

#58

THE INEXTINGUISHABLE LIGHT

For Luis Arias Manzo

"Allahu-r-rabu dhahana lana"

("The Lord is God, He appeared before us")

The Palm Service, *second Ikos* in the Melkite tradition

This tiny firefly,

Spindly and delicate, assured and agile,

Tiny flickering light

In the limitless night,

Wavering breath

Suspended in the abyss of the air!

You, small flame,

Timid, transparent glow,

As dear to my heart

As the inaccessible heavens

Scattered with the seed of stars!

You, gentle soul,

Fragile soul

Swaying precariously between

Two persimmon leaves,

Who murmurs kindly

In my ear:

Be quiet,

You must be quiet!

Don't move,

Listen:

Alles atmet und dankt!

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