

BECOMING A MONK AND WRITER

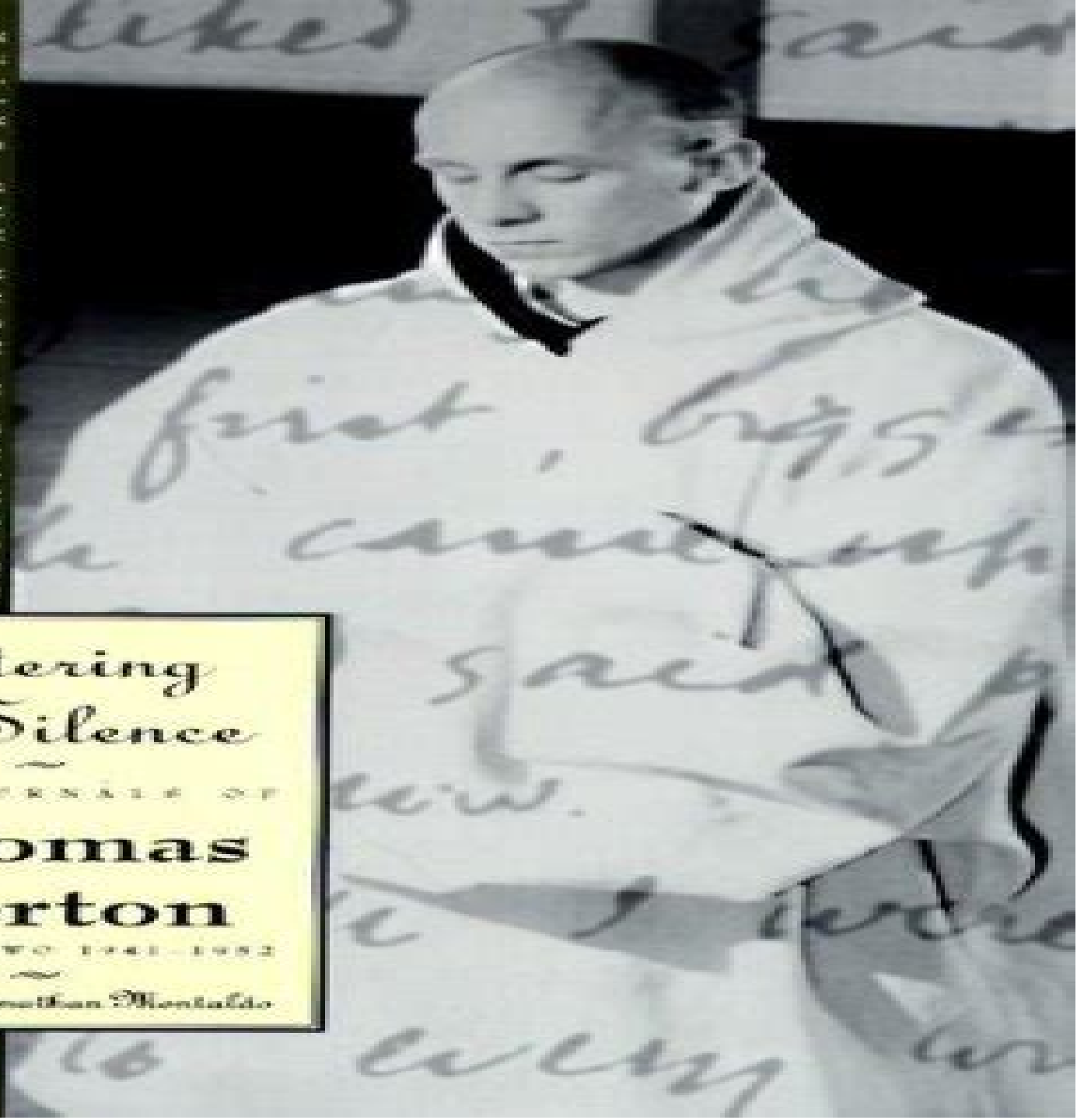
*Entering  
the Silence*

THE JOURNAL OF

**Thomas  
Merton**

VOLUME TWO 1941-1962

Edited by Jonathan Merialdo



# **Entering The Silence Becoming A Monk And Writer Journals Of Thomas Merton**

**Thomas Merton**



# Entering The Silence Becoming A Monk And Writer Journals Of Thomas Merton

*Entering the Silence* Thomas Merton, 2009-03-17 The second volume of Thomas Merton's gusty passionate journals Thomas Moore chronicles Merton's advancements to priesthood and emergence as a bestselling author with the surprise success of his autobiography *The Seven Storey Mountain* Spanning an eleven year period *Entering the Silence* reflects Merton's struggle to balance his vocation to solitude with the budding literary career that would soon established him as one of the most important spiritual writers of our century

[Entering the Silence](#) Thomas Merton, 1997-01-10 The second volume of Thomas Merton's gusty passionate journals Thomas Moore chronicles Merton's advancements to priesthood and emergence as a bestselling author with the surprise success of his autobiography *The Seven Storey Mountain* Spanning an eleven year period *Entering the Silence* reflects Merton's struggle to balance his vocation to solitude with the budding literary career that would soon established him as one of the most important spiritual writers of our century

**Thomas Merton's Gethsemani** Harry L. Hinkle, 2021-12-14 For twenty seven years renowned and beloved monk Thomas Merton 1915-1968 belonged to Our Lady of Gethsemani a Trappist monastery established in 1848 amid the hills and valleys near Bardstown Kentucky In Thomas Merton's Gethsemani dramatic black and white photographs by Harry L Hinkle and artful text by Merton scholar Monica Weis converge in a unique experience for lovers of Merton Hinkle was allowed unprecedented access to many areas inside the monastery and on its grounds that are generally restricted His photographs invite the reader to experience the various knobs lakes woods and hermitages Merton sought out for times of solitude and contemplation and for reading and writing These unique images each accompanied by a passage from Merton's writings evoke personal reflection and a deeper understanding of how