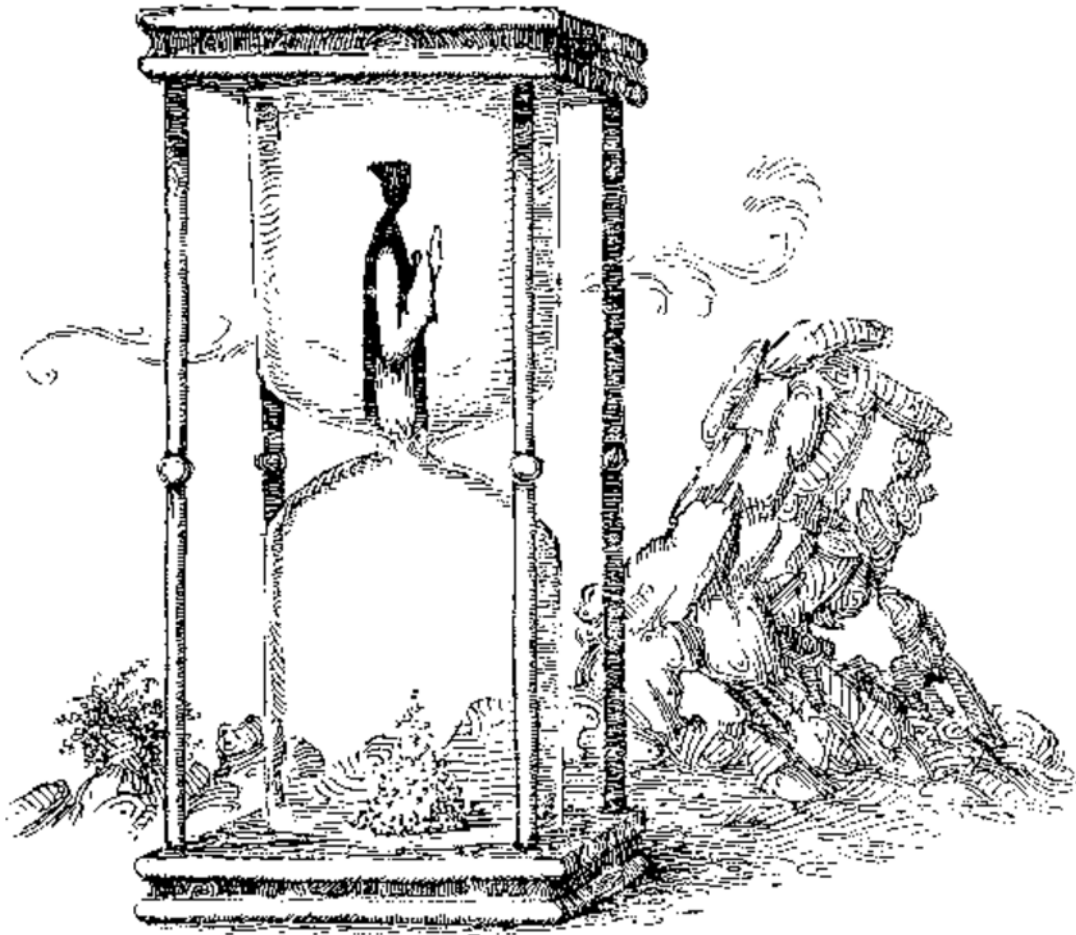


The Original Sound



I asked an old monk, "How long have you been here?"

"Forever," he answered.

"I smiled. "Fifty years, Father?"

"Forever."

Did you know St. Benedict?" t

"We are novices together."

"Did you know Jesus?"

"He and I converse every day."

I threw away my silly smile, fell to my knees, and clutched his hand. "Father," I whispered, "Did you hear the original sound?"

"I am listening to the original sound."