



Thomas Merton: Spiritual Master, The Essential Writings

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A one-volume anthology of the spiritual writings of the greatest spiritual master the American Catholic church has produced in this century. The selections, which are substantial in length, provide a generous sampling of Merton's vast output.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This reader contains sizable portions of representative texts written over the course of Merton's monastic career. They are meant to emphasize his gifts as a "spiritual master," which in the Christian context "refers to greatness, not domination." The selections are divided into autobiographical and spiritual writings, though it is difficult to separate Merton from his spiritual questions and experiences. His reflective writing reveals a wide knowledge of spiritual resources. What makes Merton great is his "depth of perception, art, and imaginative power . . . or wisdom." He was a rare individual who was equipped by life experience to articulate the deep hungers of the modern mind for the absolute and for meaning. This volume also includes some lesser-known works that have never been published in book form. Recommended for general religion collections.

- *Carol J. Lichtenberg, Washington State Univ. Libs., Pullman*

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About the Author

Thomas Merton (1915-1968) was a Trappist monk, writer, and peace and civil rights activist. Merton's works have had a profound impact on contemporary religious and philosophical thought. He is best known for his autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain* and *New Seeds of Contemplation*.

Cunningham is professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame.

Users Review

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