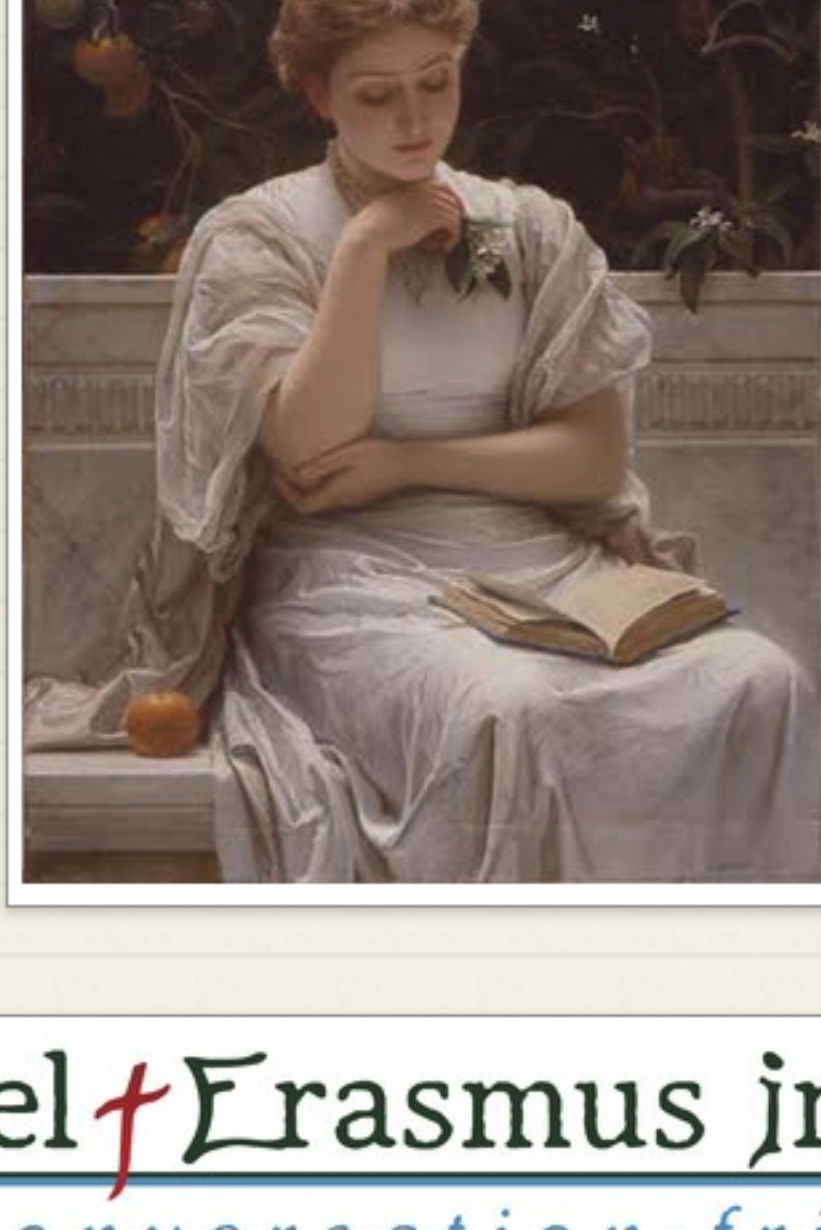


Love & Everything, That's All

SEI SALON (HOUSTON)



Samuel + Erasmus institute

ideas • conversation • friendship

A JANUARY SALON

On behalf of Joe and Staci Edmonds, you are invited to a January Salon!

As a matter of course...for certain the evening will include the secret woven mix of conversation, wine, insights of all sorts, and the joyous company of friends.

We'll begin with an exploration of that every-day topic: *love and happiness*. (A fine topic to begin the year with!) Our prime matter will be the reading and discussion of a short poem by Wendell Berry and then a song by the indie band, Arcade Fire.

(see below for a sample + a bonus by Mason Jennings)



Hope to see you!

