

MEDITATION 8



*M*ONKS ARE CALLED TO THE "CON-
templative" life. The word means to cut out a space for div-
ination. The monk creates an inner temple, a space in mind,
imagination, and heart where he can observe the signs of
divine providence.

The work of the spiritual life includes the building of
these inner temples and the creation of *temenos*—space set
apart for sacred use. As this work progresses, everything
acquires its *temenos*. As Emerson said, everything becomes
a sign.

Contemplation, the primary work of the monk, achieves
the necessary emptiness in every thing, every moment, and
every event. These empty spaces, simply marked out as
sacred, invite the soul to participate and provide places for
its dwelling.