

ABBHEY OF GETHSEMANI TRAPPIST KENTUCKY 40073

January 23, 1971

Dearest Nell,

I had hoped to get snowed in to stay here a little longer, but the day is clear, so I must take off for home this afternoon - and it is time. But how I am torn between my desire to get back with my wife and children and my dismay to leave this hermitage and these forests.

I have made wonderful progress from the point of view of recuperation, and also done very good work, so I am happy with these two weeks.

Now, I wanted to tell you that I have given Brother Patrick (who was Tom's helper here, handled correspondence and is more or less the man who knows the most about Merton) your address and phone number. He is making one of his rare trips - to another monastery in N.Y. to help with some editing, and then down to see J. Laughlin (in Norfolk, Conn., to help J. with the editing of Tom's Asian Journal, which New Directions is publishing) and since that is not far from you, and since Patrick is your kind of person, I have urged him to drop down and see you if he possibly can. He is one of the world's choice humans, Nell, and so are you, and I hope you can see one another. If he does get to come, will you show him some of the work you are doing? In any event, he would never just drop in, but will let you know if he can find a way to get there. Brother Patrick leaves next Tuesday, but will not be in your area until the first week of February. You will remember that his photo is in A HIDDEN WHOLENESS, with Tom and Brother Maurice.

Don't spill the beans about how bad I am and about how you advised Susan to hide my pants. If you combined all the bad things you know about me and all the bad things he could tell you about me, it would be too terrible to bear.

All for the moment. Best, best love to you from all of us here,

John