

The Holy Land

Daddy said they were going to kill all the children, so we had to leave. He put me on a donkey, but he didn't tell me we would have to eat the donkey. The shepherds had already killed the sheep. Beru was my lamb and I loved him so Daddy said we would not eat him, but he went away and I never saw him again. Then we went up on mount Sinjar where there was snow for a while. When we came down Daddy said we might go somewhere there is snow even on the plains, but we have to go over a big river called Ocean. We left when it was dark, on the longest night.

Then the moon was bright, so I was not afraid, though it made everything look different. Everyone looked up when they heard the noise and I saw one of the bright stars move. It made a big noise when it got near and there were loud bangs and some of the people fell down. When it had gone some of them got up and we kept going but some stayed lying there. Later I was looking at the stars that stayed still and I could hear them sing. Those are angels, the grownups said, you can only hear them when it is very dark and quiet, on a clear midnight. When the sun came up we hid in a cave. Then it was dark again and we went out, and some wise men looked at a star and told us which way to go. This was one two three four lots of days, and we were getting very hungry.

The next night we saw a donkey on the ground. Oh good said the men, it's fresh and they cut it up. There were people also but they were just

lying there, except for a little baby who was crying and holding onto on her mother's breasts on the ground. I said we should take the baby with us but they said we didn't have any milk. I cried about this but a nice lady told me a story about where we were going where there is lots of food and all the babies sing all the time. Maybe the baby will be there, and Beru.

That night we ate a lot. Everyone was happy and singing songs and looking merry. We had a fire. Not much further to go, they said. They sat around me and were nice to me and the two animals that were left came and looked at me and someone said it was written a long time ago that a little boy would show the way and now we were almost there. Then everyone went to sleep although it was dark, and we had to stay where we were for all of the next day. When it was dark again there were clouds so the wise men could not see the stars but we went anyway and it was all wrong we had gone back where we had been. On the way we met someone who had a phone and it told us to turn around so we did. It was very hot in the days and very cold in the nights but we kept moving.

We met some other people who were also going away. They were Yazidis too so we trusted what they told us. They said that at Ocean where we were going there were bad men who would take our money but not put us on ships. So we went with them somewhere else which was better but it was a long way. We were travelling for days and days and we got very hungry again. Then it smelt different and we were near Ocean now, where they said we would find three ships to take us

away. After a while we came to the water. It was so deep.

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