

Abraham

&

Sarah

II

Hosting
the
Gundagundo
Pilgrims

A
film
by
Tsefahun
Haddis



HAGOS MASHISHO and DESTA GIDEY
live in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia,
on the way
to the monastery of Gundagundo.
Because of their great hospitality
the pilgrims have named them
ABRAHAM and SARAH

A film in the MPI series
GUARDIANS OF PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES
(*Editor: Ivo Strecker*)

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Selected Images, Dialogues and Commentary





I will mix leaves of the *gesho* tree with yeast to prepare beer.

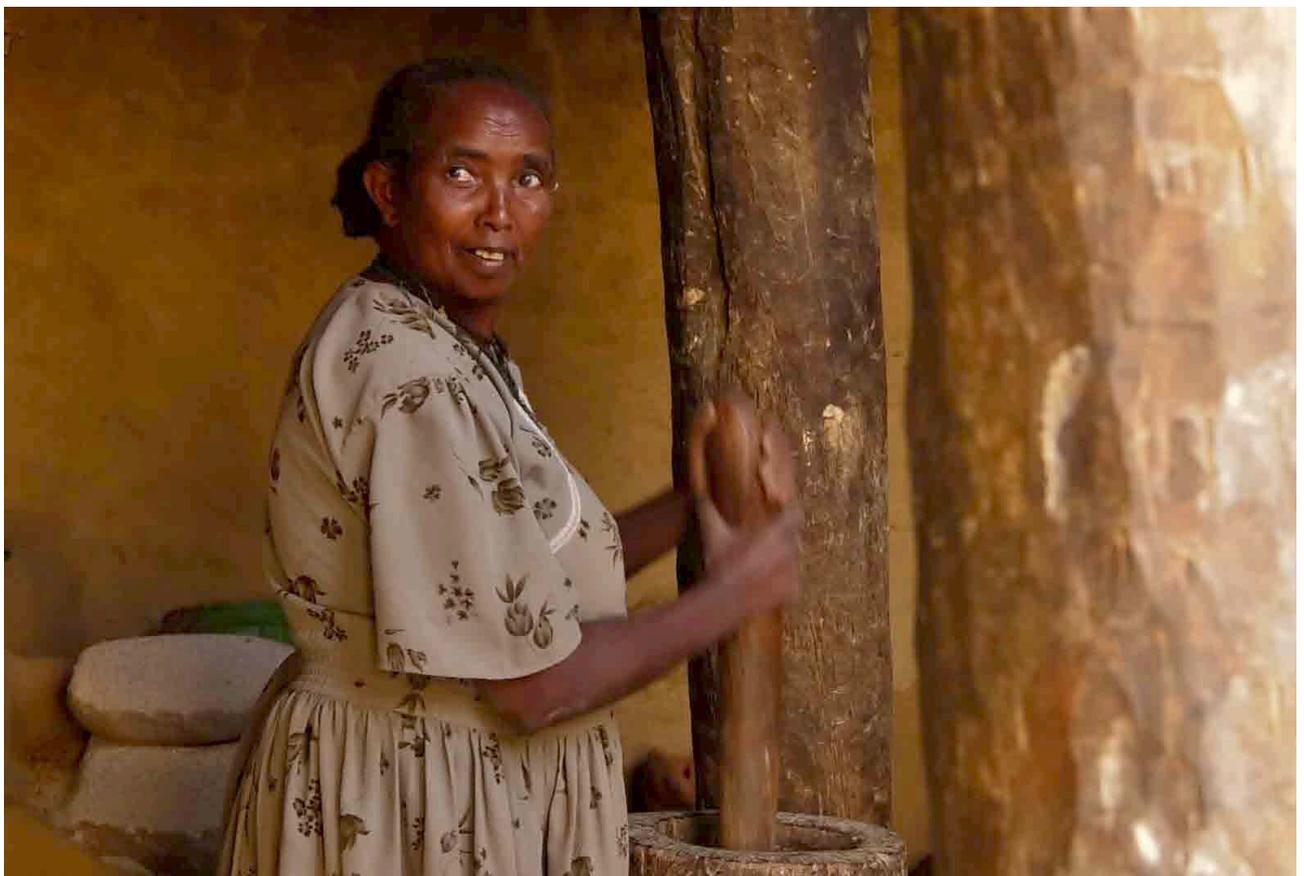
I grind the barley and mix it with water.

Do the grinding stones have names?

This is *modit* and this is *metehan*.

I use these stones to grind beans and yeast.
We used to grind with bigger stones.

