

Darkening in the Nights

...she found him when she departed in darkness
and with longings of love. 2N24



Coming to Silence

How I love the way your darkness
enfolds me,
soothes me into stillness and silence.
As my memory of your tender touch darkens
Breathe your gentleness
into my most disturbed place
of abandonment.

I surrender into the darkness,
and my heart whispers "I love you".
My house becomes a peaceful repose.

Scripture

"deep calls to deep""abyss calls to abyss"

Ps 42:7

Darkness God made a veil
to surround him, his tent a watery darkness,
dense cloud;
... now darkness
is my one companion...

Ps 18:11

Ps 88:18

If I asked darkness to cover me,
and light to become night around me,
that darkness would not be dark to you,
night would be as light as day. Ps 139:11-12

Even the night shall be light to me. Yea, the darkness hideth not
from thee; but the night shineth as the day:
the darkness and the light are alike *to thee*. Ps 138:12 V



Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
nor has it entered any human heart
what God has prepared... Is 64:4

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of
the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girl-
hood over, she had been married for seven years before be-
coming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never
left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and
prayer. Lk 2:36-37

In the fourth watch of the night
Jesus went towards them,
walking on the lake... Mt 14:25

Wisdom from John



En una noche oscura,
con ansias, en amores inflamada,
¡oh dichosa ventura!,
salí sin ser notada
estando ya mi casa sosegada.

So dark the night! At rest
And hushed my house, I went with no one knowing
Upon a lover's quest
—Ah, the sheer grace! —so blest,
My eager heart with love aflame and glowing. (F trans)

One dark night,
fired with love's urgent longings
- ah, the sheer grace! -
I went out unseen,
my house being now all stilled. (K trans)

Once in the dark of night
When love burned bright
with yearning, I arose
(O windfall of delight!)
And how I left none knows-
Dead to the world my house in deep repose. (N trans)

Signs or the Night of Sense



1. **S**ince these souls do not get satisfaction or consolation from the things of God, or creatures...

2. **T**he memory ordinarily turns to God solicitously and with painful care, and the soul thinks it is not serving God but turning back....

3. **T**here is powerlessness, in spite of one's efforts, to meditate and make

use of the imagination, the interior sense, as was one's previous custom. At this time God does not communicate through the senses as before, by means of the discursive analysis and synthesis of ideas, but begins to communicate through pure spirit by an act of simple contemplation in which there is no discursive succession of thought. The exterior and interior senses of the lower part of the soul cannot attain to this contemplation. 1N9

(At first) God nurtures and caresses the soul,... like a loving mother who warms her child with the heat of her bosom, nurses it with good milk and tender food, and carries and caresses it in her arms. But as the child grows older, the mother ...sets the child down from her arms, letting it walk on its own feet so that it may put aside the habits of childhood and grow accustomed to greater and more important things....

...The grace of God acts just as a loving mother by re-engendering in the soul new enthusiasm and fervor in the service of God. With no effort on the soul's part, this grace causes it to taste sweet and delectable milk and to experience intense satisfaction ...God is handing the breast of tender love to the soul, just as if it were a delicate child ... 1N1

(As the child grows)...God introduces them into the dark night, of which we will now speak. There, through pure dryness and interior darkness, God weans them from the breasts of these gratifications and delights, takes away all these trivialities and childish ways, and makes them acquire the virtues by very different means. 1N7



Properties of the Spiritual Night

1. **I**n this glad contemplative night, God conducts her by so solitary and secret a contemplation, one so remote and alien to all the senses, that nothing pertinent to the senses, nor any touch of creature, can reach or detain her on the route leading to the union of love.

2. **I**n this spiritual darkness ... all the faculties of the higher part of the soul are in obscurity. In neither looking nor being able to look at anything, the soul is not detained in her journey to God by anything outside, for in her advance she is free of hindrance from the forms and figures of the natural apprehensions, which are those that usually prevent her from being always united with the being of God.

3. **A**lthough the soul in her progress does not have the support of any particular interior light of the intellect, or of any exterior guide that may give her satisfaction on this lofty path - since these dense darknesses have deprived her of all satisfaction - love alone, which at this period burns by soliciting the heart for the Beloved, is what guides and moves her, and makes her soar to God in an unknown way along the road of solitude. The next verse is:

Entering the Heart

Now that all feels dark
and the senses of my house are
silent and still
I creep down the stairs
to loose myself in You, Beloved.

Silence

Silent
Alone
Caressed



Blessing

Beloved One,
Shine as day
in the suffering of this beloved creation
transforming beloved into love
and lover into beloved.
Touch the eyes of our heart so we may see.
In You, darkness and light are one.

Night Prayer

I close my eyes this night in sleep
and lay my face on your breast.
I choose your dark way
This night and all nights. Amen.