

"You are a fire always burning but never consuming,  
you are a fire consuming in your heat all the soul's self-love;  
you are a fire lifting all chill and giving light.

In your light you have made me know your truth.  
You are beauty and wisdom itself.  
You are the garment that covers our nakedness,  
you feed our hunger with your sweetness.

You are a mad lover! You are neither detached nor self-contained.  
You cannot wait for your creature to respond to you;  
you press on her from every side, and run to her like one drunk with love!"

— St. Catherine of Siena, *The Dialogue*