

He was soon borne away by the waves, and lost in darkness and distance.

Frankenstein

The one thing necessary is a true interior and spiritual life, true growth, on my own, in depth in a new direction. Whatever new direction God opens up for me, my job is to press forward, to grow interiorly, to pray, to break away from attachments and to defy fears, to grow in faith, which has its own solitude, to seek an entirely new perspective and new dimension in my life. To open up new horizons at any cost, to desire this and let the Holy Spirit take care of the rest. But really to desire this and work for it.

From Merton's journals

Looking backward, it seems, has become the most popular way of going forward.

Nathan Glazer, Harvard sociologist

I am going home, to the home where I have never been in this body...

Not long ago I was thinking about the level of communication—as a problem to be studied on this trip—with its many aspects. And the level of communion—problems resolved beforehand by the acceptance of “words,” which cannot be understood until after they have been accepted and their power experienced.

From Merton's Asian Journal

There are more things to love than we could possibly imagine.

Richard of St. Victor

*Merton's Royal*

Not icons,  
Nor the books,  
Not the artwork,  
but the Royal, the instrument of transmission.

The letters sleep  
deeply in the carriage.  
No need now to place  
Catholic to Zen,  
Prayer to poetry,  
Baez with Pasternak.

I touch lightly the keys  
that spell out my name.

No alarm goes off.  
The typewriter is not a trap.  
All is safe here.  
(Safe and awake.)

10/16/09  
Louisville (near a martini)