

rience of pilgrimage is just as significant as the spiritual, because these things are bound up together. Of course they are, but it took things like wading through the ocean, picking pebbles from between my toes, hearing bird calls during Liturgy, and crouching in the dark on damp earth to remind me that the senses are conjoined with the soul. Knots inside me from my own ambivalence or spiri-

tual poverty had not untied entirely, but they had relaxed. With my full person, I experienced the freedom or acceptance of the bright sadness I'd known on Spruce. My journey did not include an epiphany nor a spiritual height, but I experienced the no-less-meaningful little mercies and beauties of the body's sojourn in pilgrimage—and in all of life—on sacred ground. "Take off your shoes," indeed. ✱



Carrie Frederick Frost, PhD, is a scholar of Orthodox theology, a professor of theology at Saint Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary, and a board member of Saint Phoebe Center for the Deaconess, a US-based nonprofit organization advocating for the rejuvenation of the female diaconate.

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POETRY DESK

Paradise

Henri Volohonsky

Translated by Richard Pevear

Beyond the blue sky is
A city all of gold
Its gates a pure transparency
Its walls bright to behold

There is a garden there
All flowers and spreading lawns
Incomparably beautiful
Creatures walk upon

The first like a red lion maned with fire
The next an ox, his coat a maze of eyes
And the golden eagle of the highest
The brightness of his everlasting gaze



Anna Margolis, *The City*,
enamel, 2017.

And high in the blue sky
There shines a single star
And O my angel it is yours
Yours forevermore

And one who loves is loved
And holy one who shines
Then let the one star lead you to
Those flowers and spreading lawns

There to meet the lion maned with fire
The ox, his blue coat all a maze of eyes
And the golden eagle of the highest
The brightness of his everlasting gaze



Henri Volokhonsky (1936–2017) was a Russian poet, philosopher, and translator. Between 1985 and 1995, he lived in Munich and headed the news service of Radio Liberty. He authored many books of poetry and prose and translated various liturgical texts as well as the Book of Psalms. Together with Alexei Khvostenko, he wrote a number of songs under the joint pseudonym “A.X.B.”



Richard Pevear is a translator who, together with his wife Larissa Volokhonsky, has translated some of the greatest authors of Russian classical literature, including Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, Gogol, Bulgakov, and Pasternak.