

# 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.