

## Let Us Invoke Thomas Merton Who Needs a Miracle or Two if He Is Ever to Become a Saint

By Jean Goodwin

*"There are always a few people who are in the woods at night, in the rain (because if there were not the world would have ended), and I am one of them."*

*Thomas Merton, "Rain and the Rhinoceros"*

Thomas Merton, pray for me,  
Pray for me in poetry,  
Pray for me in Buddhist rhyme –  
I'm hanging on sheer threads of time  
And space.  
Thomas Merton, keep us safe,  
Wrap us tight in God's warm grace.

Dangling, spent, exhausted, scared,  
I'm too sick now at all to care  
If you would rather be alone.  
Cloistered, still we pestered you,  
Dead, it's worse – petition, sue,  
Roust you out, accosting you  
With all our bitter moans.

Thomas Merton, steady me,  
Steady me here bodily,  
Speak me safe in this dear place  
Because I love our world so much,  
Sweet earth – she ravished your soul once  
As rush of rain turned into hush –  
And then God comes  
and touches us.



**Jean Goodwin**

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