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“Speaking in the Unknown Tongue, Holiness Church, Jackson, 1939”

Photographs, p. 104

Diana Almeida

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"Speaking in the Unknown Tongue, Holiness Church, Jackson, 1939"

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Diana Almeida

"Speaking in the Unknown Tongue, Holiness Church, Jackson, 1939," *Photographs*, p. 104, with the gracious permission of the Eudora Welty Foundation

- 1 Dear Welty,
Writing by the fireplace, I see you
standing with the camera
the eye of the eye of the eye

in awe and wonder,
a guest in Holiness Church
watching: the painted horse
"The Lord on the Cloud" in the center
a white mass moving through mountains
lines upon valleys, there goes the Lord riding
oh yes, rise your heart to God in praise, sister
speaking in the unknown tongue I pray,
I move hand and eye I dance
open your words to the spirit, sister
in Mississippi state, "colored than white"
we wrote in chalk on the blackboard
8 to 8 says the clock on the wall,
you click the shutter and
the light bulb above
breaks the horse in two
burns the oblique horizon.
Sintra (Portugal), 21 Dec. 2009

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