

PRODIGAL SONS

Eleven

"Longinus!" the stranger said.

"Mark! What a coincidence to find you wandering out here in the middle of nowhere," Felix said.

"Longinus?" Abe questioned.

"We can't go around anywhere with a famous centurion deserter from the Roman army, can we now?" Simon answered for him. "Abe, meet Mark, a fellowman from Cyrene."

"He doesn't look Roman to me?" Abe sort of asked.

"That is because he isn't," Simon answered. "The diaspora does extend to other cities besides Rome."

"And what is your connection with Simon and Felix?" Michael asked. "I assume we shouldn't call you Longinus?"

"Our connection is Jesus," was all Mark said.

"I am not surprised," Abe said, "considering all the people that we have met so far here in the middle of nowhere!"

By now Eliud was starting to enjoy the brothers, especially Abe, considering the time they have spent together so far on their journey to Egypt. Mark and his companion were invited around the evening fire.

"I met Mark not long after the resurrection of Jesus," Felix offered. "It was the death of Jesus that convinced me that we had crucified a very holy man. Truly he was the Son of God. Of course, I didn't know what all that meant at the time, but Mark invited me and my companions to his home to learn more."

"Longinus was really the one who made sure Jesus was dead," Mark offered. "He was also the guard at the tomb where Jesus was buried!"