

9-24-44. Miami Beach, Florida. Departed for Casa Blanca, Africa at 4:00 A.M. by C 54. In flying this water route one's attention is dominated by a sublime and untouchable world both in physical features and emotional sensation. It is difficult to compare the pristine loveliness above the clouds with anything I have experienced on the solid world below except possibly certain alpine lands in wintertime or at the antarctic continent where the rugged snow covered mountains break the lines of the cold frigid surface expanse. While there are certain features and conditions that do lend themselves to direct comparisons such as the topography, physiography, color, texture, form, depth and height there are other less tangible conditions such as massiveness, harmony, emotional moods and conjectural experiences that have no equivalent comparisons. It is difficult to appreciate these things from within the confines of a plane but it would also be rather hazardous to go exploring without its support. There are times, however, when the cloud surfaces appear stable enough to support one's weight. This new experience also calls for new expressions of descriptions as foreign as a new language and just as difficult to comprehend. Perspective and many other values must be readjusted, for example the intimate contact of the ocean surf from the usual sandy beach level upon the earth lends itself to a beauty and charm that compares with any scene, but when this same surf is viewed from the air it becomes small and relatively insignificant. Immediately one is impressed with the fact that from the air an object below must have those qualities of size and massiveness to register. When observing this new world of clouds one has the tendency to underestimate its enormous capacity and size. No other earthly feature is so extreme in either magnitude, perspective or vastness. If one wishes to search for something greater one must go searching beyond into the celestial realms of the outer universe.

The period of observation included one complete day from early dawn to dark and the early morning of the second day. Description must of necessity begin with the plane as the center of observation, a point that