later pierced with a lance.

## **Chapter 36**

1. One day, after Jesus had turned seven, he was playing with children his age. They were playing with clay, making figurines of donkeys, oxen, birds, etc.

Each of them was proud of his skill and boasted of his work. The Lord Jesus said to the boys: "These figurines I have made, I will command them to walk." The boys said to him: "Are you the son of the Creator?"

2. The Lord Jesus commanded these figurines to walk, and they immediately began to jump. Then he called them back, and they returned. Jesus had also made figurines of birds and sparrows. He commanded them to fly, and they flew, to perch, and they perched on his hands. He gave them food, and they ate; he gave them drink, and they drank. The boys went to tell their parents. The parents said to them: "Children, do not associate with him anymore, he is a magician. Avoid him, do not approach him, and from now on, do not play with him."

## **Chapter 37**

One day, the Lord Jesus was walking and playing with the boys. He passed by the workshop of a dyer named Salem. This dyer had many garments belonging to the townspeople, which he intended to dye. Entering the dyer's workshop, the Lord Jesus took all these garments and threw them into a vat of indigo. When Salem the dyer returned and saw all the garments spoiled, he began to shout loudly, blaming the Lord Jesus and saying: "What have you done to me, Jesus, son of Mary! You bring disgrace upon me from all the people of the town. Each one wanted a color of their choice, and you have come and spoiled all the work." The

Lord Jesus said to him: “All the garments for which you want another color, I will change it.” And immediately, the Lord Jesus began to take the garments out of the vat, each one with the color the dyer desired. And the Jews, seeing this miracle and wonder, gave glory to God.

## **Chapter 38**

Joseph took Jesus with him and went around the town; for it happened that people would call him because of his trade, to make doors, milking pails, seats, or chests. The Lord Jesus accompanied him everywhere he went, and whenever Joseph needed to lengthen or shorten something, to widen or narrow it, be it a cubit or a span, the Lord Jesus would extend his hand toward the object, and it would be as Joseph wished, without him needing to touch it, for Joseph was not skilled in carpentry.

## **Chapter 39**

1. One day, the king of Jerusalem summoned Joseph and said: “Joseph, I want you to make me a bed of state to the dimensions of the hall where I hold court.” Joseph said: “At your service!” He immediately began to make this bed and spent two years in the king’s palace before it was finished. When he wanted to place it, he found it too short by two spans in every direction. Seeing this, the king became angry with Joseph. Joseph, in the excess of fear the king inspired in him, fasted that night without taking any food.
2. The Lord Jesus said to him: “Why are you afraid?” Joseph said: “I have lost all the work of two years.” The Lord Jesus said to him: “Do not fear and do not be alarmed. To set this bed in good order, take it by one side, and I will take it by the other.” Joseph did as the Lord Jesus said. Each of them pulled from his side, and the bed was set in good order and to the room’s measure. Seeing this wonder, the onlookers were struck with amazement and praised God.

3. The wood used to make this bed was of different species, which had grown in the time of King Solomon, son of David.

## **Chapter 40**

1. One day, the Lord Jesus was walking through the streets. Seeing children gathered to play, he followed them. But when the boys saw him, they hid from his approach. When he reached the door of a house, the Lord Jesus saw women and asked where these boys had gone. The women said to him: "There is not a single one here." He said: "And those in the oven, who are they?" The women said: "They are three-year-old goats." And the Lord Jesus exclaimed: "Goats, come out here, to your shepherd!" And the boys came out in the form of kids, jumping around him. Witnessing this spectacle, the women were filled with admiration and fear: they ran to prostrate themselves before the Lord Jesus and said: "O our Lord, Jesus, son of Mary! Truly you are the good shepherd of Israel. Have mercy on your servants who are in your presence, and who have not doubted. O our Lord, you have come only to heal and not to destroy!" (cf. Luke 9:55)
2. The Lord Jesus replied to them: "The children of Israel are among the nations on the same level as the blacks." The women said: "Lord, you know all things, and nothing is hidden from you. Now, we pray and ask for your kindness that you restore these boys, your servants, to their former condition." And the Lord Jesus said: "Run here, children, and let us play!" And immediately, the kids took their form again and became boys, under the eyes of these women.

## **Chapter 41**

When the month of Adar came, the Lord Jesus gathered the boys around him on the main road. They spread their clothes on the ground, and Jesus sat on top of them. They braided a crown of flowers and placed it on his head. They stood beside him, to his right and left, like chamberlains who stand beside the king. And

whoever passed by the road, the boys forcibly brought them and said: "Come, bow down before the king, then continue on your way."

