

# To speak about God may be dangerous...

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## *Patristic reading*

He who wishes to speak about Divine love undertakes to speak about God. But it is precarious to expatiate on God, and may even be dangerous for the unwary

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He who wishes to speak about Divine love undertakes to speak about God. But it is precarious to expatiate on God, and may even be dangerous for the unwary. The angels know how to speak about love, and even they can only do this according to the degree of their enlightenment. God is love (1 Jn 4:8.16). So he who wishes to define this tries with bleary eyes to measure the sand in the ocean!

Love, by reason of its nature, is resemblance to God, as far as that is possible for mortals; in its activity it is inebriation of the soul; and by its distinctive property it is a fountain of faith, an abyss of patience, a sea of humility.

St John Climacus, *The Ladder* XXX,2-3