



*And on Earth was heard
a quivering voice
which had never been heard; emerging from a
throat
that had never vibrated.*

*They told me of a man, who had lived in the depth of darkness;
his eyes had never seen even the faintest of glimmers; as at the bottom of an abyss.*

*They told me of a man who had lived in silence: never a sound,
not even the faintest one, had ever reached his ear.*

*I heard tell of a man who had always lived truly under water, a water of strange
warmth, and all at once had sprung forth amidst freezing ices.*

*And he swelled up lungs that had never breathed before
(Tantalus' torment would be light indeed next to this!) but he lived on.
All at once the air distended his lungs, folded tight from the very beginning.*

*And the man cried out.
And on Earth was heard
a quivering voice which had never been heard, emerging from a throat
that had never stirred before.*

*He was the man who had been at rest.
Who could envision such an absolute rest?
The rest of one who does not even labor to eat, because an other eats for him;
and he stays in the abandon of his fibers, because other living tissues produce the
heat he needs for life;
nor do his inner tissues work to defend themselves from poisons and germs,
because other tissues work for him.*

*His only labor was that of the heart, which beat even before he was.
Yes, while he did not exist yet, yet his heart was beating, twice as fast as pulsates every
other heart. And I knew that to be the heart of a man.*

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*And now ... it is he who comes forth;
and takes all labors upon himself;
wounded by light and sound, exhausted down to the inmost fibrils of his being;
uttering the great cry:
"why have Thou forsaken me?"*

*And this is the first time that man reflects in himself the Christ who dies, and the
Christ who ascends!*

Maria Montessori, *Il segreto dell'infanzia*, Garzanti, 1950

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