



**One of the many mannequin angels, part of the MET Fifth Avenue exhibition, Heavenly Bodies, Fashion and the Catholic Imagination.**

**By LESTRINO C. BAQUIRAN, M.D.**

*For so long, I have wanted to meet you  
No longer hopeless for its possibility  
I have felt pressure tracing the angel lines of my palms  
Vibrations within and without in hot or cold  
Heard flapping of wings  
Smelled exalting scents  
Seen you traipsing among electric clouds  
A Presence that re-arranges my molecules.*

*For so long, I have wanted to thank you  
No longer concerned whether you are near or far  
You were there when I crashed unhurt  
When I bled, when I passed out  
When my racing heart shortened my breath  
During my surgeries, my infections  
Your agility has no limit.*

*For so long, I have relied on you*

*Even when I doubted God  
I, arrogant, you, certain of my salvation  
I, ingrate, you, patient for my redemption  
You have been with me before I was born  
Stay with me longer  
Accompany me just before my ascent or descent*

*For so long, not yet, so long  
You have been beyond imagination  
Beyond hierarchy  
Almost with autonomy  
Always alert, full of vigor  
Calm the panics of my late contritions  
So long, when, I will be alone  
Still protected by your special affection.*