

For little Ornella

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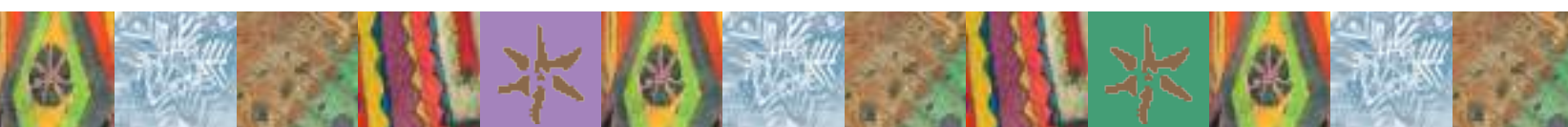
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Brian Wildsmith

A Christmas Story



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Once, a long time ago, in a town called Nazareth, a little donkey was born.





When the little donkey was almost nine months old, his mother set out on a long journey with her mistress and master, whose names were Mary and Joseph.



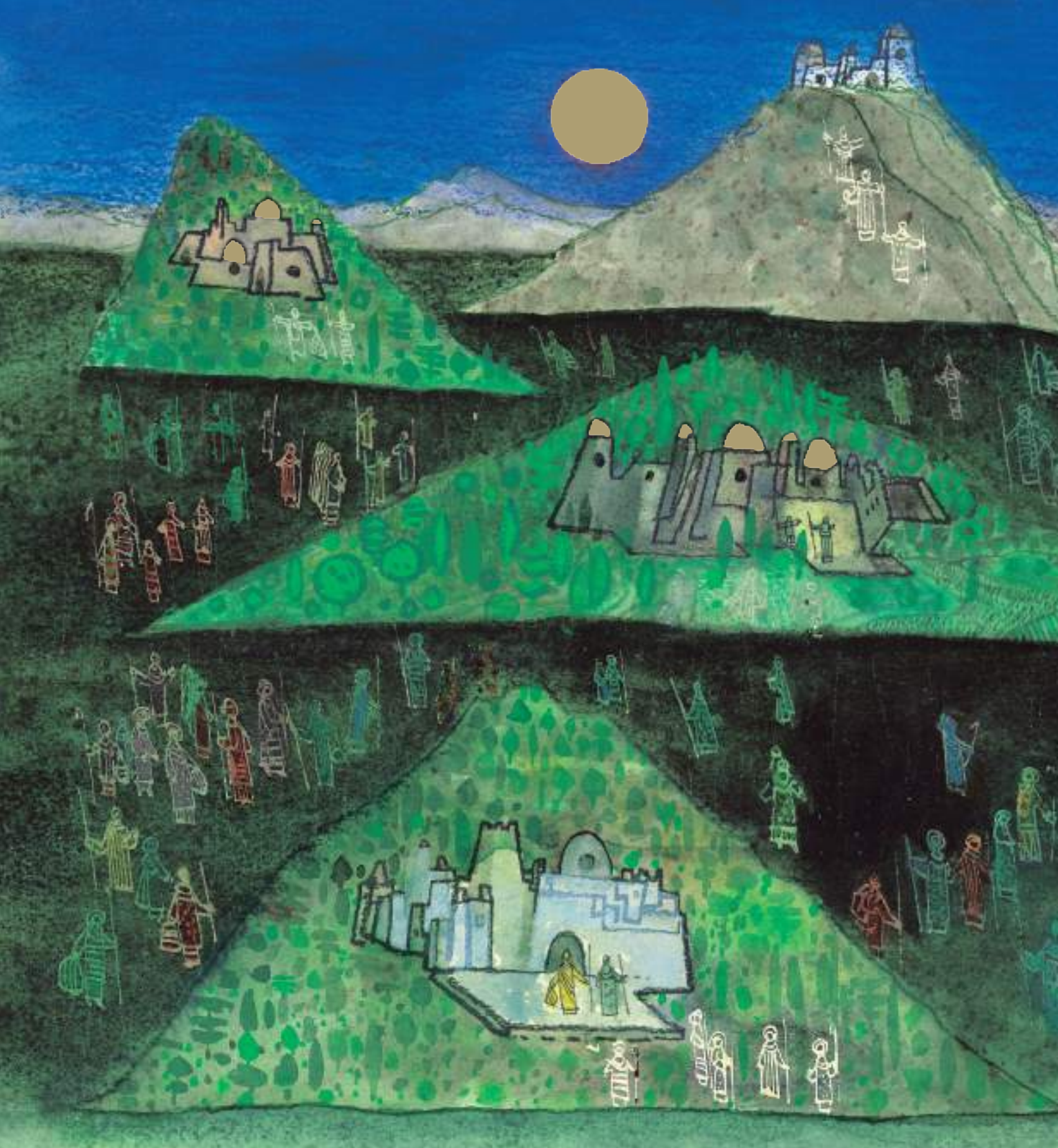
They asked Rebecca, who lived next door to them,
to look after the little donkey while they were gone.



