

The Mercy of God

By **Theodore Warner**

“The saints, when they remember their sins, do not remember the sins but the mercy of God.”

Thomas Merton: *The Seven Story Mountain*

I remember just one sentence,
In a long book,
When my fingers,
Consider the spine.

The world rages in a word,
Something larger in a sentence.

Something like a question,
Like a melody,
That was pleasant once.

Asking, asking,
And even if I answer,
Asking.

I try to say:
I've done my part,
And left my kitchen clean.
I was careful where I went,
And somewhat careful,
When I spoke.
I've learned to push the stone uphill,
Learned to sit alone in a quiet place,
Which is harder than it seems.

And still the question comes.
But, my heart is clean – I say.

Theodore Warner will soon graduate from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America and plans to practice family law in Maryland. For many years, he was a special educator in Virginia and Massachusetts. His is the son of actor Rick Warner and artist Jillian Warner.



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And then, I say,
From beyond the fence of learning,
From the wilderness – or it is said:
How easy it is to keep the heart clean,
How hard to keep it full –