It would take the whole night.
Really?
Yes! We woke up with the chickens, and later went out with the cattle.





The sand protects
the barley from burning.

I will grind it to make flour.



It has a long process.

Which food will you make from this?

I am preparing *tihlo* for the pilgrims.



First we harvested
the barley,
then we threshed it,
collected it,
cleaned and dried it,
roasted it.

We took it to the mill,
and finally,
I knead it like this.

After that you can eat it.





To brew beer,
first I mix yeast and *gesho*,
then I add
these dried broken pancakes.
Later, I put water into it
and let it ferment.

It takes seven days
to mature.

Seven days?

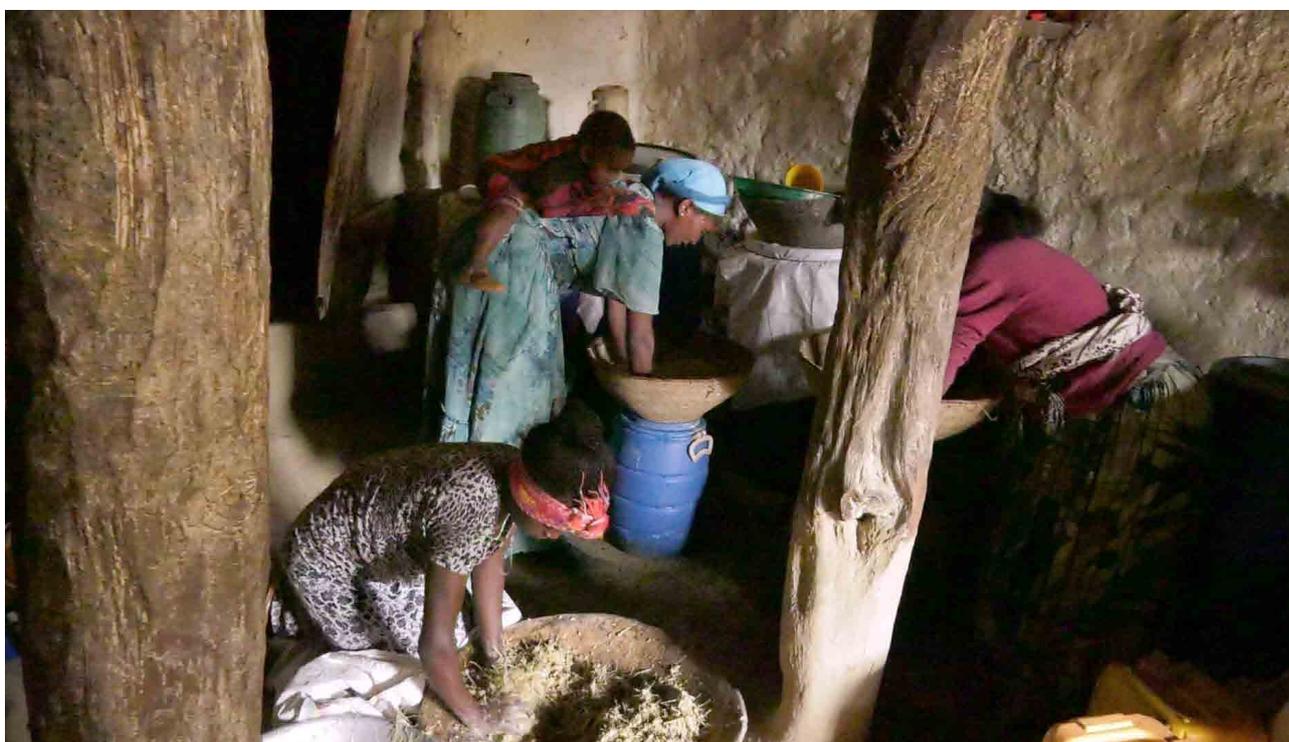
After seven days
you can drink the beer.

I filter it
to make it ready to drink.





*Praise to the oxen!
Thanks for your hard work!*



*We can brew
this beer
because of you,
dear oxen*

*Hagos ploughs the fields,
Desta brews the beer!*





Already my father
used to host
the Gundagundo pilgrims,
because he saw
how they suffered.

He began
by offering them water.
He gave them water
in that shade.
Then he had no jerrycans
but used clay pots.
He continued like that
and then
he left this world.
My mother continued
hosting the pilgrims.
She did this alone,
as my sisters were married.

I myself migrated
to another place.
When I returned
I took over from my mother.
Then I upgraded the drink
from water to beer.

