

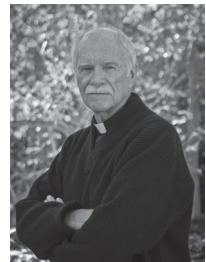
a variance of thoughts on an otherwise day (for Tom and Pat)

By **J. T. Ledbetter**

do you remember, good Monk,
how the morning's mist offered hope for rain
"the heart feels it" you whispered over the knobs to Br. Pat
trees barely move / flowers dip into themselves
the wild grass parting for the invisible coyote
birds are tentative / spring rabbits have stopped
their ridiculous courting dance in mid-hop – ears twitching

tomorrow the heat may come pushing wet out
drying the grass spoiling the wild roses you prayed there
but tonight a gibbous moon over Gethsemani will watch itself floating
in the embrace of a single flower by your door
while you burn the albums of your mind
because you are tired of shadows sliding under a locked door
and memories of two taking tea outside / fingers touching
as you watched the long grasses combed by night winds
dipping and dancing without meaning / without guilt / erasing and life-giving
before morning giggles its way over the hills ringing doorbells leaving leaflets
proclaiming spring

J. T. Ledbetter is a charter member of the International Thomas Merton Society and Professor Emeritus at California Lutheran University. He has published poetry, fiction and nonfiction, including *Gethsemani Poems* (1994) and other poems and articles on Thomas Merton. His collection *Old and Lost Rivers* (Lost Horse Press, 2012) was the winner of the Idaho Prize for Poetry.



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