

DARK PATH

for Thomas Merton

by **Alden McInvale**

Into the dry silence of the day closing
the sun casts fiery words across our shadows.
We watch the sky darken, the orange rays
strewn across the airy blue slowly subsiding
to the gentle shade of dusk

I walk alone in the forest,
where the encircling trees
form a thick veil over the path,
clouding my vision in darkness,
making the way difficult to follow.

Stars, spread above like letters on a blank page,
slowly peek from behind night's curtain.
Tiny fireflies, scattered flying in the darkness,
twirl around me in minute guidance,
whispering lanterns along the dark path.