

Thomas Merton Selected Essays

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thomas merton the trappist monk who died in 1968 was one of the great spiritual writers of the twentieth century his published works include a hundred volumes in many genres but it was

perhaps in the essay that he found his natural element especially in the last decade of his life merton showed in his essays an increasing willingness to dispense with pre fabricated conclusions bringing his deeply spiritual profoundly catholic sensibility to bear on matters beyond the usual religious and monastic milieu this volume is the first to provide a broad cross section of merton s work as an essayist collecting pieces that reflect characteristic examples of his astonishing output and the fantastic breadth of his interests the 33 essays collected here range from interreligious dialogue to racial justice from the wisdom of the desert fathers to the novels of faulkner and camus from the nuclear threat to the philosophy of solitude and throughout the centrality of the christian mystery to authentic human identity

pat o connell s synthesis of merton s spirituality offers us a hope filled book when hope is in short supply from the foreword by bonnie b thurston in thomas merton s holistic spirituality renowned merton scholar patrick f o connell shares the fruit of decades of reading reflecting speaking and writing about this captivating monastic figure he explores the full range of the prolific cistercian s diverse contributions to contemporary christian life and thought unified by his conviction that we must contain all divided worlds in ourselves and transcend them in christ this commitment to integrating seemingly disparate concerns and interests the historical with the contemporary the spiritual with the secular contemplative prayer with prophetic critique monastic stability with life long pilgrimage constitutes what o connell names as merton s holistic spirituality drawing on both well known and relatively little studied sources this book explores key themes and motifs that exemplify merton s commitment never fully realized yet never relinquished to what he called final integration an inner unity grounded in the experience of divine love that extends to embrace the entire human community and all creation

thinking is a dynamic process resulting from practices of integration thought encounters in openness wonder receptivity and contemplation confer upon us intellectual work that is uniquely our own digital patterns however distract us from these creative encounters our intellectual searching is weakened and fragmented by frenetic consumption of information we miss out on reason s innate pull toward integration and concrete reality this book is an invitation to enter into openness wonder receptivity and contemplation with deeper understanding and intentionality we can do this by considering exemplars persons who lived out the integrity of their hard won beliefs each process of integration is applied also so that practical knowledge and practice become a way into this intellectual restoration we need deeper knowledge won in the slow orbit of encounters encounters in thought are precisely what each generation needs to apprehend the cosmos nature authority truth and moral action responsibility to this ecologic age requires a reform of reason this book is just one attempt to

convey a way toward this restoration

this book argues that nature mysticism is an excellent source for building an ecological ethic that takes seriously the human responsibility in creation

an appreciation in journal form of thomas merton as spiritual writer monk and poet

an informative and fascinating look at merton s life and writings by a fellow trappist father basil takes us on a whirlwind review through the seasons of merton s life and work an engaging approach for new readers and a refreshing review for long time merton fans this carefully planned anthology by a fellow monk and a friend abounds with helpful insights into the life and writings of the most influential spiritual mentor of our time william h shannon author of silent lamp the thomas merton story a splendid introduction to thomas merton in his own words selections paint a balanced and rich portrait of the monk mystic poet prophet and spiritual master once again father pennington reveals his intimate knowledge of his subject e glenn hinson professor emeritus baptist theological seminary at richmond

a 365 daily devotional from one of the most influential and spiritual writers of modern times the perfect companion for daily gratitude prayer and reflection from the author of the seven storey mountain comes engaging journal entries guaranteed to inspire motivate and facilitate self reflection and spiritual guidance thomas merton s words touch the soul and spark the mind and can be read all at once or in parts year after year packed with merton s delightful pen and ink drawings and elegant black and white photographs this is the perfect gift for any spiritual seeker and gratitude manifester in your life if you struggle to stay in and enjoy the present moment or simply need some extra encouragement to slow down this guide is for you oftentimes the joy and hope we seek is very much alive in our lives we just need a little help uncovering it allow merton s affirmations to aide provoke and comfort your daily and spiritual journey one essay and day at a time

discover the timeless wisdom of thomas merton one of the most influential contemplative voices of the twentieth century in a book of hours this beautifully curated collection draws from merton s most lyrical and prayerful writings offering a rich resource for daily prayer and contemplation that embraces the ancient monastic tradition of praying the hours editor kathleen deignan has carefully selected and arranged passages from merton s vast works into a rhythm of prayers for dawn day dusk and dark for each day of the week enriched with psalms prayers readings and reflections this book creates a sanctuary for quiet contemplation and divine connection amid the busyness of daily life a book of hours draws from thomas merton s rich writings and blends elements of christian liturgy to

guide both personal and communal prayer it includes verses hymns and antiphons to invite prayer and reflection throughout the day psalms canticles and litanies for deep spiritual dialogue praise and insight readings and responsories for lectio divina with merton s writings offering spiritual guidance exhortations and meditations to inspire and challenge us the ancient examen practice helping us reflect on our thoughts habits and true self let a book of hours guide you into moments of peace and spiritual renewal inviting you to pause reflect and rediscover the sacred in every moment

amid the noise and distractions of everyday life is it really possible to choose to love the world in these times of great uncertainty and anxiety how can we find god thomas merton felt the urgency of these questions more than 50 years ago and his reflections upon them are more relevant than ever one of america s most beloved mystics of the 20th century merton s voice was prophetic in the troubled era of the 1960s in this new collection of thoughts and meditations selected from his most inspiring books and letters merton s radiant wisdom and foresight serve as a beacon of light for all of us searching to find true meaning and solace in today s difficult times father louis as he was known at the abbey of gethsemani fully embraced the contemplative life of a monk yet he never held the world at arm s length we and our world interpenetrate it is only in assuming full responsibility for our world for our lives and for ourselves that we can be said to live really for god sharply honest in his words but balanced by his poet s heart merton explores themes that include the inner ground of love living in wisdom and dialoguing with silence he teaches that contemplation is possible for everyone and that the fundamental context for seeking god s presence is always our everyday lives in the deep silence wisdom begins to sing her unending sunlit inexpressible song the private song she speaks to the solitary soul in choosing to love the world thomas merton inspires us to look deep within ourselves and in the peaceful silence of contemplation to find and sing our own song edited by jonathan montaldo associate director of the merton institute for contemplative living and director of bethany spring the merton institute retreat center in trappist kentucky

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