

Bethlehem Villanelle

by Quentin Lister, O.P.

*"The shawls are warm enough against the snow.
We'll find an inn or two along the way.
My time is nearing—but the Child will know . . ."*

*"The roads are rough, my wife. The beast is slow . . .
So many register . . . they'll have to stay . . .
A little more! We have not far to go."*

*"I have the linen bands. He'll not outgrow
Their warmth before we . . . yet, the sky grows gray.
My time is nearing—but the Child will know . . ."*

*"Look eastward—David's city down below!
There is a khan, a shelter, people say . . .
A little more! We have not far to go."*

*"What matter, husband, if all tell us, 'No.'
The Bethlehem streets saw many come today.
My time is nearing—but the child will know . . ."*

*"The last spoke of a cave, a mile or so . . .
A shelter . . . and for bedding there's some hay . . .
A little more! We have not far to go."*

"My time is nearing—but the Child will know . . ."