## **Chapter 42**

1. Meanwhile, some people approached, carrying a boy. This boy had gone with others to the mountain to fetch wood. In the mountain, he found a partridge's nest. He stretched out his hand to take the eggs. A venomous snake in the nest bit him. He cried for help. When his companions arrived, (he was) lying on the ground, as if dead. His family came and carried him to take him to the town.
2. When they reached the place where the Lord Jesus was, playing the role of king with the boys around him, the boys ran to the bitten boy and said to his relatives: "Come forward and greet the king." They refused to come, due to their grief. Then the boys forcibly and reluctantly brought them. When these people arrived at the Lord Jesus, he said: "Why are you carrying this boy?" They said: "A snake bit him." The Lord Jesus said to the boys: "Come with us to kill this snake." The boy's relatives said: "Let us go, for our son is about to die." The boys replied: "Do you not hear that the king has said: Let us kill the snake; you refuse to obey?" And without further permission, they took the mount.
3. When they reached the nest, the Lord Jesus said to the boys: "Is this where the snake is?" They replied: "Yes." Then the Lord Jesus called the snake, which immediately came out and bowed before him. He said: "Go suck the venom you injected into this boy!" And the snake crawled towards the boy and sucked all his venom. Then the Lord Jesus cursed the snake, and it immediately burst. Jesus placed his hand on the boy, who was healed. And as he began to cry, the Lord Jesus said to him: "Do not cry, soon you will be my disciple." It was Simon the Zealot, mentioned in the Gospel.

## **Chapter 43**

Another day, Joseph sent his son James to fetch wood, and the Lord Jesus went with him. When they arrived at the place where the wood was, (James) began to gather it. And behold, a wicked viper bit him on the hand. He began to cry and weep. The Lord Jesus, seeing him in this state, went to him and blew on the place where the snake had bitten, and immediately he was healed.

## **Chapter 44**

1. One day, the Lord Jesus was playing with boys on the terrace of a house. One of them fell to the ground and died instantly. The children fled, and the Lord Jesus remained alone on the terrace. When the parents of the boy arrived, they said to the Lord Jesus: "You threw our son from the terrace!" He replied: "I did not throw him." They began to shout, saying: "Our son is dead, and here is the one who killed him!" The Lord Jesus said to them: "Do not attribute this evil deed to me. If you do not believe me, come, we will question the child, and he will reveal the truth."
2. Then the Lord Jesus descended and, placing himself near the head of the dead, cried out loudly: "Zenon, Zenon! (Note 1) Who threw you from the terrace?" Then the dead boy replied, saying: "Lord, it was not you who threw me, it was someone else." And the Lord Jesus said to the onlookers: "Hear his words!" And all who were present praised God for this miracle.

## **Chapter 45**

One day, Lady Saint Mary said to the Lord Jesus: "My child, go fetch me water from the well." When he went to fetch the water and had filled his pitcher, it fell and broke. The Lord Jesus spread out his cloak (note 1), gathered the water in it, and brought it to his mother in the cloak. Saint Mary, seeing this, was filled with admiration. And all she saw, she kept and treasured in her heart (cf. Luke 2:51).

## **Chapter 46**



1. One day, the Lord Jesus was near an irrigation canal. With him were other boys. They had also made little pools, and the Lord Jesus had shaped twelve little birds from clay, which he placed on the edge of his pool, three on each side. It was a Saturday (note 1).
2. The son of Hanan the Jew arrived and, seeing them, said angrily and harshly: "On the Sabbath day, you are kneading clay!" And rushing forward, he destroyed their pools. But the Lord Jesus clapped his hands towards the birds he had shaped, and they flew away, chirping.
3. The son of Hanan also made a breach in the Lord Jesus' pool, and the water drained away. The Lord Jesus said to him: "May your life dry up as this water has dried up!" And immediately, the child was struck with paralysis.

## **Chapter 47**

One day, the Lord Jesus was walking with Joseph. They met a boy who was running. This boy knocked the Lord Jesus down. Jesus said to him: "As you have thrown me down, so you will fall and not get up again." And at that moment, the boy fell and died.

## **Chapter 48**

1. There was also a teacher of young children in Jerusalem named Zachariah. He said to Joseph: "Joseph, will you not bring Jesus to me so that he may learn?" Joseph said: "Willingly!" He spoke to Saint Mary, and taking Jesus with them, they brought him to the teacher. The teacher, seeing him, wrote the alphabet for him and said: "Say: Aleph" (note 1). And Jesus said: "Aleph." The teacher said: "Say: Beth." And the Lord Jesus said: "Explain the Aleph to me, and then I will say: Beth." The teacher wanted to strike him.
2. And Jesus said to him: "The Aleph is made like this and that, the Beth like this and that, and among the letters, some are straight, some curved, others round, others marked with dots, others without dots. And this letter

does not precede the others.” He began to explain and detail things the teacher had never heard or read in any book. Then the Lord Jesus said to the teacher: “Listen, let me tell you...” And he began to say in a clear voice: “Aleph, Beth, Gimel, Daleth...” to the Thav.

