

Merton's Final Words

By Antoinette Voûte Roeder

“So I will disappear,”
he said.

And so he did, the sturdy
monk, shuffling from
the conference hall.

“Move,” said Rumi, “into the moment
of your death. Consider what
you truly want.”

The words, the act,
the tangle of
Big Me
released
in one electric moment

when he stepped into the
vastness that awaited

the freeing
dis appear



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Antoinette Voûte Roeder is a poet and writer living in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Born in the Netherlands, she immigrated to the United States at the age of 10, and moved to Canada with her husband and family in 1974. She has been offering contemplative spiritual direction for 26 years and facilitates retreats in spirituality, prayer, poetry, mystics and mysticism. Her latest poetry collections include *Poems for Meditation: An Invitation to Prayer* (2014) and *The Many Singings* (2014).