

Kangchenjunga

A tribute to Thomas Merton

By **Allan McMillan**

Kangchenjunga,¹
Sister of Tsungau,²
Taunt of hermits,
Marching mystic contradiction.

How can we believe
that once –
you were not there
daughter of two continents?

Robed in snowy shrouds
your river tears
gladden hearts
of mere mortals below.

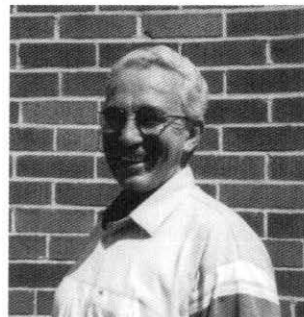
From deserts of envy,
we desire your peak
with clear vision
and lofty solitude.

Kangchenjunga,
Sister of Tsungau,
They tell us,
(Those who know)
your crowning gift
is born in solitary desolation.

¹ Kangchenjunga is the third highest mountain in the Himalayas.

² Tsungau is the local name for Everest.

Rev. Allan McMillan is a priest of the Diocese of Sault Ste.-Marie, Ontario. A graduate of St. John Fisher College and of Boston College, he is a life-long student of Thomas Merton with special interest in his relationship to world religions and to art history. He is currently pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Sudbury, Ontario.



Fr. Allan McMillan