



## Mary's Reverie

**A monologue written by Colonel Gwenyth J. Redhead (R), with ideas from 'The Book of God', by Walter Wangerin, Jr., and incorporating scripture from Luke 1, mostly from 'The Message' by Eugene Petersen**



*(Mary enters breathlessly as if she has just climbed a steep hill)*

Phew! I did it. I didn't think these old bones could make it up the hill- but I've had such a yearning to come back up here just one more time. My mind keeps going back to all the strange things that happened here when I was just a slip of a girl. Sure sign of old age, if ever there was one!

So much has changed since then - so very, very much, but this hillside hasn't changed much at all.

And the wind is as fresh on my face as ever it was.

How young I was, how very young, the first time I came up here. Far younger than I realized at the time. But I sure grew up in a hurry that day! I'd come up here to be alone and think after all the excitement of the betrothal ceremonies. I needed a chance to catch my breath and process all that was going on. So here I was - daydreaming about what life would be like for me after I was married to dear old Joseph - and suddenly, without warning, my life was changed beyond all comprehension.

I don't know which terrified me more, the sudden light that nearly blinded me, or the voice that came out of the light crashing on my ears like thunder.

*"Congratulations," it said, "You are favoured. The Lord is with you."*

I fell to the ground and then gingerly opened my eyes, but all I could see, at first, was a dazzling pillar of light.

I hid my face again, but the light went on speaking. *"Mary," it said.*

The voice called me by, name! - and then it said: *"Don't be afraid."*

And, suddenly, I wasn't afraid any more, and I stood back up to my feet. My heart was racing, but now I dared to look deep into the light. I could see a shape that looked like a human, but so much larger than life - with an incredibly attentive face.

*"It's an angel," I thought, an angel visiting me."*

And I'll never forget what he said next as long as I live. *"God has a surprise for you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and call his name Jesus.*

*He will be great, be called 'Son of the Highest', The Lord God will give him The throne of his father David, He will rule Jacob's house for ever- No end, ever, to his kingdom."*

I stood there in a daze. Just couldn't get my head around his words. For one thing I was still a virgin, and for another, I was just a very ordinary peasant girl. It was as if he read my thoughts - and what he said next took my breath away.

*"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, And the power of the Most High will hover over you, Therefore the child you will bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God."*

I was speechless. All I could do was look and look at the light. It seemed to be getting dimmer, less formed, but the angel was still speaking.

*"Did you know your cousin Elizabeth has conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren and yet she is six months pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible with God."*

And, suddenly, I did see! Of course, I had always known in theory that nothing is impossible with God, but now I knew I was experiencing the truth of it in an unimaginable way. I fell to my knees again and whispered:

*"Yes, I see it all now; I am the Lord's servant, let it happen as you say."*

Then there was no angel at all, just a cloud billowing out over the Plain of Esdraelon, spreading, changing shape. I stood watching it for a very long time.

There was so much I didn't understand - and there is still so much I don't understand, despite all the pondering I have done in the days, months and years that have followed.

But this much I did know in that moment, and this much I know afresh as I stand here, again, in the very same spot. I am such a privileged woman, to have been chosen by God to be the mother of the King of Glory."

*(Music of 'Who is he?' begins as Mary exits.)*

