

In Memoriam Thomas Merton

Gerard Garrigan

MERTON: FROM HERE TO HISTORY

He passed from here to history
There was no border crossing guard
He never saw borders anyway
And by his passing he has shown
The past still lives, it shines, it laughs
And in the next life only grown

THOMAS MERTON, R.I.P.

from half-way round your cloister
now become the world
you flew on love loosed wings
to take that Buddha's smile
and eyes with light within
to a home you'd never seen
though so graciously prepared
long long before He'd set
those two great lights
by which we the blind
still refuse to see

YOU NEVER REALLY SETTLED DOWN In memory of Thomas Merton

But as we progress in this way of life and in
faith, we shall run on the path of God's
commandments, our hearts overflowing with
the inexpressible delight of love.

Rule of St. Benedict

Although you vowed stability
You never really settled down
For you believed Man's life to be
An earnest hast'ning t'ward the Truth
Which takes the soul where Spirit leads
To mystic lands but God does know.
No, we shall never know the lands
You traversed while enclosed so long
Behind the cloister's thick tall walls
And all the beauty that you met
May we too prone to rest content
Run eagerly while led along
And find the stamina you found
And never really settle down.

Gerard Garrigan is a Benedictine monk of Saint Louis Abbey, a foundation of Ampleforth Abbey, in St. Louis, Missouri USA. He first came to know of Thomas Merton by reading his father's copy of *The Seven Storey Mountain*. Subsequently, as a monk, he lived with two Gethsemani monks at Sant' Anselmo, the International Benedictine College in Rome, and became friends with the current prior of Gethsemani who stayed with the monks of Saint Louis Abbey. More free poetry by Gerard Garrigan may be obtained by emailing him at: frgerard@priory.org