

What is Old Becomes New

By Peggy Guerrero

The writings from Hebrew Scriptures, what we are used to calling the Old Testament, include terrific adventures that always make for a good story. In fact many, probably most of the modern sagas that we see in books and movies are retellings of these ancient ones. Sometimes that is done on purpose, and sometimes the truth is in there whether or not the authors intended it to be.

Moses is one of my favorite heroes from our Old Testament. There is very little written about him as a child. The story tells us that he was rescued from the river by the pharaoh's daughter who raised him as her own son. We can imagine what it was like to be raised as the grandson of the pharaoh! Moses would expect privilege and authority; he would expect to be powerful.

We know that Moses was restless. He found himself drawn to a greater power, first through seeing in justice done to his people, and later, when he had fled Egypt, he was drawn to the power of God that he witnessed on the mountain. He noticed a bush that was burning but was not consumed. What a sight that must have been!

The presence of God, this God who burns within us but does not destroy us, called Moses to return to Egypt to tell Pharaoh to free God's people. It is interesting to see how Moses reacted. Remembering that Moses was raised as a person with great privilege and power, Moses became reluctant, even making excuses as to why he shouldn't be the one for the task. Moses, raised among earthy human power, is confronted with true power – the presence of God. And this God burns within, a blaze that burns, but does not consume. In the presence of real power, Moses became humble. Moses recognized real power, the power of this God who blazes but does not consume. In the presence of this true God, Moses had to let go of his old, false sense of power. He learned who he really was, and who he wasn't. And part of that identity was that he belonged to a God who had never forgotten him.

So this summer, in the blazing hot days of our desert, when you are enjoying summer blockbuster movies or books, remember the true adventure that is our own coming to know who we are, and that our Father never forgets us.