

## Story 18: The Story of Saint Barbara

Story shared by: *Janine*

Representing: *Lebanese/ MENA*

### The Story:

Long ago, in the early Middle Ages, there lived a beautiful princess named Barbara in the mountains of Lebanon. She was the daughter of a powerful nobleman, who kept her locked within the high walls of his castle in hopes to shield her from ill-intending men. Barbara grew up isolated from the world, with her father guarding her fiercely, determined that no one would ever come near her. Despite her father's strict protection, Barbara's heart longed for more than the confinement.

One day, a servant slipped a Bible into her room, and as she read its pages, a deep faith took root in her soul. She embraced the teachings of Christianity and became devoted to her new-found beliefs. When her father discovered that Barbara had converted to Christianity, he was furious. In his eyes, this was a betrayal of his authority and everything he believed. His anger knew no bounds, and he decided that his only option was to kill her.

Fearing for her life, Barbara fled the castle under the cover of night. As she ran, she found herself in the midst of vast wheat fields. The tall, golden stalks of wheat swayed in the wind, hiding her from her father's men who pursued her. Protected by the fields, she continued her escape. Disguising herself with a variety of garments and cloaks, Barbara roamed from village to village, begging for food and shelter. The people who took her in didn't recognize the noble princess, but they showed her kindness nonetheless. She lived in hiding, her faith guiding her through her perilous journey, until she finally found a place to settle and practice Christianity in peace.

**Story Moral:** *Stay true to your faith in the face of challenge/adversity.*