

# OLD UNCLE LOUIE: A LOVE POEM TO THOMAS MERTON

by **Nancy D. McDonald**

---

While others flew to India with Guitars  
 You took a ton of books, your glasses, and a rosary  
 Before it was over you were dumping books  
     in all directions  
 Embarrassed by too much baggage  
     after seeing those too cool figures,  
     your own feet wet with dew.  
 They sent you back  
     with your glasses and your rosary  
 Pure possessions.  
 You met your fiery God  
     alone and naked  
 Done in by a *deus ex machina*  
     that must still make you laugh with joy.



NANCY D. MCDONALD

---

**Nancy D. McDonald** is a teacher, librarian and poet who lives with her husband, daughter, and granddaughter amidst "lots of local fauna" in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Her work has appeared in *Desert Call*, *Educational Studies*, *Youth Ministry Quarterly*, and *Pax Christi Quarterly*. Her collection of poems, *The Haitian Suite*, with photographs by Mev Puleo, will be published by Pax Christi in 1994.