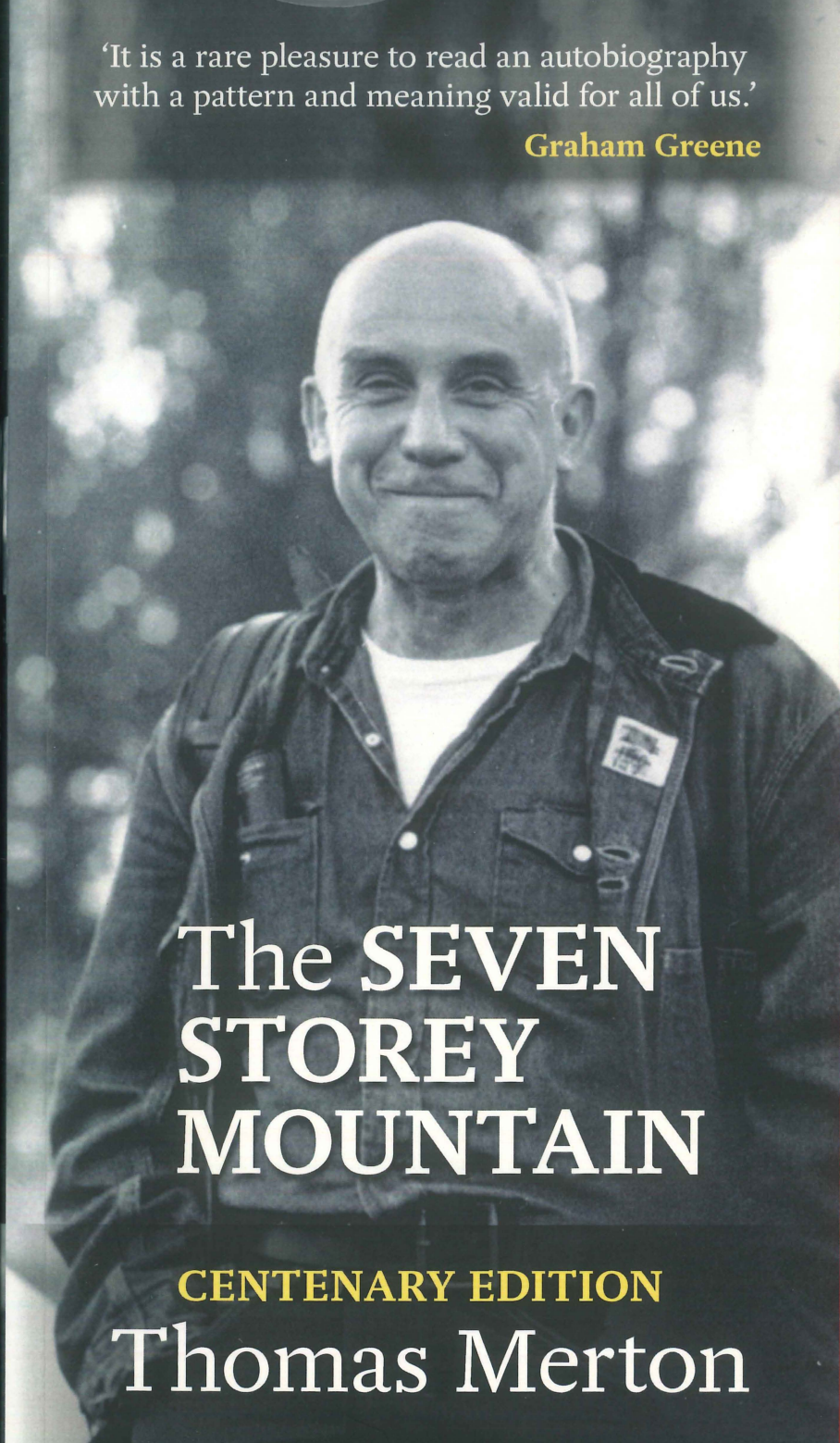


'It is a rare pleasure to read an autobiography
with a pattern and meaning valid for all of us.'

Graham Greene



The SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN

CENTENARY EDITION

Thomas Merton

CLASSICS

SPCK

CLASSICS

SPCK

CLASSICS

The SEVEN
STOREY
MOUNTAIN

CLASSICS SPCK CLASSICS SPCK CLASSICS

The poems "Song for Our Lady of Cobre" on page 283 and "For My Brother: Reported Missing in Action, 1943" on page 404 are quoted from *Thirty Poems* by Thomas Merton, copyright 1944 by Our Lady of Gethsemani Monastery and used by permission of the publisher, New Directions.

The SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN

CENTENARY EDITION

THOMAS
MERTON

SPCK CLASSICS

Originally published in the United States of America in 1948
by Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York

First published in Great Britain in 1975 by Sheldon Press
Reprinted five times

SPCK edition published in 1990

Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge
36 Causton Street
London SW1P 4ST
www.spckpublishing.co.uk

Reprinted six times
Reissued 2009

Reprinted 2011, 2012, 2013
Centenary edition 2015

Copyright © The Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani 1949, 1961, 1975, 1990, 2015

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

SPCK does not necessarily endorse the individual views contained in its publications.

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-281-07336-5

Printed in Great Britain by Ashford Colour Press
Subsequently digitally printed in Great Britain

Produced on paper from sustainable forests

Contents

PART ONE

- 1 Prisoner's Base 3
- 2 Our Lady of the Museums 30
- 3 The Harrowing of Hell 68
- 4 The Children in the Market Place 131

PART TWO

- 1 With a Great Price 169
- 2 The Waters of Contradiction 226

PART THREE

- 1 Magnetic North 259
- 2 True North 299
- 3 The Sleeping Volcano 337
- 4 The Sweet Savor of Liberty 372

EPILOGUE

- Meditatio Pauperis in Solitudine* 407

- Index 425

The complete and unedited edition of Thomas Merton's famous autobiography, one of the greatest works of spiritual pilgrimage ever written.

'*The Seven Storey Mountain* is a book one reads with a pencil so as to make it one's own.'

Graham Greene

'A remarkable book, a classic of its kind, written in a vivid, rich and alert style which ranges from crisp vernacular to passionate eloquence, full of picturesque incident and passing at times into religious ecstasy.'

The Times Literary Supplement

'A book which may well prove to be of permanent interest in the history of religious experience.'

Evelyn Waugh

THOMAS MERTON (1915–1968) was a Trappist monk, writer, and peace and civil-rights activist. His bestselling books include *New Seeds of Contemplation*.

www.spckpublishing.co.uk
Follow us @SPCKPublishing

ISBN 978-0-281-07366-5



9 780281 073665

Photograph of Thomas Merton by John Lyons. Used with permission of the Merton Legacy Trust and the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University.

Cover design
by Monica Capoferri