Jeff

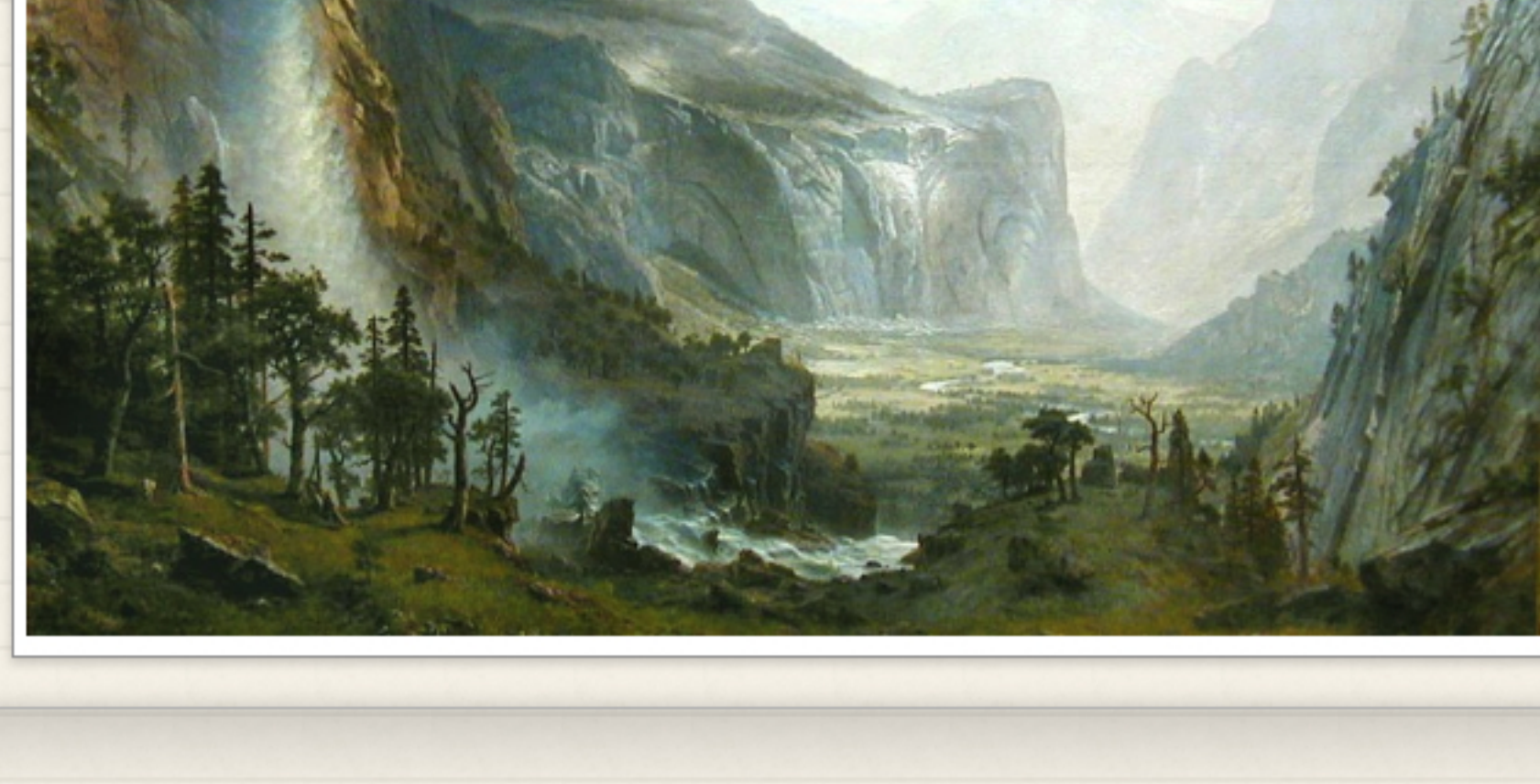
~~~~~

*It is in the silence  
that my hope is, and my aim.  
A song whose lines*

*I cannot make or sing  
sounds men's silence  
like a root. Let me say*

*and not mourn: the world  
lives in the death of speech  
and sings there.*

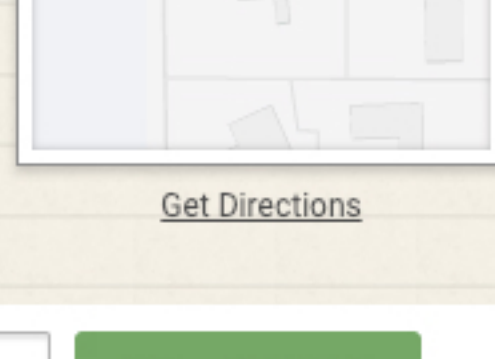
~ Wendell Berry (excerpt from poem *The Silence*)



### A JANUARY SALON

**WHEN**  
SATURDAY, JAN. 27TH, 7:30-10:15PM

**WHERE**  
9807 MEMORIAL DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TX



[Get Directions](#)

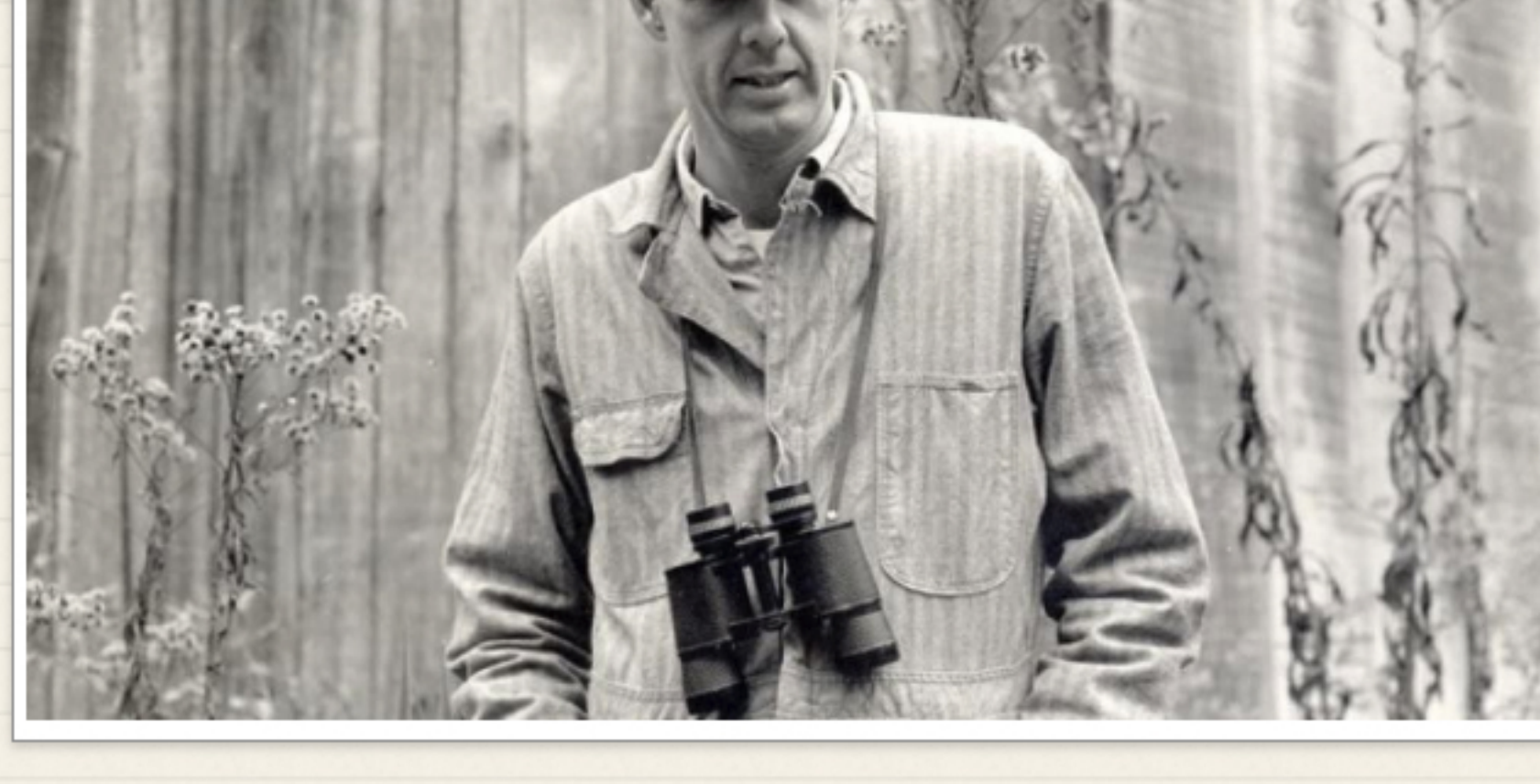
### A PLAN & DETAILS

**Attire:**  
elegant (or something like that) casual

**Cost:**  
\$35 per person  
\$60 per couple

**Timing (rough idea):**  
7:30 gather at the Edmonds' home  
7:45 brief enquiry into the relation of love and happiness (and relevance to experience)  
