

## Polonnaruwa

By **Chris McDonnell**

“I don’t know when in my life I have ever had such a sense of beauty and spiritual validity running together in one aesthetic experience.”

Thomas Merton – December 4, 1968

It was at this time of the year  
that he went to the valley  
of the Buddhas and,  
pausing a moment to remove his shoes,  
walked barefoot through the wet grass  
among the reclining figures.

The faint smile of their unfaltering gaze  
returned his awe at being in their presence.  
A Christian monk of the West  
experiencing the East  
just eight days before his  
disappearance.



**Chris McDonnell**

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