THE Iona HERMIT

and end to build a house of stone and wood, to which he had
long been attached. He had intended to build there a
place of retirement, a refuge from the world, and a
"sanctuary" for his mind and soul. He had planned to
build a wall around the place, and to plant trees and
flowers. He had even considered the possibility of
building a small chapel, where he could pray and
meditate in solitude.

But now, as he stood there, looking out over the
ocean, he realized that his plans had been
misplaced. He realized that he had not
understood the true meaning of solitude. He had
not understood that solitude was not just a
place to escape, but a place to be alive.

He looked down at the ocean, and
realized that he was not alone. The wave was
not just a wave, but a reminder of the
universe. The ocean was not just the
ocean, but a symbol of the great
mystery of life.

And so he

continued

to

look out

over the

ocean,

and

to

think

about

the

meaning

of

life,

and

the

meaning

of

solitude.