

“Action” is no longer a matter of resigning ourselves to works that seem alien to our life in God: for the Spirit places us exactly where we should be as It works in us. “Contemplation” is no longer merely the brief, satisfying interlude of reward in which our world is relieved by recollection and peace. Action and contemplation now grow together into one life and one unity. They become two aspects of the same thing. Action is charity looking outward to other people, and contemplation is charity drawn inward to its own divine source. Action is the stream, and contemplation is the spring.

Thomas Merton
(paraphrase)