

"*Amor Ipse Intellectus Est*": A *Speculum* in Verse

by **John Albert**, OCSO

1

Love, Drew

For Philip Andrew Williams
February 21, 1989

When love to love was given,
love drew new love from without
and forged a compact under heaven:
this man for this maid—no doubt!
When life to life was granted,
life drew new life from inside,
one soul in one flesh fashioned:
and man and wife swelled with pride!
When home from home was built,
home drew new home from within,
framed with care and covered it:
all three nailed tighter than kin!

Love, Drew, drew you out of mystery:
life and home now draw your destiny.

2

Someday

For William Edward Porter
January 30, 1969—

As you feel now, someday I'll feel strong,
and shoulder to shoulder we'll bear arms.
Like Achilles and Patroclus at Troy,
I'll kill any Hector who dares you harm.
As you look now, someday I'll look great,
and arm against arm we'll strut the streets.
Veronan Valentine and Proteus.
I'll to you fair Silvia bequeath.
As you are now, someday I'll be good,
and head to heart we will fill our years,
Evangelist John and scribe Prochorus,
whispering across lonely Aegean.

I pin your corduroy cap to my wall;
for now: heel, regret, age, truth above all.

The Gentle Deception

For Dom Armand Veilleux, OCSO

In the seminary
 I drank Twinning tea
 and read H.D. Thoreau
 The Trappists have
 taught me how to enjoy
 dark beer, the Superbowl
 and women
 I wanted to be a hermit
 back then
 like my hero—T. Merton
 Now I know he wasn't
 and I can't be so
 My brothers in Christ
 are calling me to
 run, not crawl
 give, not cry
 live, not die
 Trappist peace
 is inside me
 like an unfinished poem

To the Editors of *The Merton Annual* 1–5

For Robert E. Daggy
 Patrick Hart, O.C.S.O.
 Dewey Weiss Kramer
 Victor A. Kramer

Yes, to your lives!

Yes, to your talents!
 Yes, to your goodness!
 Yes, to your hard work!
 Yes, to your unique perspectives!
 Yes, to your unique gifts!

Yes, to receiving your critique
 of my hard work!

Yes, to all the good things
 we've shared over the years!

Yes, to prayer and reflection!