

*sign to go to one side*). You think, then, that your sin is too great?

*The Lagman.* Yes.

*The Other One.* Then I will tell you some good news. You see, there can only be an end, when there is a beginning. And you have made the beginning. But the continuation is long and difficult.

*The Lagman.* Oh! God is good.

*The Other One.* You said so.

*The Lagman.* But—there is one thing which cannot be altered—one!

*The Other One.* You mean the mon-strance, which ought to have been gold but was silver. Well; don't you think that He who changed water into wine can change silver into gold?

*The Lagman (kneeling).* Still my mis-deed is too great, too great to be forgiven.

*The Other One.* Now, you are making too much of yourself again! But now rise up! Here we, too, shall keep Christmas after our fashion. The sun cannot reach here, as you know, neither the moon, but in this night, only this, a Star rises so high above the mountains that it can be seen from this depth. That is the Star which lighted the shepherds' way in the desert, and that is the Morning Star.