

and made beds and cooked dinners. What was happening in her unimaginably clean soul, in the ~~xxx~~ stainless mirror of her being which God had made to receive His perfect likeness?

~~xxxxxx~~ When the angel spoke, God awoke in the heart of this girl of Nazareth, and moved within her like a giant. He stirred ~~in~~ and opened His eyes and her soul ~~xxxxxx~~ saw that in containing Him she contained the world beside. The Annunciation was not so much a vision as an earthquake in which God ~~xxxxxx~~ moved the universe and unsettled the spheres and the beginning ~~of~~ and end ~~xxxx~~ of all things came before her in her deepest heart. ~~xxx~~ And/^{far} beneath the movement/she slept in the infinite tranquillity of God, and God was a child curled up ~~xxxxxx~~ who slept in her and her veins were flooded with His wisdom which is night, which is starlight, ~~xxx~~ which is silence. And her whole being was embraced in Him whom she embraced and they ~~xxxxxx~~ became tremendous silence.

~~xxxx~~ It is the mission of O,ur Lady in the world to form this Christ of hers, this giant, in the souls of men ~~xxxxxx~~ much as He formed Himself in her. She brings them His grace, and His ~~xxxx~~ grace is His own presence. He is born in every man by baptism, but we do not know it. ~~xxxxxx~~ He casts His shadow over the soul that first knows Him in the peace of contemplation: but that is not enough. At the summit of the mystical life, God ^{move} ~~mustxxxx~~ and reveal Himself and shake the world within the soul and ~~xxx~~ stir in His sleep like a giant.

Here is what St John of the Cross tells us in the Living Flame of Love. It is my last quotation:

jhs

Maria.

THE ASCENT

TO

LIGHT .

*(uncorrected copy.
do not print or circulate)*

In His hands He hideth the light
and commandeth it to come again.
He sheweth His friend concerning it,
that it is His possession, and that he
may ascend to it.

Job. 36:32-33.