

NIGHT:

the last thin slice of leftover moon
the last moon of 1964 (TM)

by **Chris McDonnell**

Written while reading Merton's *A Vow of Conversation*

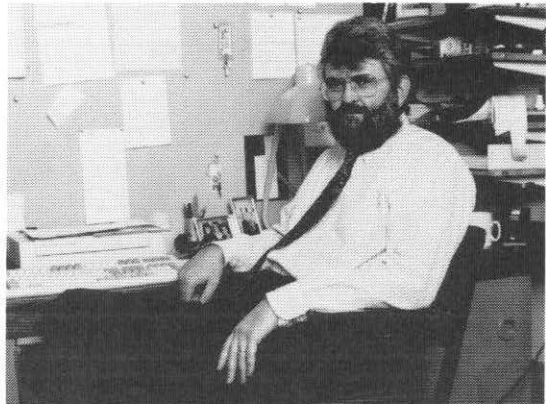
Silence is space
between words
Silence is time
after noise

Silence is time
to listen
Silence is time
for hearing

Silence is time
of resting
Silence is time
of peace

Silence is darkness
night deep
Silence is stillness
awaiting dawn

□ **Chris McDonnell** was born in London and currently lives at High Chase Rise, Little Haywood, Staffordshire, England. He qualified to teach in 1964 and subsequently taught in the Catholic school systems in London, Leeds, Liverpool, and Staffordshire. He now holds the Headship of Fulfen Primary School, part of the local authority system. He is married to Anne, herself a teacher, and they have three grown children, Rachel, Luke, and Sarah. He writes: "My journey to school each day takes me through an area known locally as the Chase, forestry commission land planted with Scots and Douglas fir trees. It seems the sort of place that might have surrounded Merton's hermitage."



CHRIS McDONNELL