

HAGIA SOPHIA: AN EXCERPT

by **Thomas Merton**

There is in all visible things an invisible
fecundity, a dimmed light, a meek
namelessness, a hidden wholeness.
This mysterious Unity and Integrity
is Wisdom, the Mother of all,
NATURA NATURANS

When the helpless one awakens strong at
the voice of the woman, it is as if Life
and Flesh, his Sister, as if the Blessed
Virgin, (his own flesh, his own sister)
as is Nature made wise by God's Art
and Incarnation were to stand over
him and invite him with unutterable
sweetness to be awake and to live.
This is what it means to recognize
Hagia Sophia.