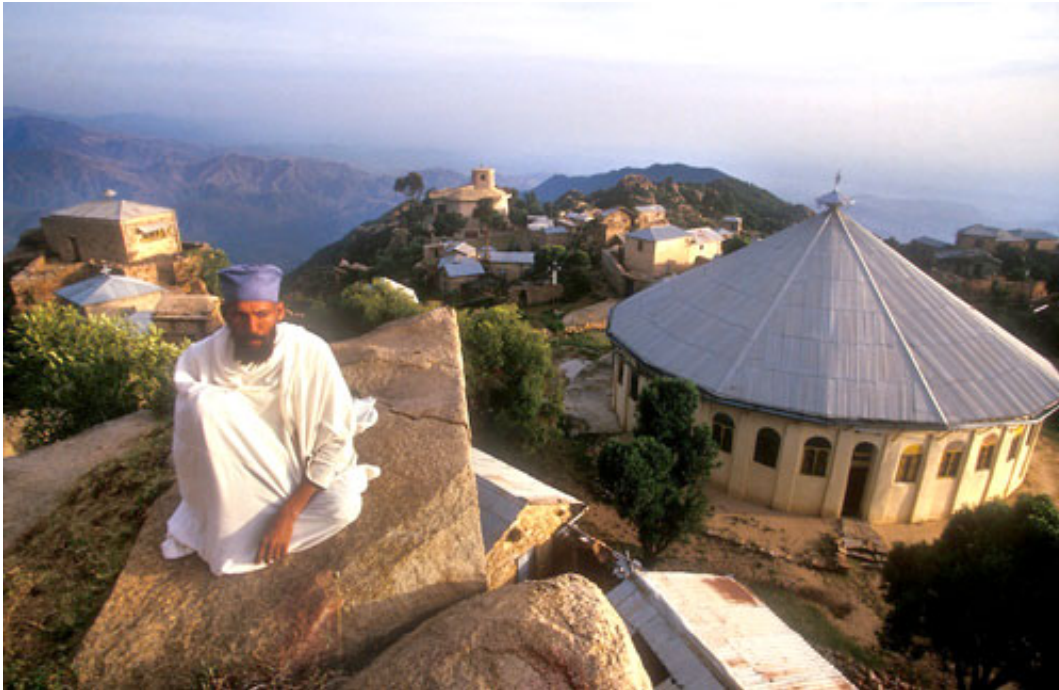


## The City in the Clouds Where No Eve Dwells

Written by Meron abraha  
Friday, 14 August 2015 07:19

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Yesterday August 11 was a religious holiday marked by an uphill excursion to the top of Mount Bizen where the ancient Bizen Monastery (Debre Bizen) lies like a crow's nest.

The only way for visitors to make the not-so-easy steep slopes to the top is on foot but the reward for those who endure that grueling climb is a spectacular view of the surrounding barren mountains.

The starting point for the 2 hour trek up the mountains to the famous 600 years old Debre Bizen is the town of Nefasit, found 25km down the hair-pin bends of the Asmara-Massawa road.

The Bizen Monastery is the most prominent beacon and symbol of Christianity in Eritrea, where many saints and explorers (including the famous 16th century Spanish adventurer Alvarez) have been buried.

Debre Bizen was founded by His Holiness Abune Philipos in 1361 AD. Legend and history enfolds this monastery, which sits perched on a mountain at a pinnacle of 2450 meters above sea level. One of the legends has it that due to the sheer holiness Abune Philipos, three cripples were allegedly cured by his shadow only.

His teacher, Abune Tatyos, is also the subject of legend. During his evangelical journey

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