3. The teacher was astonished and said: “I believe this boy was born before Noah.” Turning to Joseph, he said: “You brought me a child to teach, but he is the master of masters!” And to Saint Mary, he said: “Your son does not need teaching.”

## **Chapter 49**

They then took him to another teacher, more skilled than the first. Seeing Jesus, he said: “Say: Aleph.” (Jesus) said: “Aleph.” He said: “Say: Beth.” The Lord Jesus replied: “First tell me the meaning of Aleph, then I will say: Beth.” The teacher raised his hand and struck him. At that moment, his hand withered, and he died. Joseph said to Saint Mary: “Henceforth, we will not let him leave the house, for anyone who attacks him dies.”

## **Chapter 50 (note 1)**

1. When he was twelve years old, they went up with him to Jerusalem for the feast. And when the feast was over, they departed. (cf. Luke 2:42-43) As for the Lord Jesus, he stayed behind in the Temple among the priests, elders, and doctors of Israel, questioning them and answering their questions about points of doctrine. He said to them: “The Messiah, whose son is he?” They said to him: “David’s.” He said to them: “Why then, under inspiration, does he call him his Lord when he says: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?” (cf. Matthew 22:42-44)
2. And the oldest doctor answered him: “Have you read the (holy) books?”

The Lord Jesus said to him: “The books, and the contents of the books, the explanation of these books, of the Torah, the commandments, the laws, and the mysteries that are in the books of the prophets, things inaccessible to the reason of a creature.” And this doctor said: “Until now, I have neither attained nor heard of such knowledge. What do you think will become of this child?” (cf. Luke 1:66)

## **Chapter 51**

There was also a learned man skilled in astronomy. He said to the Lord Jesus: “Do you have knowledge of astronomy?” The Lord Jesus answered him by recounting the number of spheres and celestial bodies, their natures, virtues, oppositions, combinations by three, four, and six, their ascensions and regressions, their (positions in) minutes and seconds, and other things beyond reason.

## **Chapter 52**

Among them was a philosopher versed in natural medicine. He said to the Lord Jesus: “My dear, do you have knowledge of medicine?” And the Lord Jesus answered him with a dissertation on physics, metaphysics, hyperphysics, and hypophysics, on the forces of bodies and temperaments, and on the energies and their influences in the nerves, bones, veins, arteries, and tendons, on the properties of hot, dry, cold, and humid, and on their effects, and on the operations of the soul in the body, on its perceptions and powers, on the logical faculty, on the acts of the (appetite) irascible and those of the (appetite) concupiscible, on composition and dissolution, and other things beyond reason.

And this philosopher, standing up, prostrated himself before the Lord Jesus and said: “Lord, henceforth, I am your disciple and servant.”

## **Chapter 53**

1. And while they were exchanging these and other similar words, Lady Saint Mary arrived, wandering in search of him with Joseph for three days. She

saw him sitting among the doctors, questioning them and answering them. And Saint Mary said to him: "My son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been searching for you with much fatigue!" He said to them: "Why did you seek me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" They did not understand the word he spoke to them. (cf. Luke 2:46-49) And the doctors said: "Is this your son, Mary?" She said: "Yes." They said to her: "Blessed are you, O Mary, for such a motherhood!"

2. And the Lord Jesus traveled with them to Nazareth and obeyed them in all things. His mother kept all these words in her heart. And the Lord Jesus grew in stature, wisdom, and grace before God and men.

## **Chapter 54**

From that day on, he began to hide his miracles, mysteries, and parables. And he conformed to the prescriptions of the Torah until the completion of his thirtieth year when the Father revealed him in the Jordan, with the voice that cried out from heaven: "Here is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22), while the Holy Spirit testified to him, in the form of a white dove.

## **Chapter 55 (note 1)**

1. He is the one we worship, praying to him who gave us being, life, and birth, who incarnated for us and saved us. His mercy extends over us through his liberality, benevolence, generosity, and magnanimity.
2. To him be glory, benevolence, strength, dominion, now and always, for all time, to all ages, until the eternity of eternities and the age of ages. Amen!

The Gospel of the Infancy is, with the help of the Most High God, entirely completed as we found it in the copy.