

## GEOGRAPHICAL LAYOUT AND SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURES

## CONSTANTINOPLE

n 1161 an esteemed traveler, Benjamin of Tudela visited Constantinople. He had already visited Rome, Damascus, and Bagdad. He described Constantinople thusly: "These riches and buildings are equalled nowhere else in the world." By 1453, Constantinople had declined to a great extent. Although during its last years most of its population had fled and many buildings stood empty, it still displayed a crumbling, shabby magnificence.

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The listener will gain greater enjoyment of *The Dark Angel* by making a brief study of the three maps presented here.

The first map on page one is a detailed graphic display of the city's layout.

The second map on page two shows the major buildings and areas mentioned in the novel.

The third map on page three is a detailed, three dimensional, birds-eye view of the city as it would have appeared in the year 1000 at its peak. In all three depictions, you can trace the magnificent Triumphal Way as it proceeded along arcaded streets and through five arcaded forums until it ended at the rambling Palace of the Emperors (adjacent to the Hippodrome). From left to right, the forums were: Forum of Arcadius, Forum Bovi, Forum Tauri, Forum of Constantine, and the Augusteon. The walls were thirteen miles in circumference and the city's population at its peak would have been about 500,000. It was easily the world's largest and richest city for over a thousand years.





