

## Wu Wei

*In the autumn of 2007 I left work and spent seven weeks in silence and solitude in a cottage on the north-west coast of Scotland*

Perceptibly now  
the earth's tilting darkens these  
late November days,  
pale skies of fragile dawn soon  
fill with sombre autumn clouds.

Surrendering then  
to the absence of light, the  
promise of winter reveals  
an unexpected beauty  
in the dying of the year.

Brilliant wind scours the  
long wide stretch of driven sand  
and the solitary heart,  
covers the ego's footprints,  
cold clean air absolving the  
scattered striving self  
leaving only for God a  
delicate skeleton leaf.

**Heather Lyons** is secretary of the Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland.