

## An Unpublished Poem

By **Thomas Merton**

*This previously unpublished poem is found in a reading notebook, now at the Syracuse University Library, from August-September, 1966, a period when Merton was reading extensively in French existentialism; the title is loosely translated within the poem itself; the reference to the "mineral water President" is presumably to Marshal Pétain, head of the collaborationist Vichy government during World War II. This poem is published with the permission of the Merton Legacy Trust.*

### Sartre Est un Boche

Gotta be dawn  
By rainbow lane  
Gotta be sunset  
With pain!

MISTER SARTRAY IS A HUN.

In that day  
Said Fourier  
The waters of the sea  
Shall taste of violets.

Camus pale  
Walks slowly  
Through the pines  
With his dog  
Cyanide.

The mineral water  
President  
Said farmers were reading  
Proust.