

the hermit in his cave

By Sean Edward Kinsella

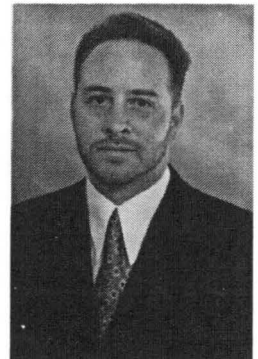
the hermit in his cave
has placed before the wooden cross
skull and stale bread
both remembrances

of death, of life
of that cut wood
which, having hope,
groweth green again

love's fragility
is knit into bone
baked into bread
nailed into wood

in silence, easily broken,
loneliness speaks
of frailty in God
of God's frailty in us

in such simple things
does our faith, finally, consist
in wood and bread and bone
wherein His life death does resist



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Sean Edward Kinsella received his A.B. in History from Cornell University and his Ph.D. in Historical Theology from St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto. His article on Thomas Merton and Franciscan spirituality appeared in *Franciscan Studies*.