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image / mission

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image / mission

go quickly back to the beginning
recall how bread means burning
and blessing involves blood

lingering at
how we found our way
is luxury

hearing the old legends
roses cascading from aprons, appearing in snow
grains of sand, wrapped tight in silk wombs, faces
on blankets, burial sheets, veiled ambivalences

all causes us to wonder
how can we realize dreams
that morning has wiped away

Deborah L. Humphreys, S.C.
From her collected works, *Conventional Wisdom*¹

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All that remains now is for you to make a firm resolution to put your hand seriously to the work.

*(Saint Vincent de Paul,
letter 1951, To a Priest of the Mission, 1655)*