and why Merton came to recognize himself as a part of his Kentucky landscape Woven throughout the book Weis's text explores Merton's fascination with nature not only at Gethsemani but during his early childhood throughout his spiritual conversion to Roman Catholicism and while a member of the Trappist community She examines how Merton's lifelong interaction with nature subtly revealed and informed his profound spiritual experiences and his writing about contemplation Thomas Merton's Gethsemani replicates Merton's path on his solitary hikes in the woods and conveys the wonder of the landscapes that inspired him

**Echoing Silence** Thomas Merton, 2007-02-13 When Thomas Merton entered a Trappist monastery in December 1941 he turned his back on secular life including a very promising literary career He sent his journals a novel in progress and copies of all his poems to his mentor Columbia professor Mark Van Doren for safe keeping fully expecting to write little if anything ever again It was a relatively short lived resolution for Merton almost immediately found himself being assigned writing tasks by his Abbot one of which was the autobiographical essay that

blossomed into his international best seller *The Seven Storey Mountain*. That book made him famous overnight and for a time he struggled with the notion that the vocation of the monk and the vocation of the writer were incompatible. Monasticism called for complete surrender to the absolute whereas writing demanded a tactical withdrawal from experience in order to record it. He eventually came to accept his dual vocation as two sides of the same spiritual coin and used it as a source of creative tension the rest of his life. Merton's thoughts on writing have never been compiled into a single volume until now. Robert Inchausti has mined the vast Merton literature to discover what he had to say on a whole spectrum of literary topics including writing as a spiritual calling, the role of the Christian writer in a secular society, the joys and mysteries of poetry and evaluations of his own literary work. Also included are fascinating glimpses of his take on a range of other writers including Henry David Thoreau, Flannery O'Connor, Dylan Thomas, Albert Camus, James Joyce and even Henry Miller along with many others.