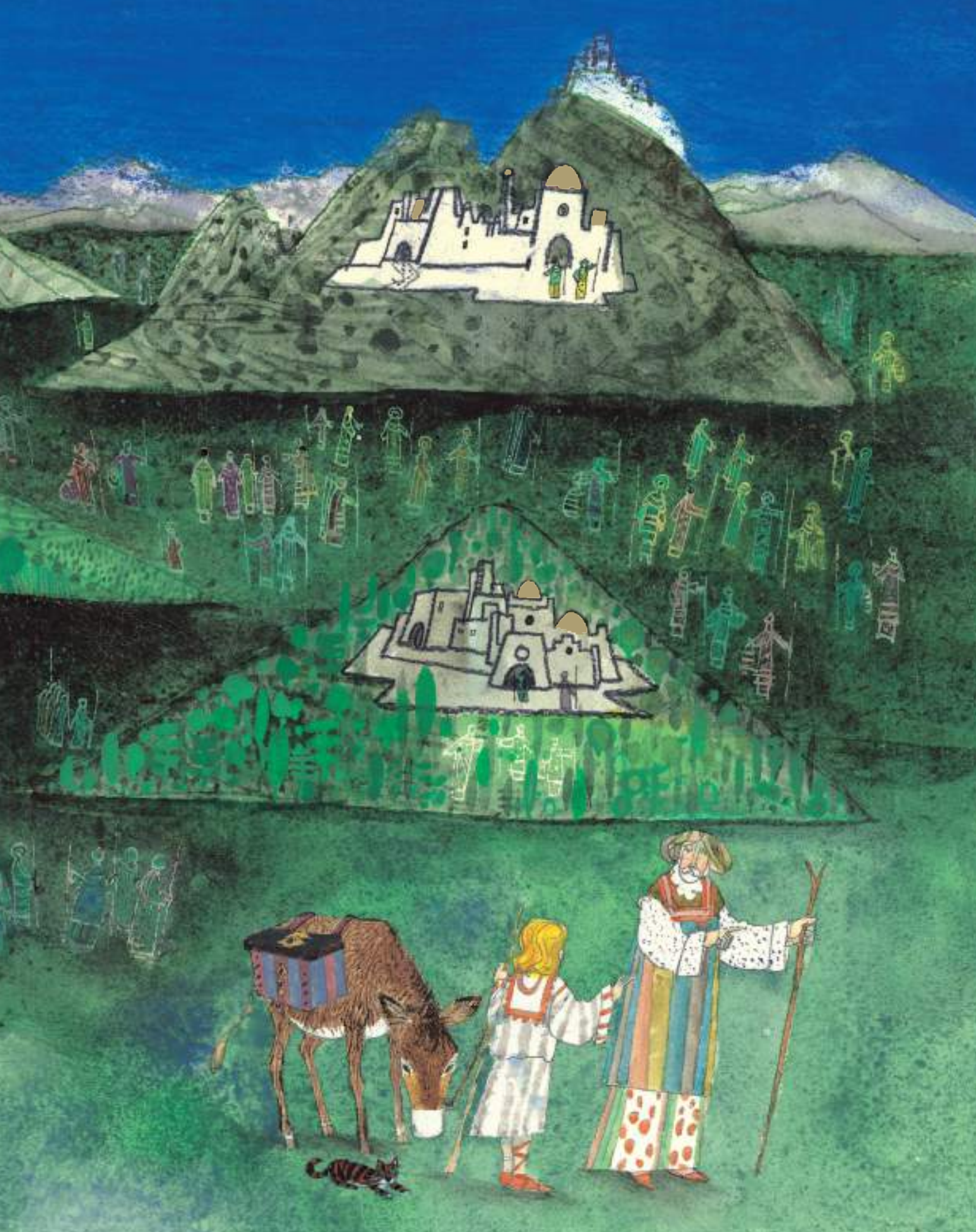
But the little donkey was very sad without his mother and refused to eat. So Rebecca packed food and water and promised the little donkey that they would find his mother.

