

# The Prayer of Desolation

My Lord God,  
I have no idea  
where I am going.  
I do not see the road  
ahead of me.  
I cannot know

for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean That I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will  
never do anything  
apart from that desire.

And I know that  
if I do this you will  
lead me by the right road  
Though I may know  
nothing about it.

Therefore will I  
trust you always  
Though I may seem  
to be lost and in  
the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you  
are ever with me,  
And you will never  
leave me to face  
my perils alone.

Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude*  
(New York: Farrar, Straus, and Cudahy, 1976), p. 83.