8:15 read and discuss poem and song  
9:15 music, stories, spontaneous whatnot...

**Please RSVP.**  
**Space will be limited.**

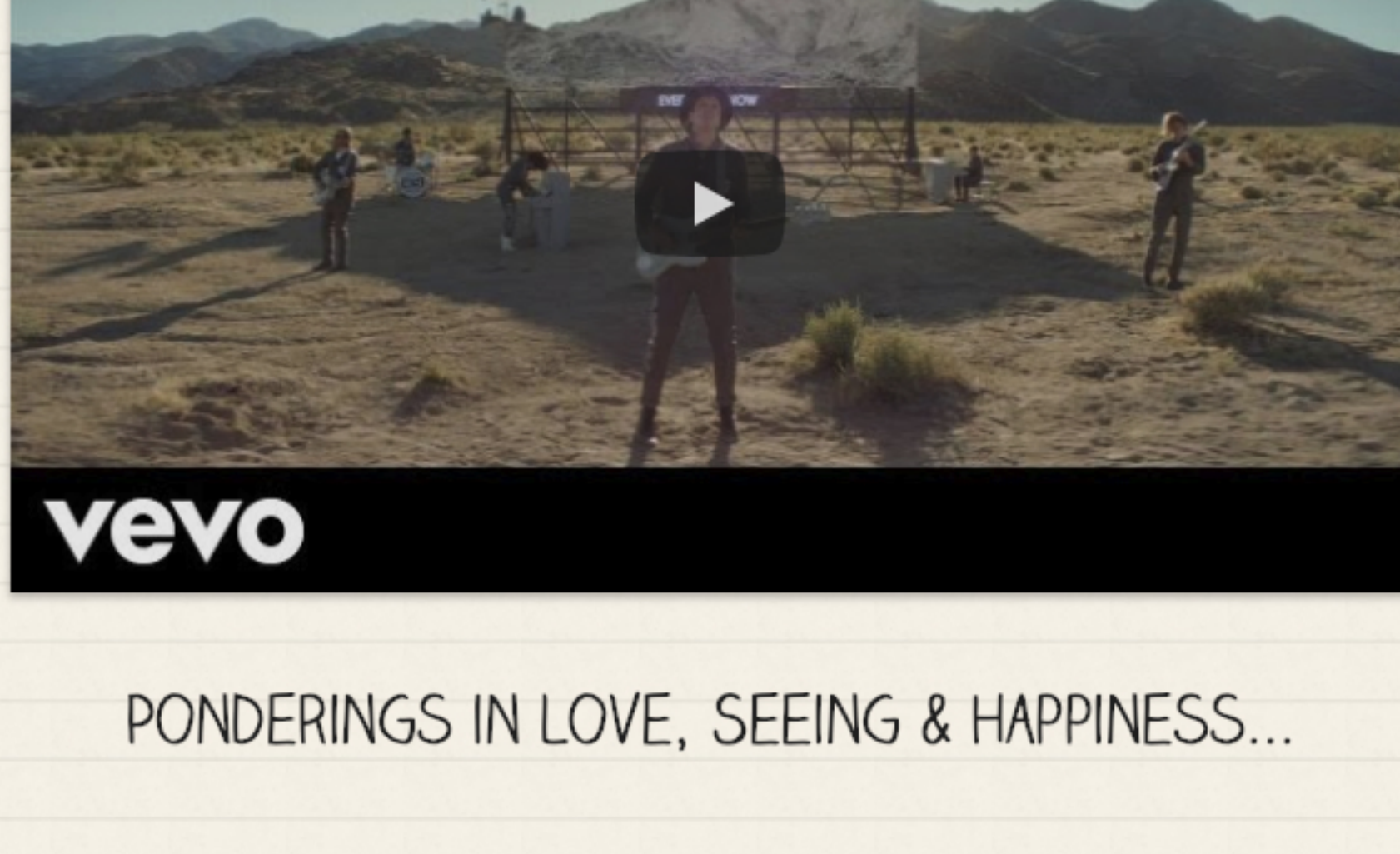


### (YOUNG) WENDELL BERRY

*"Love is what carries you, for it is always there, even in the dark, or most in the dark, but shining out at times like gold stitches in a piece of embroidery."*

~ Wendell Berry

See link below to his writings



### PONDERINGS IN LOVE, SEEING & HAPPINESS...

*...man, as a reasoning being, desires his own happiness just as the falling stone "seeks" the depths, as the flower turns to the light and the beast hunts its prey.*

*Happiness is essentially a gift; we are not the forgers of our own felicity.*

*Any human being who is happy shares in a happiness that is not of himself.*

*...even the smallest happiness is like a step out of Time...*

