

twelve miles, would bring us to the point of heart's desire overlooking the ocean.

The dozen miles took two hours, inflicting lasting wounds on the middle-aged Dodge four-door, and ended in a high meadowlike expanse beyond which we could hear booming waves. "This is it!" We stumbled across a hundred upslope yards to come to the brink of a cliff: and looked down three hundred feet, where bulldozers and dumpsters and cement mixers and dust told the story we'd heard so often two hundred miles south — "Another development."

We persisted north, disheartened and no longer with much expectation. And just as well, for we came upon nothing that even came close to Tom's specifications. "There's always Alaska," he said often, as we hastened back to San Francisco and his plane to the Orient.

He spoke to us as he had in Santa Barbara about his intention to "hunker down" indefinitely at a monastic house in one of the countries he was so anxious to get to — Japan, by preference. It was an intention he repeated in letters many times, as if giving stern warning that he wasn't to be expected back soon from his widest of mystical adventures — never, however, failing to say, "but I'll always be a monk of Gethsemani."



It wasn't until long after I'd put him on the plane at San Francisco that I learned of a salient aspect of our eight days together. He often excused himself, morning or night, by saying: "I've got to write in my journal" — that which all Mertonians know now as *The Asian Journal of Thomas Merton*. What I did not know was that Tom was keeping two journals all this time, the second of which — the so-called "secret journal" — has still to come to publication. Since Tom said little about these weeks in what was edited as *The Asian Journal*, I look forward with some eagerness to what if anything he had to say about them — especially about his appearance at the Center and our fruitless but lovely voyage looking for a place "remote and high over the Pacific."

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## A CONCRETE POEM from **MUNX POND**

by **Gregory J. Ryan**

**MERTON**

NOTREM

TREMON

MENTRO

**MENTOR**