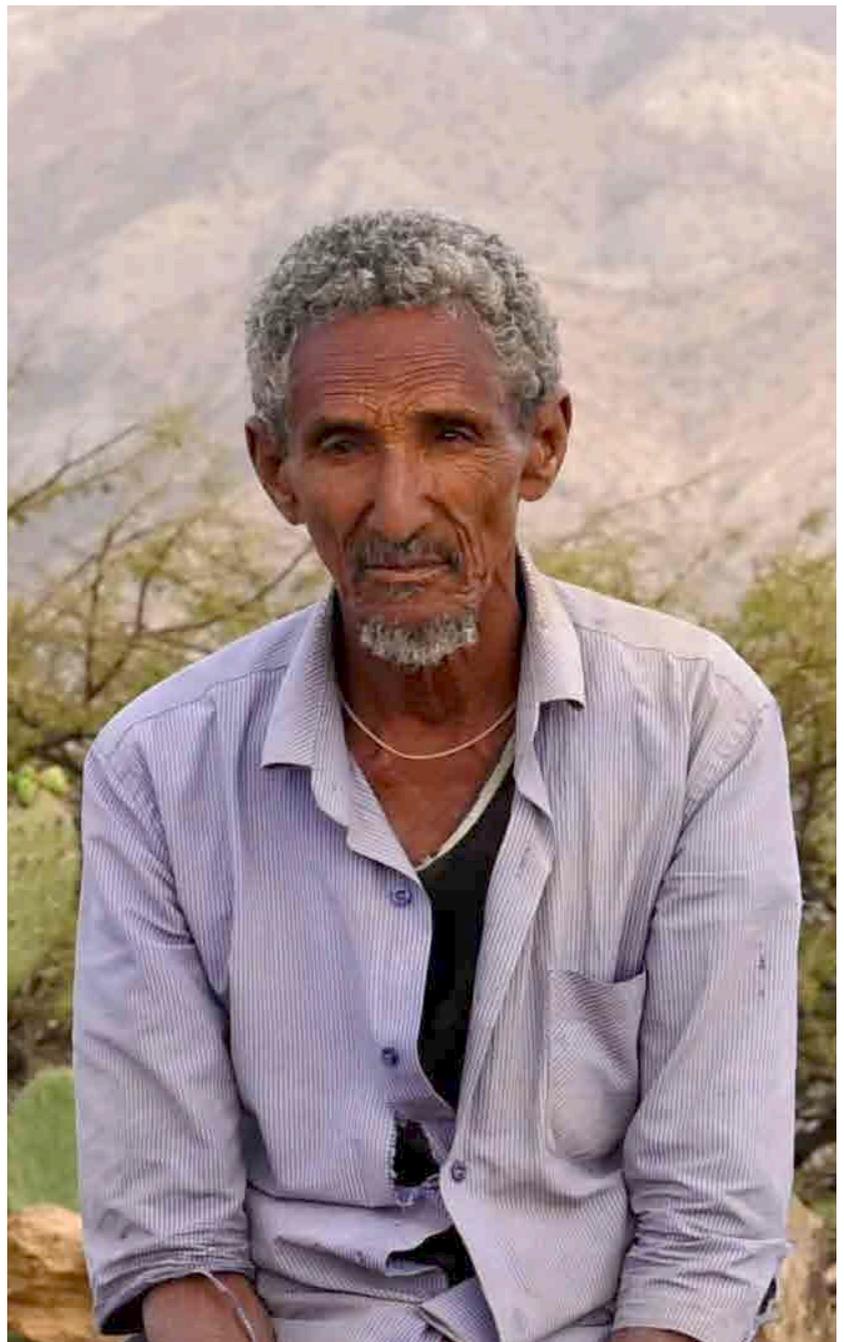
Later on
I began to offer
also some food.

Thanks to God
we are still hosting the pilgrims,
even though what I offer
is not enough yet.

Look,
I am 78 years now.
My parents began it
when I was still a little child.
So, I have inherited
the hospitality
from my parents.



Kidane! Where did he go? Hayelom!





The sky and earth
gives you praises
for you are a Mother of Christ.

I praise God for His mercy!

I saw the mercy of God
with my eyes!

God is He
who holds up the sky!

God, we thank you,
and praise your glorious name,
with David
and the song of Yared!

I want to sing with the saints
for the glory of God!

Play your instrument
and praise mother Mary!
Sing a song
and give thanks to His grace!





We will take a rest
at the house of Abraham.

*Is there a place
called "House of Abraham"?*

Yes.

Where?

Ahead of us.

Do you always rest there?

This is our first time,
our friends told us about it.