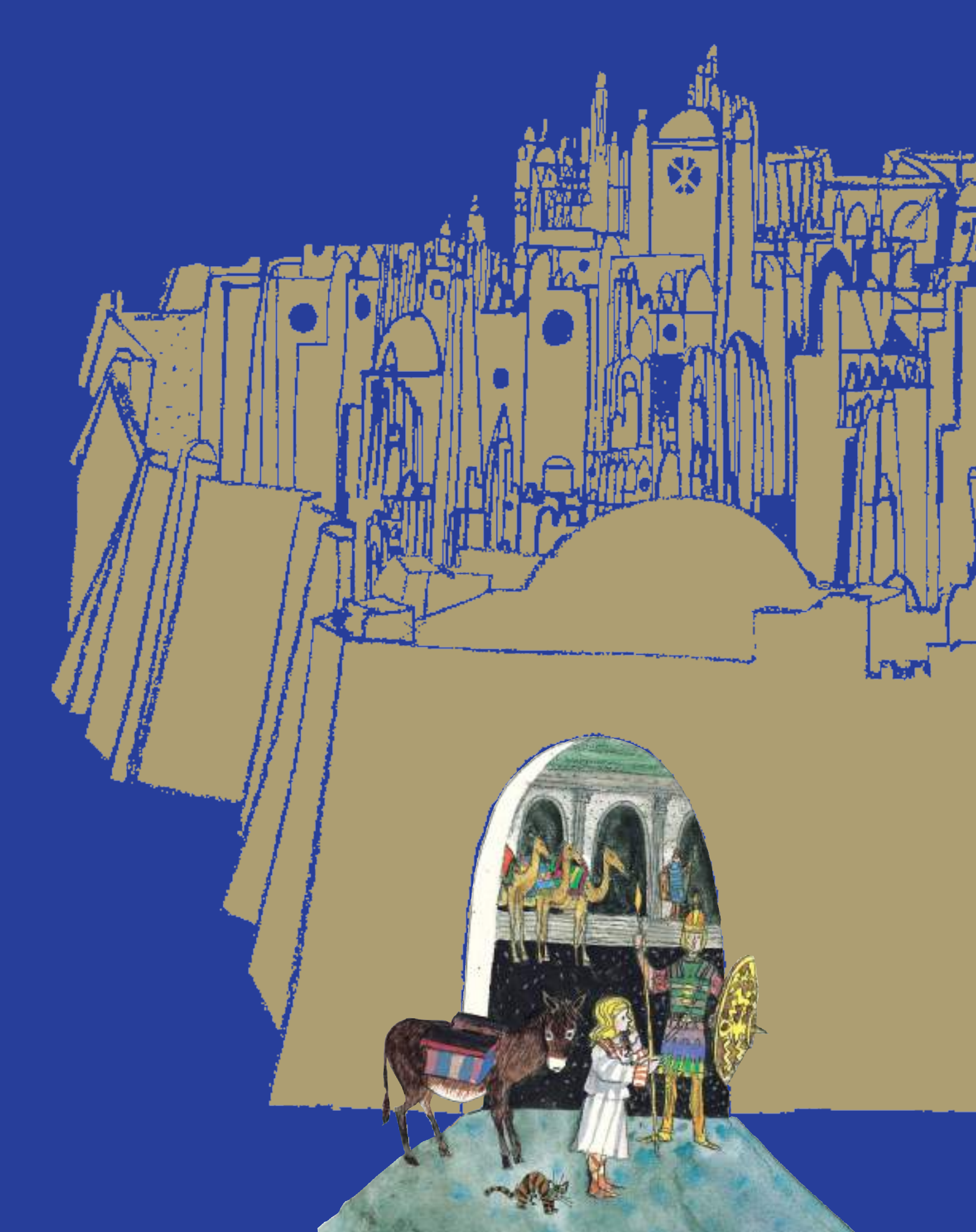


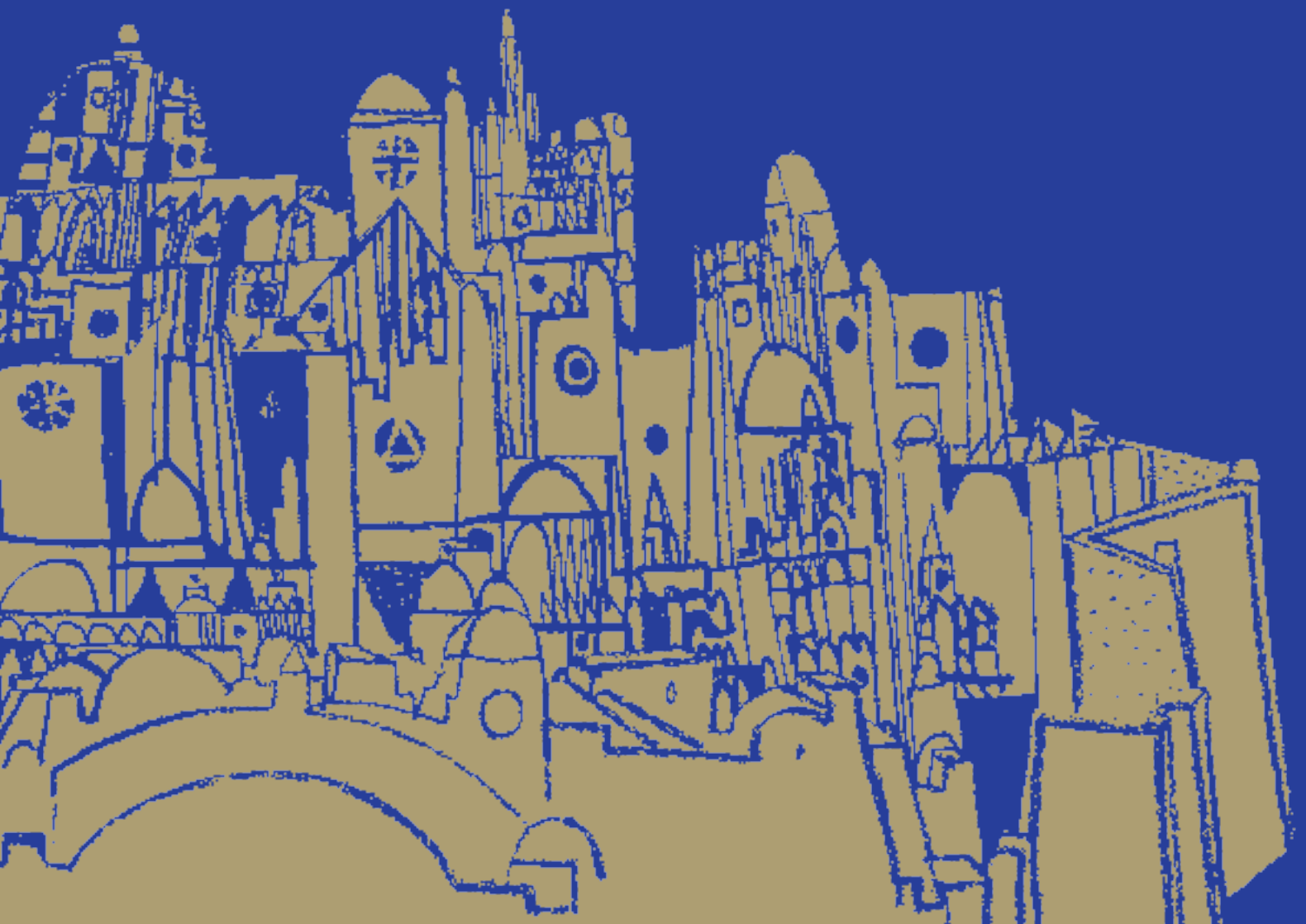
And they set out
to follow Mary and Joseph.



The roads were full of people travelling to various towns and cities.
'Have you seen a donkey with a man and a woman?' Rebecca asked a traveller.
'Yes, they passed me on the road to Jerusalem,' the traveller replied.









Rebecca and the little donkey took the road to Jerusalem. Soon they came to a soldier standing guard at a splendid palace.
'Have you seen a donkey with a man and a woman?' Rebecca asked the soldier.
'Yes, they passed this way,' the soldier answered.
'Now hurry along. There are important visitors here to see King Herod.'