*"Felicity must consist in man's attainment of the uttermost degree of being real." (Aquinas)*

*Love is the indispensable premise of happiness. (However, it must also be said that if one does not love one cannot be unhappy. For the essence of unhappiness is the failure to possess what one loves...)*

*...the fulfillment of existence takes place in the manner in which we become aware of reality; the whole energy of our being is ultimately directed toward attainment of insight.*

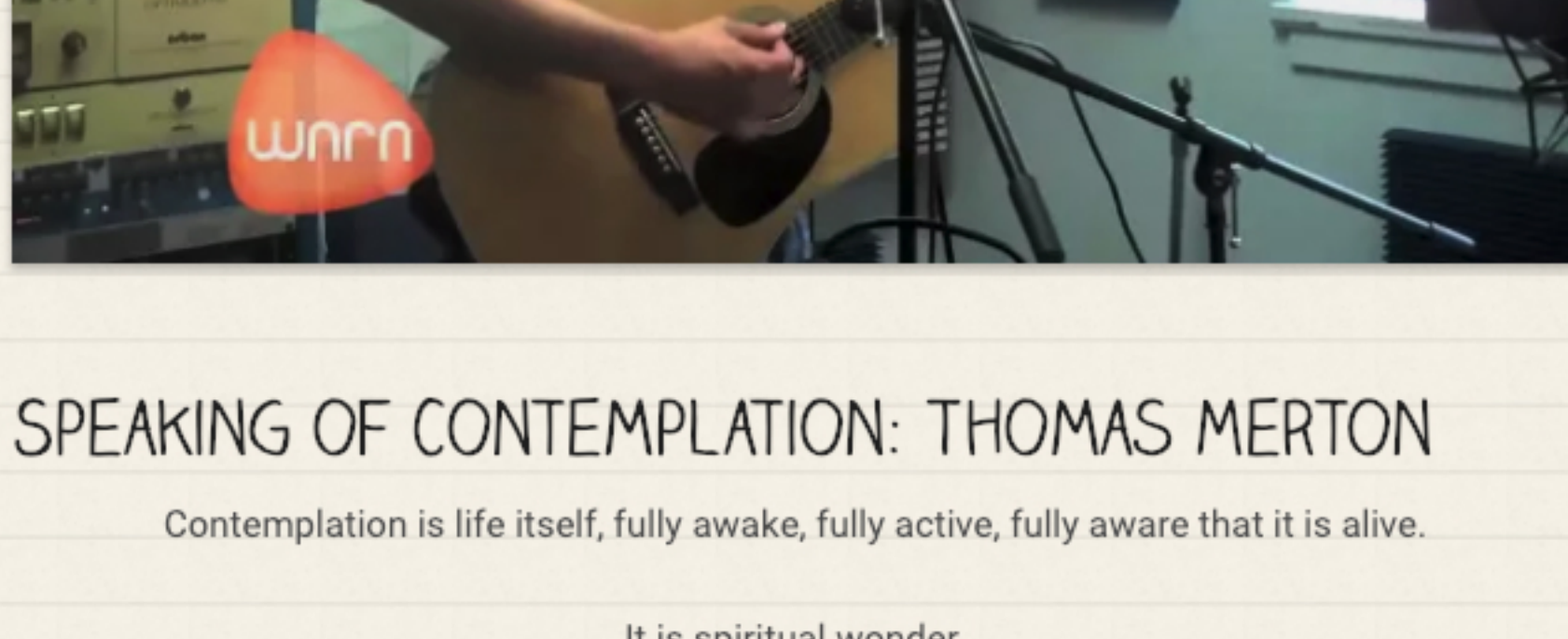
*It may very well be, however, that the power of seeing itself is only stirred to full realization by love.*

*...the vital function of the arts in man's life, consists above all in this: that through them contemplation of the created world is kept active and alive.*

*...loving knowledge, seeing the beloved object, is the essence of contemplation.*

