

The angel replied that 'this was your Lord's will'
and that God said, 'That is easy for Me;
your son will be a miracle of creation for all people
and a mercy from Us.
All this has been decreed.'

Then Mary conceived
and she withdrew to a distant place in her pregnancy.
When the pain of childbirth overcame her,
she rested against the trunk of a date-palm tree
and said, 'I wish I had died long ago
and was totally forgotten [by God].'

Then [the angel] called out from under her,
saying, 'Do not be sad.
Look, the Lord has provided
a running stream near you,
and if you shake the palm tree,
fresh ripe dates will drop down to you.'

19:16-25

July 9

[A moment after the birth of the baby Jesus]
the angel told his mother,
'Eat, drink, comfort yourself, and be happy.
If you see anyone coming, say,
'I have promised the Most Compassionate
for a penance not to talk
to any human being.'

When she carried [the baby Jesus]
back to her people, they said,
'O Mary, you have surely committed
a serious sin.
Kinswoman of Aaron, your father was not an evil man,
nor was your mother unchaste!'

But [Mary] did not answer their disapproval,
pointing instead to her child for an answer.
They said, 'How can we talk to a mere baby
in the cradle?'

But [baby Jesus] said, 'I am indeed God's servant.