

Long synopsis

In 1982 Paolo Dall'Oglio, an Italian Jesuit, decides to bring back to life the 6th century monastery of Mar Moussa in the Syrian desert in order to found a community dedicated to friendship between Christians and Muslims.

Over time Mar Moussa becomes a touristic hotspot and a symbol of peace in a region devastated by religious tensions.

In 2011 the civil war breaks out in Syria.

In 2013 Paolo disappears near the headquarters of ISIS in Raqqa, where he had went to try and negotiate the liberation of hostages, leaving his small community at a loss.

In 2023, for Easter, I travel to Mar Moussa to see what is left of Paolo's utopia.

Short synopsis

In 1982 an Italian Jesuit resuscitates the monastery of Mar Moussa in Syria. The place becomes a symbol of interreligious dialog. In 2023, after 11 years of war, what is left of this utopia?

Logline

The Syrian monastery of Mar Moussa, a symbol of hope in a region devastated by war.