

DESERT NIGHT

by **Frank X. Tuoti**

God beyond God it is You I seek
faceless and formless in this desert night
Lead me forth into that darkness deep
beyond all knowing, above all light

Words You have taught me now to hate
Thoughts of You die as they arise.
Seeds of Life break suddenly through my ground
Recognition stirs in quiet, gentle surprise

O happy paradox where blindness sees!
Wondrous mystery where dark is light!
Lead me on into that darkness still
above the mind where shine Thee bright!

Another way I journey, uncertain and unknown
Trusting Love and Love alone I blindly roam
upon a land so strange I know not where
Yet its ground, I sense, is leading home

The miles that stretch ahead I cannot see
nor foresee the coming cleansing sands unkind
However long and dark and parched this desert night
I shall not retreat to pastures left behind.

□ **Frank X. Tuoti** lives on the desert in Tucson, Arizona. He is a former monk (Brother Genesis) of the community at the Abbey of Gethsemani. A member of the *International Thomas Merton Society*, he is the organizer and president of the Arizona chapter of the *ITMS*. He will preside at a workshop at the Second General Meeting. Long a collector of Mertoniana, his "Merton Room" was designated "The Southwestern Adjunct" to the Thomas Merton Studies Center in November, 1990.