

Pack nothing.

Bring only your determination to serve and your willingness to be free.

Don't wait for the bread to rise.

Take nourishment for the journey, but eat standing, be ready to move at a moments notice.

Don't hesitate to leave your old ways behind—fear, silence, submission.

Only surrender to the need of the time—

To love tenderly, act justly and walk humbly with your God.

Do not take time to explain to the neighbors.

Tell only a few trusted friends and family members.

Then begin quickly, before you have time to sink back into old slavery.

Set out in the dark.

I will send fire to warm and encourage you.

I will be with in the fire and I will be with you in the clouds.

You will learn to eat new food, speak a new language and find refuge in new places.

I will give you dreams in the desert to guide you safely home

to that place you have to yet seen.

The stories you tell one another around the fires in the dark will make you strong and wise.

Outsiders will attack you, and some will follow you, and at times you will get weary.

You have been preparing for this for hundreds of years.

I am sending you into the wilderness to make a new way and to learn my ways more deeply.

Some of you will be so changed by weathers and wanderings

that even your closest friends will have to learn your features as though for the first time.

Some of you will not change at all. Some will find new friendships in unlikely faces,

and old friends as faithful and true as the pillar of God's flames.

Sing songs as you go, and hold close together.

You may at times grow confused and lose your way.

Continue to call each other by the names I have given you, to help you remember who you are.

Touch each other and keep telling the stories.

Make maps as you go, remembering the way back from before you were born.

So you will be only the first of many waves of conversion on the desert seas. It is the first of many beginnings. Remain true to this mystery. Do not go back. I am with you now and I am waiting for you.