



I WONDER WHY...

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*by Shirley Burden*

Dear Father Louis

I guess you were right  
so far the Lourdes story  
hasnt gone but this  
did. Hope to see you  
someday soon

Shirley

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*by Shirley Burden*

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Born and raised in Manhattan, **Shirley Burden** has been connected with various aspects of the world of photography most of his productive life. At the age of seventeen he was directly associated with the production end of *The Silent Enemy*, released by Paramount at the same time as Warner Brothers issued *The Jazz Singer*. After arrival in Hollywood he joined forces with Miriam C. Cooper at RKO, where he directed and co-produced several films, including the startling *She*, from the novel by Rider Haggard. Commercial films, including training films for the Army, Navy, Air Force, and United States Office of Education, held his attention for several years, until his still photography captured the interest of many national publications, such as *House & Garden*, *Arts & Architecture*, *McCall's*, and *The Architectural Forum*. In 1956 his work was brought to the attention of Edward Steichen, who included Burden's photographs in one of his Diogenes shows. Since then his major interest has been in photographic essays, such as his sensitive Weehawken Ferry and Ellis Island series. One series—*God Is My Life*—based on the lives of Trappist monks in Kentucky, became a book. *Behold Thy Mother*, a photographic essay on Lourdes, is now awaiting publication. Examples of Mr. Burden's photographic art have appeared on the walls of the Tokyo Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of New York, the Los Angeles Museum of Science and Industry, Downey Museum of Art, touring exhibitions with the American Society of Magazine Photographers, Eastman House, and many others. The Sienbab Gallery in Boston and the Limelight Gallery in New York have given Mr. Burden one-man exhibitions.



“In this poem of photographs and words Shirley Burden has expressed a lovely child’s wistful question that partakes of the holiness of prayer, and sears the conscience of us all.”

—Edward Steichen