***Come Into the Silence*** Thomas Merton, 2021-01-22 *Come into the Silence* is an easy to use devotional for all those seeking peace, stillness and solitude in a busy and noisy world. Part of the bestselling *30 Days with a Great Spiritual Teacher* series, this book invites you into the contemplative life through the words of Thomas Merton, one of the most popular spiritual masters of the twentieth century. In his journals, letters and spiritual writings such as *New Seeds of Contemplation*, Merton explored the tension between the human longing for both connection and solitude. Merton, a Trappist monk at the Abbey of Gethsemani, offered a model of contemplative life that allowed him to be deeply engaged with pressing issues of the time including the nonviolent civil rights movement. Requiring only a few minutes each day, *Come into the Silence* helps you realize how God sees you and to embrace his divine vision of you and each person you encounter. This devotional also allows you to reflect deeply on the fundamental longings for meaning, belonging and intimacy as well as the call to service and social justice in your life. Each book in the *30 Days with a Great Spiritual Teacher* series provides a month of daily readings from one of Christianity's most beloved spiritual guides. For each day there is a brief and accessible morning meditation drawn from the mystic's writings, a simple mantra for use throughout the day and a night prayer to focus one's thoughts as the day ends. These easy to use books are the perfect prayer companion for busy people who want to root their spiritual practice in the solid ground of these great spiritual teachers.

***Dancing in the Water of Life*** Thomas Merton, 2009-03-17 The sixties were a time of restlessness, inner turmoil and exuberance for Merton during which he closely followed the careening development of political and social activism: Martin Luther King Jr and the March on Selma, the Catholic Worker Movement, the Vietnam war and the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Volume 5 chronicles the approach of Merton's fiftieth birthday and marks his move to Mount Olivet, his hermitage at the Abbey of Gethsemani where he was finally able to fully embrace the joys and challenges of solitary life. In the hermitage, one must pray or go to seed. The pretense of prayer will not suffice. Just sitting will not suffice. Solitude puts you with your back to the wall or your face to it and this is good. 13 October 1964

***Dialogues with Silence*** Thomas Merton, 2009-10-13 An intensely personal devotional book from Thomas Merton, the ultimate spiritual

writer of our time showing his contemplative and religious side through his prayers and rarely seen drawings The only Merton gift book available Dialogues with Silence contains a selection of prayers from throughout Merton s life from his journals letters poetry books accompanied by all 100 of Merton s rarely seen delightful Zen like pen and ink drawings and will attract new readers as well as Merton devotees There is no other Merton devotional like this and the paperback edition will be elegantly designed and packaged

**Thoughts In Solitude** Thomas Merton,2011-04-01 Thoughtful and eloquent as timely or timeless now as when it was originally published in 1956 Thoughts in Solitude addresses the pleasure of a solitary life as well as the necessity for quiet reflection in an age when so little is private Thomas Merton writes When society is made up of men who know no interior solitude it can no longer be held together by love and consequently it is held together by a violent and abusive authority But when men are violently deprived of the solitude and freedom which are their due the society in which they live becomes putrid it festers with servility resentment and hate Thoughts in Solitude stands alongside The Seven Storey Mountain as one of Merton s most uring and popular works Thomas Merton a Trappist monk is perhaps the foremost spiritual thinker of the twentiethcentury His diaries social commentary and spiritual writings continue to be widely read after his untimely death in 1968

**The Seven Storey Mountain** Thomas Merton,1985 One man s search to find his role in the world is revealed in the writer s portrait of his youthful political activism and entry into a Trappist monastery

**Firstlight** Sue Monk Kidd,2007-09-25 From the bestselling author of The Secret Life of Bees and the new novel The Book of Longings comes a thoughtful revelatory book of writings on self and spirit Before she won an international readership with her novels Sue Monk Kidd was best known for her smart passionate spiritual writings Now many of those early stories and essays most of which first appeared in Guideposts are collected in one volume organized around thirteen spiritual motifs In Firstlight Kidd charts her emergence as a writer and seeker reflects on her roles as wife mother daughter nurse and artist and assesses what she has learned in settings as far flung as Africa and her own home The result is an intimate uplifting book filled with moments of recognition and discovery

