

# Mister Coffea

Kaldi must have rubbed his eyes in disbelief, after popping them back in his head. After all, it must have been surreal, mind-boggling: no one around to consult with. One minute, as usual, they are nibbling away at plants; the next, they're jumping around like they've won the cloven-hoofed lottery. At first, it must have freaked him out, really, to see them so, so spirited, like some kind of unknown goat neurosis. Then, he came to realise that those he watches over, were simply enjoying the first effects of the consumption of coffee beans. The Ethiopian goatherd, was the first to witness caffeine euphoria, through bovidae bliss. You know he had to try it too; the bliss of the herd, passed to the solitary human.

At first sceptical, the monk that Kaldi spoke to, began to feel the potential of the bean, making it into a beverage. Could we call it a sacred beverage? The monk and his compatriots of the cloth, soon realised the value of the drink, for the long hours of worship. Who would have thought it, caffeine as a support to prayer. The Yemenite sufi across the water drank it also, before the time to chant.

When you chant Lalibela,  
Chant a verse for *Coffea*,  
Toasting the goodness of a bean.

When you think about it, an image of Kaldi should adorn coffee jars; emblazon the walls of coffee festivals around the world; whether it be held in Rwanda, Taiwan, Holland, Korea, Australia or America. Feature the image on a postage stamp; a talismanic figure, worn by coffee farmers. I imagine an icon of him, on the mantelpiece of each herder: patron saint of little ruminants. A lecture room named after him in the agricultural college, in the department of animal husbandry. To those who cannot start their day, until they've drunk a cup of coffee, wear a Kaldi t-shirt at weekends, or now and again, fly the Ethiopian flag.

I see Kaldi smiling, to see the bean of his discovery, the national beverage of his homeland; enjoyed internationally, blessings of cardamom and cinnamon.

When you chant Ethiopia,  
Chant a verse for goat herder,  
Original lover of coffee bean.

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