

## Thomas Merton Selected Essays

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This collection features thirty-three essays chosen by O'Connell who admits in his introduction that every Merton scholar is going to lament the omission of a particular favorite piece of Merton's writings. With that frank admission in place one must say that this anthology reflects a mature and balanced selection of Merton's prose.

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Get this from a library! Thomas Merton : selected essays. [Thomas Merton; Patrick F O'Connell] -- "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 ...

This volume provides a broad cross-section of Merton's work as an essayist, collecting pieces that are characteristic examples of his astonishing output and the fantastic breadth of his interests. The essays range from the wisdom of the desert fathers to the novels of Faulkner and Camus, from interreligious dialogue to racial justice.

This volume gathers together twelve essays that Thomas Merton wrote for various journals between 1947 and 1952, the years that saw the publication of his best-selling autobiography *The Seven Storey Mountain*, his ordination to the priesthood, and his initial appointment as spiritual and intellectual guide of the young monks at the Abbey of Gethsemani. The essays, most of which have never been reprinted, focus above all on aspects of the contemplative life but also consider the spiritual dimensions of literature and the social implications of Christian life. Issued to coincide with the one hundredth anniversary of his birth, this collection brings to fruition at long last Merton's own original plan of publishing these essays as a group and so makes available a previously little recognized and underutilized resource for understanding and appreciating a crucial transitional phase in his life as both monk and writer.

This volume is a stimulating series of spiritual reflections which will prove helpful for all struggling to find the meaning of human existence and to live the richest, fullest and noblest life. --Chicago Tribune

Among the numerous sets of conferences that Thomas Merton presented to young prospective monks during his decade (1955–1965) as novice master at the Cistercian Abbey of Gethsemani is a wide-ranging introduction to biblical studies, made available for the first time in the present volume. Drawing on church tradition, teaching of recent papal documents, and scholarly resources of the time, he reveals the central importance of the Scriptures for the spiritual growth of his listeners. The extensive introduction situates material of these conferences in the context of Merton's evolving engagement with the Bible from his own days as a student monk through the mature reflections from his final years on the biblical renewal in the wake of the Second Vatican Council. For Merton, at the heart of any meaningful reading of the Scriptures, not only for monks but for all Christians, is the invitation to respond not just intellectually but with the whole self, to recognize the gospel as “good news,” as a saving, liberating, consoling, challenging word, reflecting his fundamental belief that “the Holy Spirit enlightens us, in our reading, to see how our own lives are part of these great mysteries—how we are one with Jesus in them.”

Among the numerous sets of conferences that Thomas Merton presented during his decade (1955–1965) as novice master at the Cistercian Abbey of Gethsemani are the two courses included in the present volume, a thorough examination of the book of Genesis that began in mid-1956 and concluded on the Feast of Pentecost, 1957, and a considerably less detailed series of classes on the book of Exodus from 1957–1958. These texts, made available here for the first time in a critical edition accompanied by a

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comprehensive introduction and extensive annotation, comprise the only major surviving teaching notes on particular books of Scripture dating from the years when Merton was in charge of the novitiate and provide direct access to his views on the intellectual, and particularly the spiritual, contexts in which they should be read, understood, and appreciated. As biblical scholar Pauline Viviano writes in her preface, "This edition of Thomas Merton's class notes brings us into the workings of a great spiritual leader's mind as he reflects upon Scripture. . . . His audience consists of the novices at the Abbey of Gethsemani, but all who are on a spiritual journey can gain from his insights and the lessons he draws."

Discusses Blake, Joyce, Pasternak, Faulkner, Styron, O'Connor, Camus, symbolism, creativity, alienation, contemplation, and freedom

Poet, Trappist monk, religious philosopher, translator, social critic: the late Thomas Merton was all these things. This classic selection from his great body of poetry affords a comprehensive view of his varied and progressively innovative work. Selected by Mark Van Doren and James Laughlin, this slim volume is now available again as a wonderful showcase of Thomas Merton's splendid poetry.

Essays, meditations, parables, and verse offer insights into the absurdities and disorders of the modern world, the human crisis, and the benefits of Christian hope

Thomas Merton was recognized as one of those rare Western minds that are entirely at home with the Zen experience. In this collection, he discusses diverse religious concepts-early monasticism, Russian Orthodox spirituality, the Shakers, and Zen Buddhism-with characteristic Western directness. Merton not only studied these religions from the outside but grasped them by empathy and living participation from within. "All these studies," wrote Merton, "are united by one central concern: to understand various ways in which men of different traditions have conceived the meaning and method of the 'way' which leads to the highest levels of religious or of metaphysical awareness."

Includes excerpts from "Seven storey mountain", "Conjectures of a guilty bystander" and many other works including a chronology of Merton's life.

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