*"Where love is, there is the eye." (Aquinas)*

~ Josef Pieper from *Happiness & Contemplation*



### SPEAKING OF CONTEMPLATION: THOMAS MERTON

Contemplation is life itself, fully awake, fully active, fully aware that it is alive.

It is spiritual wonder.

It is spontaneous awe at the sacredness of life, of being.

It is gratitude for life, for awareness, and for being.

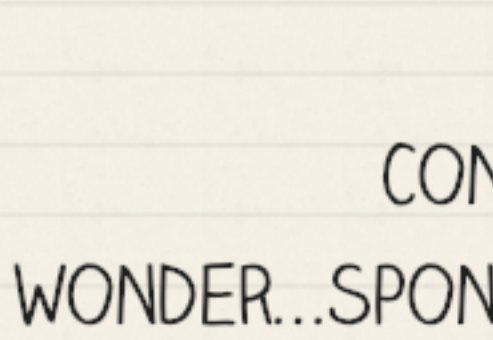
It is a vivid realization of the fact that life and being in us proceed from an invisible, transcendent, and infinitely abundant Source.

Contemplation is, above all, awareness of the reality of that Source.

It knows the Source, obscurely, inexplicably, but with a certitude that goes both beyond reason and beyond simple faith. It is a more profound depth of faith, a knowledge too deep to be grasped in images, in words, or even in clear concepts. It can be suggested by words, by symbols, but in the very moment of trying to indicate what it knows the contemplative mind takes back what it has said, and denies what it has affirmed. For in contemplation we know by "unknowing". Or, better, we know beyond all knowing or "unknowing".

~ Thomas Merton from *New Seeds of Contemplation*

Above paintings: *Girl Reading* by Charles Edward Perugini, *The Domes of the Yosemite* by Albert Bierstadt



### SAMUEL & ERASMUS INSTITUTE

*Give light, and the darkness will disappear of itself. ~ Erasmus*

[jpresberg@samuelerasmus.org](mailto:jpresberg@samuelerasmus.org)

832.693.2889

[samuelerasmus.org](http://samuelerasmus.org)

SEi is a federal 501 (c) (3) tax exempt public charity. Donations are tax deductible.

CONTEMPLATION...IS SPIRITUAL  
WONDER...SPONTANEOUS AWE AT THE SACREDNESS OF  
LIFE, OF BEING. ~ THOMAS MERTON