

## The Solace of Fierce Landscapes: Exploring Desert and Mountain Spirituality #11

A Time for Prayer and Solace

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

### **Part III Union –Love as the Fruit of Indifference**

*For the garden is the only place there is, but*

*you will not find it*

*Until you have looked for it everywhere*

*and found it nowhere that is not a desert.*

-W. HJ. Auden

*The problem today is that there are no deserts, only dude ranches.*

-Thomas Merton, "Rain and the Rhinoceros"

*The further you go into the desert, the closer you come to God*

-Arabic proverb

Belden Lane begins by telling us of the time two weeks before his mother died. He was told; it would not be long now. "There was nothing left to do, but to do nothing." (p. 151.)

"Yielding to the long, warm silence of half-sleep and half-attentiveness, she accepted the slow passage of time, the routine of eating, sleeping, watching people's movements, waiting for my coming, this was enough. More than enough.... life itself was enough."

Practice of centering prayer, "just sitting there, doing nothing... not even thinking worthwhile thoughts." (p. 152). (Footnote #1, Jakob Needleman regards this as essential to the recovery in Lost Christianity. P. 263)

"I finally began to realize how much the process of letting go was also one of being loved." (p.153).

"On each of my dyings shed your light and your love." St. Ignatius Loyola (p. 154)