**The Literary Essays of Thomas Merton** Thomas Merton,1985 Discusses Blake Joyce Pasternak Faulkner Styron O Connor Camus symbolism creativity alienation contemplation and freedom

*Contemplative Prayer* Thomas Merton,2009-11-17 In this classic text Thomas Merton offers valuable guidance for prayer He brings together a wealth of meditative and mystical influences from John of the Cross to Eastern desert monasticism to create a spiritual path for today Most important he shows how the peace contacted through meditation should not be sought in order to evade the problems of contemporary life but can instead be directed back out into the world to affect positive change Contemplative Prayer is one of the most well known works of spirituality of the last one hundred years and it is a must read for all seeking to live a life of purpose in today s world In a moving and profound introduction Thich Nhat Hanh offers his personal recollections of Merton and compares the contemplative traditions of East and West

**On Eastern Meditation** Thomas Merton,2012-06-20 A great introduction to the religions of the East by a monk from the

West Merton's biographer George Woodcock once wrote that almost from the beginning of his monastic career Thomas Merton tentatively began to discover the great Asian religions of Buddhism and Taoism. Merton, a longtime social justice advocate, first approached Eastern theology as an admirer of Gandhi's beliefs on non-violence. Through Gandhi, Merton came to know the great Hindu text, the Bhagavad Gita, and in time came to have dialogues with the Dalai Lama and Taoist leader D. T. Suzuki. Merton then became deeply interested in Chuang Tzu and Zen thought. On Eastern Meditation, edited by Bonnie Thurston, author of *Merton and Buddhism*, gathers the best of his Eastern theological writings into a gorgeously designed gift book edition.

**In Praise of the Useless Life** Paul Quenon, 2018-04-13 Winner of two 2019 Catholic Press Association Awards: Memoir First Place and Cover Design Second Place. Monastic life and its counter-cultural wisdom come alive in the stories and lessons of Br Paul Quenon O.C.S.O. during his more than five decades as a Trappist at the Abbey of Gethsemani. He served as a novice under Thomas Merton and he also welcomed some of the monastery's more well-known visitors including Sr Helen Prejean and Seamus Heaney to Merton's hermitage. *In Praise of the Useless Life* includes Quenon's quiet reflections on what it means to live each day with careful attentiveness. The humble peace and simplicity of the monastery and of Quenon's daily life are beautifully portrayed in this memoir. Whether it be through the daily routine of the monastery, his love of the outdoors no matter the season, or his lively and interesting conversations with visitors reciting Emily Dickinson with Pico Iyer, discussing Merton and poetry with Czeslaw Milosz, Quenon's gentle musings display his love for the beauty in his vocation and the people he's encountered along the way. Inspired by his novice master Merton, the poet and photographer's stories remind us that the beauty of life can best be seen in the uselessness of daily life: having a quiet chat with a friend, spending time in contemplation in our vocations, and in the memories we make along the way.

**When the Trees Say Nothing** Thomas Merton, 2003-01-01 First published in 2003 and now available in paperback to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of Thomas Merton's birth. *When the Trees Say Nothing* has sold more than 60,000 copies and continually inspires readers with its unique collection of Merton's luminous writings on nature arranged for reflection and meditation. Thomas Merton was a Trappist monk, author, poet, social commentator, and perhaps the most influential and widely published spiritual writer of the twentieth century. In *When the Trees Say Nothing*, editor Kathleen Deignan sheds new light on Merton by focusing on a neglected theme of his writing: the natural world as a manifestation of the divine. Drawing from Merton's voluminous writing on nature, Deignan has thematically assembled a collection of lucid poetic reflections. Chapters on the four elements, the seasons, the Earth and its creatures, and the sun, moon, and stars provide brief passages from his diverse works that reveal the presence of God in creation.

