

## Un Trappista/ Trappist

*A Thomas Merton / To Thomas Merton*

By **Teofila Macarie**  
Translated by **Liana Gehl**

Dio è la mia cella

He is my cell

Dio è il mio Ordine

He is my Order

Dio è il mio Dio

He is my Lord

Dio è la mia vita e la mia morte

He is my life and my death

Dio

God

La mia cella non è Dio

My cell is not God to me

né lo è il mio Ordine

neither is my Order

né la vita né la morte

nor life nor death

ma Dio è Dio

but God is God

Dio

God

Io non sono la mia cella

I am not my cell

non sono il mio Ordine

I am not my Order

né la vita né la morte

nor life nor death



**Teofila Macarie**

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**Teofila Macarie** is the pen name of a Romanian nun who is a member of a cloistered religious community in Rome. Born in Bucharest in 1974, she studied the harp at the National Music Conservatory and played with the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra in Bucharest until 2002 when her life took an unexpected turn and she joined the Roman convent. She is a prolific poet with five published volumes in Romanian. The present poem, written after reading Merton's *The Sign of Jonas* in 2018, is translated from the Italian by **Liana Gehl**, editor-in-chief of Editura-ARCB, the publishing house of the Archdiocese of Bucharest, whose article on Merton and the Romanian martyr-priest Vladimir Ghika appears in vol. 33 (2020) of *The Merton Annual*.

non sono io  
ma Dio  
Dio  
Dio.

I am not  
but God  
God  
God.