

# Three Poems

By John Leax

## meditation on a rural hillside

beneath  
the high  
way  
roar

the wind  
sigh

beneath  
the wind  
sigh

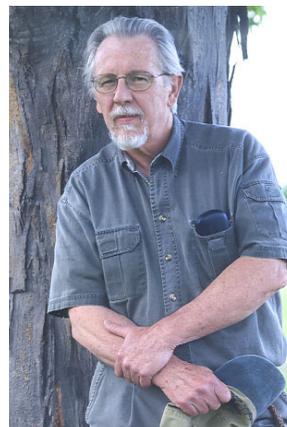
a bird  
call

beneath  
the bird  
call

a sound  
I can  
not  
hear

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**John Leax** holds the Van Gordon Chair in Communication and Writing at Houghton College where he has taught since 1968. His most recent books are a collection of essays, *Grace Is Where I Live: The Landscape of Faith and Writing* and a volume of poems, *The Tabloid News*. He has been reading Merton since he discovered *Seeds of Contemplation* as a college student.



**John Leax**

# the rain

By **John Leax**

*rain is a festival*

Thomas Merton

1.  
the rain falls  
on the shelter roof

I sit  
in the shelter

I listen  
to the rain

on the shelter  
roof

2.  
the rain falls  
in the woods

I sit  
in the shelter

I watch  
the rain

fall  
in the woods

3.  
the rain falls  
in the woods

the rain falls  
on the roof

the rain means  
itself

I sit  
in the shelter

4.  
I listen  
to the rain

I watch  
the rain

I say  
the rain

the rain on the  
shelter roof

5.  
the rain  
in the woods

the rain  
on the roof

on the roof  
in the woods

the rain  
the rain

## field note

the hawk  
in the sky

is white

the hawk  
in my eye

is black

the hawk  
in my mind

is a flame

the hawk  
in my body

is a word  
on fire