

149 [D1] 30 April
|m|April 30th 1926|m|
Part Two.

I.

It grew darker. Clouds covered the moon,
& in the early hours of the morning <the>
a light rain drummed on the roof, &
starlight moon light, or the lights at sea
seemed put out. }+<What> Nothing+{
could withstand the flood }+<&>,+{ the
profusion, the downpouring of this
immense darkness; which <like a> <flood>
let |i|crept|i| in at keyholes & <crv>
crevices & stealing round the window
blinds, came <trickling> in at the
bedrooms & the sitting rooms, & <doors
of=:=> swallowed up here the <glint> white
of china & there the flower, the sharp
edged furniture.

When everything was confused &
confounded, there was scarcely any
identity left, either of bodies or of
thoughts. <& only=:=> From the many
<brains sleeping, &> bodies lying, either in
the rigid attitudes of the old, <or in=:=>
}+flu<ng> |i|cramped|i|+{ almost passively
there in the crease of the bed, themselves
creased with the habitual <be> stoopings &
movings of many years, <there=:=> or
easily lying, scarcely covered, <like
children> in the first years of life. As if the
least cover were too heavy, & the mattress
<m> only <upheld them and cradled
them>, nothing but dreams & confused
thoughts & broken lights like the the flash
-- <glitter> the bright strange
effervescence of bubbles rising <from>
|m|through|m| deep water, which burst
when they reach the surface, keeping, now
one <hand was> a hand was raised, or a |o|
as if to clutch at something, or to ward off
something, & now the anguish of life, its
concealed pain, & the misery which is
forbidden to cry out <t> for comfort, <[?]>
parted the lips of the sleepers; <or> <so>
now & then, some one |i|body|i| laughed; or
<in the eager tones of=:=> <the childlike
happiness had talked=:=>

It grew darker. Clouds covered the moon;
in the early hours of the morning a thin
rain drummed on the roof, and starlight
and moonlight and all light on sky and
earth was quenched. Nothing
could survive the flood, the
profusion, the downpouring of the
immense darkness which,
creeping in at keyholes and
crevices, stole round the window blinds,
came in to the
bedrooms, and
swallowed up, here a jug and basin, there a
bowl of red and yellow dahlias, there the
sharp edges and firm bulk of a chest of
drawers.

Not only was furniture
confounded; but there was scarcely
anything left of body or
mind by which one could say 'this is he' or
'this is she'; but from the many bodies lying
asleep either in the rigid attitudes of the old
passively
creased in the creases of the beds,

or
easily lying scarcely covered,
in childhood, as if a cloud lightly curved
under them, there rose, to break silvery on
the surface, thoughts, dreams, impulses, of
which the sleepers by day knew nothing.

Now
a hand was raised
as if to clutch something or perhaps ward
off something; now the anguish
which is
forbidden to cry out for comfort
parted the lips of the sleepers;
now and then somebody laughed out loud,

[150]or somebody talked with the confidence of a chattering child, complete nonsense. There might have been ghostly <comforters> confidantes about, gently pacing from room to room, & nameless comforters, <who would> treasure up <in their=:]> the to <hide> <conceal in their=:]> & engulf in the folds of their cloaks what was murmured & cried; or, stooping, to receive gravely, the odd changes, from torture to calm, from hate to indifference, which, in the dark bedroom, <in the> with darkness pouring. <in> from above & below, <the=:]> came & went <over <the> all these faces.> <Then,=:]> <Pacing & stooping these confidantes, these nameless comforters>, <presence of:]> <For:]> Otherwise, the sleepers with }+<those> |i|their|i|+{ extraordinary gestures of hope, }+<their> |i|&|i|+{ cries of despair, & <the> chuckles, <of> like birds, of |m|senseless|m| merriment, were thus mopping & mowing <to=:]> <in the=:]> to no one: reached out for nothing, & acted in the depths of the night a drama unseen. Shadows & darkness <only> alone then |m|received them,|m| unfurled their wings, & gazed from |i|their|i| hoods <with such eyes as may open in the depths of nothingness,> & received such ecstasies as might <wak> half wake a sleeper when midnight is past &, dreaming of his joy, he cries out; &

as if sharing a joke with

nothingness.