Claude Lorrain was an important landscapist and etcher who contributed significantly to the development of landscape painting in Europe. Although the account of the Flight into Egypt is mentioned only briefly in the Bible (Matthew 2:15), by Claude’s time, many stories had emerged which elaborated on the story of the Holy Family’s journey through Egypt to avoid persecution by Roman authorities. The Flight into Egypt and the related Rest on the Flight into Egypt, for which there is no Biblical account but many apocryphal ones, appeared especially to artists with an interest in landscape, and Claude painted many versions of these stories throughout his career. Artistic Art Nouveau is a notion that although Claude is often considered one of the greatest landscape painters, he did not include Saint John the Baptist or any of the major events or characters in the story. According to the legend, the Baptist commanded the tree to bear less, and it obeyed. The painting also includes the major events in the life of the Baptist, three chalices, and a Lamb. Though most of the Flight into Egypt did not include Saint John, the rest of the story’s events were either not included or not given much importance.

Claude’s lifework is a primary source of criticism, as the Bible is a summation of the standards and the didacticism of a Biblical narrative elevated above the status of painting to the highest level. Claude is considered throughout history to be one of the greatest landscape painters, and his sensitivity to the Flight into Egypt is not surprising. His masterful handling of light adds a sense of reason to an imagined landscape. The shimmering leaves of the trees on the left side of the painting are staggered by the way a series ofC simulating prismatic effect is painted by using strong brushstrokes, and his ability to paint the leaves and the background composition is one that cannot be achieved in painting. His metaphysics, which combined observation and construction, had a profound influence on the history of landscape painting.

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