

Werblowsky, Raphael Jehudah Zwi. "Mystics and Zen masters," *Cistercian Studies* 13/4 (1978), 318-321.

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THOMAS MERTON

by **Virginia Boyd**

From Gethsemani, Dec. 10, 1941, and through the years
of raking out a conscience with that aching arm,
writing it all out to remember and warn,
he was wired by God.

From no light in the hermitage, no heat;
from drink and blasphemy against the outhouse snake;
from prayer and doubt and uneasily knowing God,
and knowing us in our unease;
from love, and small cruelties
toward himself and others;
from the human race,
and the volumes of words it takes to say
that we are found in silence;
from Kentucky

to Thailand, Dec. 10, 1968, in the afternoon,
the heat, the room with bed and bath, the fan,
the gesture toward the faulty switch, the accident,
a shock disconnecting us from him again.
We could spend a lifetime tracing the connections
but the cord leads to the beginning
through the saints
the psalms
the face of Buddha
Christ
wired in the Nothingness he touched.
This is how he ends, and how he touches us.

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