

## Merton's Madhyamika

By **Robert Peach**

1.

See yourself as you are:  
A monk enclotted in robe,  
Yet stripped of  
Ego;

2.

It tore you away  
From heaven at birth  
And brought you to life on earth  
Where now you sojourn,  
Setting self aside.

3.

Along the way  
You have found yourself:  
A paradox,  
Given to transcend  
By those opposing forces of  
Being.

Driven as though up a mountain  
Spotted with lamas who  
Smile at you,  
Unfettered by samsara –  
Their knowledge gained  
By their unknowing.



Robert Peach

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4.

With a sly grin  
You return their gift  
In the orange morning  
Of questions enflamed  
Like the color of the cloth  
On the saffron shoulders of those  
Masters your seek.

5.

Become now  
As brown as those hills.

6.

Sing softly  
With the green length  
Of each grassy breath.

7.

The air is yours in which to flourish  
Thoughtless yet absolute  
In experience.