

Iconoclasty! Thanks so much for writing! Haven't heard from you in a bit. I hope you haven't given up. Yeah, I definitely agree that Thomas Merton's discussion of brainwashing is especially appropriate now, not just for prisoners, not just for those convicted of sex-related charges, but for the whole world, Americans especially. You're not American, are you? Something just seems to me like you're from elsewhere. Anyway... yes. Prisoners are subjected to a nonstop barrage about their "badness" and need to "repent" of it (though the religious language is obscured today, of course). We're all told to conform and return to the flock, become the docile instruments of popular culture and mores, re-take our roles as cogs in the machine we're assured we need not rage against, because our trouble are ~~our~~ ^{our} own, our actions are our choice, there is no outside influence, but for the good and guiding hand of ~~consumerist~~ ^{consumerist} materialism and the moral hygiene it prescribes... Gabba gabba, we accept you. We accept you. One of us! ☺ →