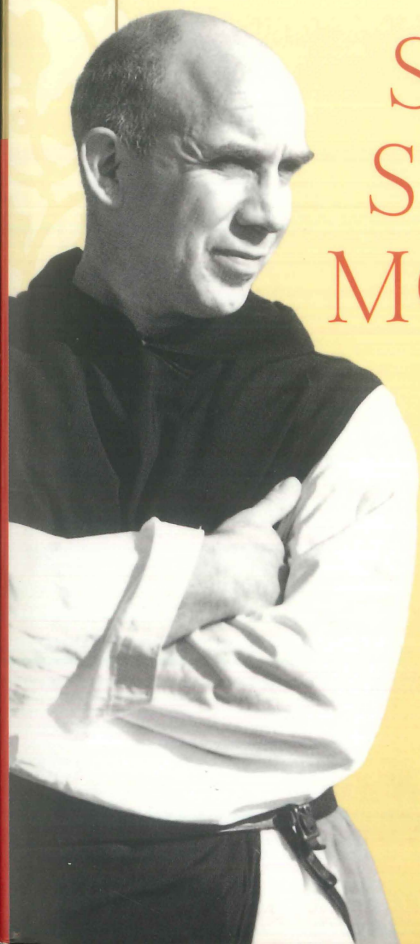


# THOMAS MERTON

## THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN



AN  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY  
OF FAITH

A HARVEST BOOK

THE  
SEVEN  
STOREY  
MOUNTAIN



BOOKS BY  
THOMAS MERTON

- The Ascent to Truth*  
*The Courage for Truth*  
*Disputed Questions*  
*The Hidden Ground of Love*  
*The Last of the Fathers*  
*Love and Living*  
*No Man Is an Island*  
*The Road to Joy*  
*The School of Charity*  
*The Seven Storey Mountain*  
*The Sign of Jonas*  
*The Waters of Siloe*  
*Witness to Freedom*

*"For I tell you that God is able of these stones  
to raise up children to Abraham"*



---

THE  
SEVEN  
STOREY  
MOUNTAIN

*Fiftieth Anniversary Edition*

THOMAS MERTON

A HARVEST BOOK

HARCOURT BRACE & COMPANY

*San Diego      New York      London*



Introduction copyright © 1998 by Robert Giroux  
Note to the Reader copyright © 1998 by William H. Shannon

Copyright 1948 by Harcourt Brace & Company  
Copyright renewed 1976 by The Trustees of the Merton Legacy Trust

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Requests for permission to make copies of any part of the work should be mailed to: Permissions Department,

Harcourt Brace & Company,  
6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, Florida 32887-6777.

The poem "Song for Our Lady of Cobre" on page 310 by Thomas Merton, from *The Collected Poems of Thomas Merton*. Copyright © 1944 by Our Lady of Gethsemani Monastery. Reprinted by permission of New Directions Publishing Corp.

The poem "For My Brother: Reported Missing in Action, 1943" on page 444, by Thomas Merton, from *The Collected Poems of Thomas Merton*. Copyright © 1948 by New Directions Publishing Corporation, 1977 by The Trustees of the Merton Legacy Trust. Reprinted by permission of New Directions Publishing Corp.

Ex parte Ordinis:

Nihil obstat: FR. M. GABRIEL O'CONNELL, O.C.S.O.

FR. M. ANTHONY CHASSAGNE, O.C.S.O.

Imprimi potest: FR. M. FREDERIC DUNNE, O.C.S.O., Abbot of Our Lady of Gethsemani

Nihil obstat: JOHN M. A. FEARNs, S.T.D., Censor librorum

Imprimatur: ✠ FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN, Archbishop of New York

ISBN 0-15-100413-7

ISBN 0-15-601086-0 (pbk)

Text set in Monotype Janson  
Book designed by Kaelin Chappell  
Printed in the United States of America  
First Harvest edition 1999

F H J L N M K I G

CHRISTO

VERO

REGI

## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION xi

by Robert Giroux

A NOTE TO THE READER xix

by William H. Shannon

### PART ONE

ONE Prisoner's Base 3

TWO Our Lady of the Museums 33

THREE The Harrowing of Hell 75

FOUR The Children in the Market Place 145

### PART TWO

ONE With a Great Price 185

TWO The Waters of Contradiction 247

### PART THREE

ONE Magnetic North 283

TWO True North 327

THREE The Sleeping Volcano 369

FOUR The Sweet Savor of Liberty 409

EPILOGUE *Meditatio Pauperis in Solitudine* 445

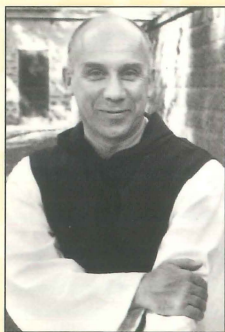
INDEX 463



“Without a life of the spirit  
our whole existence becomes  
unsubstantial and illusory.”

—THOMAS MERTON

**THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN** is one of the most famous books ever written about a man's search for faith and peace. While still in his early twenties, Merton, an intensely passionate and brilliant man, found that nothing in his worldly life assuaged a growing restlessness. His curiosity about spiritual matters led him first to baptism as a Catholic and ultimately to entry into a Trappist monastery—“the four walls of my new freedom.” There he wrote this extraordinary testament, a unique spiritual autobiography of a man who withdrew from the world only after he had fully immersed himself in it. In the half-century since its original publication, *The Seven Storey Mountain* has been recognized as one of the most influential religious works of our time. Translated into more than twenty languages, it has touched millions of lives.



**Thomas Merton** was born in France in 1915. Despite choosing a life of contemplation and prayer, he continued to communicate with some of the most famous activists, artists, politicians, and theologians of his day, and wrote many books, articles, and essays. He died during a visit to Thailand in 1968.

Photos by Sibylle Akers. Courtesy of Gethsemani Abbey Archives

A Harvest Book  
Harcourt Brace & Company  
525 B Street, San Diego, CA 92101  
15 East 26th Street, New York, NY 10010

1099

\$16.00 / Higher in Canada

ISBN 0-15-601086-0



5 1600 >



9 780156 010863