**The Environmental Vision of Thomas Merton** Monica Weis, 2011-05-01 Nature was always vital in Thomas Merton's life, from the long hours he spent as a child watching his father paint landscapes in the fresh air to his final years of solitude in the hermitage at Our Lady of Gethsemani, where he contemplated and wrote about the beauty of his surroundings. Throughout his life, Merton's study of the natural world shaped

his spirituality in profound ways and he was one of the first writers to raise concern about ecological issues that have become critical in recent years In *The Environmental Vision of Thomas Merton* author Monica Weis suggests that Merton's interest in nature which developed significantly during his years at the Abbey of Gethsemani laid the foundation for his growing environmental consciousness Tracing Merton's awareness of the natural world from his childhood to the final years of his life Weis explores his deepening sense of place and desire for solitude his love and responsibility for all living things and his evolving ecological awareness

**The Sign of Jonas** Thomas Merton, 2002-11-18 This diary of a monastic life is a continuation of *The Seven Storey Mountain* Astonishing Commonweal Chronicling six years of Thomas Merton's life in a Trappist monastery *The Sign of Jonas* takes us through his day to day experiences at the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani where he lived in silence and prayer for much of his life Concluding with the account of Merton's ordination as a priest this diary documents his growing acceptance of his vocation and the greater meaning he found within his private world of contemplation This book is made unmistakably real and almost at times unbearably poignant by the fact that the exuberance of youth so often wells up through it with rapture impatience and even bluster *The New York Times* A stirring book the most readable and on the whole most illuminating of the author's writings *Catholic World*

**The Seeker and the Monk** Scott Sophronia, Taylor Brown, Barbara, 2021-03-16 What if we truly belong to each other What if we are all walking around shining like the sun Mystic monk and activist Thomas Merton asked those questions in the twentieth century Writer Sophronia Scott is asking them today In *The Seeker and the Monk* Scott mines the extensive private journals of one of the most influential contemplative thinkers of the past for guidance on how to live in these fraught times As a Black woman who is not Catholic Scott both learns from and pushes back against Merton holding spirited and intimate conversations on race ambition faith activism nature prayer friendship and love She asks What is the connection between contemplation and action Is there ever such a thing as a wrong answer to a spiritual question How do we care about the brutality in the world while not becoming overwhelmed by it By engaging in this lively discourse readers will gain a steady sense of how to dwell more deeply within and even to love this despairing and radiant world

**The Intimate Merton** Thomas Merton, 2009-10-06 In this diary like memoir composed of his most poignant and insightful journal entries *The Intimate Merton* lays bare the steep ways of Thomas Merton's spiritual path Culled from the seven volumes of his personal journals this twenty nine year chronicle deepens and extends the story Thomas Merton recounted and made famous in *The Seven Storey Mountain* This book is the spiritual autobiography of our century's most celebrated monk the wisdom gained from the personal experience of an enduring spiritual teacher Here is Merton's account of his life's major challenges his confrontations with monastic and church hierarchies his interaction with religious traditions east and west and his antiwar and civil rights activities In *The Intimate Merton* we engage a writer's art of confession and witness as he searches for a contemporary authentic and global spirituality Recounting Merton's earliest days in the monastery to his journey east to meet the Dalai Lama *The Intimate*

Merton captures the essence of what makes Thomas Merton's life journey so perennially relevant **The Other Side of the Mountain** Thomas Merton, 2010-09-14 With the election of a new Abbot at the Abbey of Gethsemani Merton enters a period of unprecedented freedom culminating in the opportunity to travel to California Alaska and finally the Far East journeys that offer him new possibilities and causes for contemplation In his last days at the Abbey of Gethsemani Merton continues to follow the tumultuous events of the sixties including the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr and Robert Kennedy In Southeast Asia he meets the Dalai Lama and other Buddhist and Catholic monks and discovers a rare and rewarding kinship with each The final year is full of excitement and great potential for Merton making his accidental death in Bangkok at the age of fifty three all the more tragic

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