It`s like being
in ancient Abraham`s house



Your wine is
like
milk and honey!

We walked seven hours
from Gundagundo
to reach the home
of Abraham and Sarah.

I am still young and strong,
I will come every year.



*How many times have you done
the pilgrimage already?*

For two years.
Now we have reached
Abraham and Sarah.
I used to follow
the road through Asimba.
But last year
people told me
of Abraham and Sarah,
and that I should not
miss their hospitality.

Many people
come here every year,
they always
welcome us,
and they are expanding
their hospitality.
When I plan to come
I think of
Abrahama and Sarah.
Look, as usual
we eat and drink here.





Praise to
mother Mary,
who gives
what ever
you ask her.

Last year, on the way
I asked an old woman
for water.
She said,
“Sorry, I can `t give you water,
but if you walk a bit further
you find food and water
at Abraham and Sarah.”
When I reached here
they provided us
with every thing we needed.



That I time I took a picture
and promised to give it
to them as a gift.

I am happy to have this picture.
It is always good to establish
friendship with people.

You are chosen by the Holy Trinity!



Sing! Thank God!
Praise!
Turn around!
Forever I sing for
Holy Mary.



I prepare medicine
for the sick person.

What happened to him?

I don't know, perhaps he is tired.
They carried him all the way up.

Let God who listens to His disciples
listen to us!

Let God bless us as he blesses
His saints!

Let Saint Mary and Teklehaimanot
be with you!
Amen father!

Our Father who art in heaven
hallowed be Thy name.

Thy will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us our daily bread...

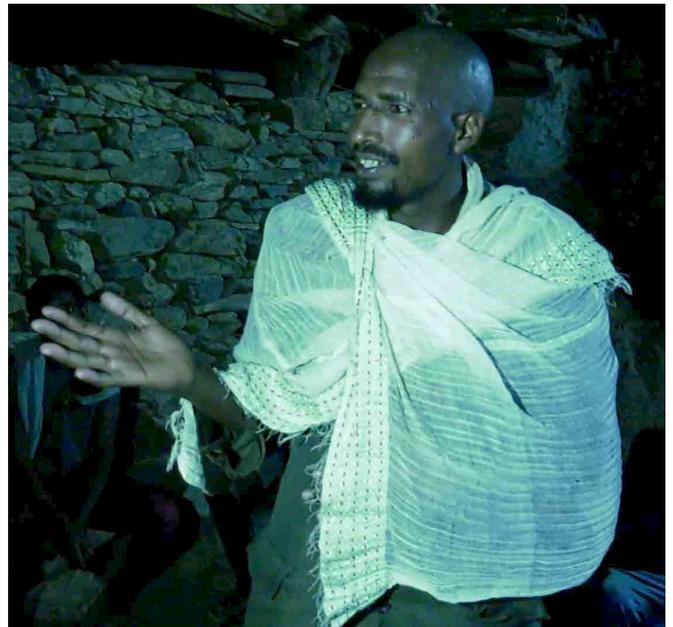
Let our biblical Abraham and Sarah
bless this house.

Let this be the house
of Abraham and Sarah.
Let God look after you
and keep you healthy.
Amen!

Get all you wish.
Live long as Matusala.
Have a blessed holiday.



Let God
protect our father Abraham!
Who has the power
to keep us alive and give us love?
God!
While we were sinners,
Christ died for us.
Why is Abraham praised
by people for centuries?
Because of his hospitality.
Even Satan was jealous
of Abraham`s hospitality.
Please pay attention my brothers!
Let the Holy Spirit fill this place!
Amen!



You are chosen by the Holy Trinity.
You are chosen by the Holy Trinity.



Is this the bed given to you?
Yes father lets us sleep here.
Father?
Yes, father Abraham and Sarah.
*For how long have you been coming
to this place?*
Three years.
We eat and sleep here.
Who named them Abraham and Sarah?
I don`t really know
who gave them this name first,
but people have called them
Abraham and Sarah for years.
They are our great hosts
and we bless them.
It is so good to find relief here
and take a rest.





Our body rejoices and praises God when we are full.
The pilgrims are praising God and you for your hospitality.
I am astonished how you manage to host us all.
As we can see, this land is full of stones.
But still you share with us what you have harvested.
You pilgrims should also help them in different ways.
I would like to say „thank you Father“.
Why are we praising Abraham in our prayers?
Do you think it is because he was strong in praying and fasting?
No, it is because of his hospitality.
You are really blessed to be called Abraham and Sarah by the pilgrims.



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Booklet Design

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