

Zen Death of a Christian Master (for Thomas Merton)

By Susan E. McCaslin

With soles of your feet still wet,
you were leavened
into the absurdity of your good death.

Socrates gave a discourse
then quaffed his hemlock.
You only spoke of disappearing
and the need for a quick coke.

Yet disciples gathered.
And when you found you were at last
for your calling
wild enough
you thunderbolted into the mountain's
other side.

Susan E. McCaslin is a Canadian poet, poetry editor, and teacher of English and Creative Writing at Douglas College in British Columbia. She holds a doctorate in English literature from the University of British Columbia. This poem was written as a response to a presentation by Donald Grayston also entitled "Zen Death of a Christian Master."



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