

A HARVEST/HBJ BOOK

THOMAS MERTON

THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN



The Seven Storey Mountain

BOOKS BY THOMAS MERTON

The Ascent to Truth

Disputed Questions

The Last of the Fathers

Love and Living

No Man Is an Island

The Seven Storey Mountain

The Sign of Jonas

The Waters of Siloe

THOMAS MERTON

The Seven Storey Mountain

"FOR I TELL YOU THAT GOD IS ABLE OF THESE STONES
TO RAISE UP CHILDREN TO ABRAHAM."



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THOMAS MERTON

THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN

One of the most famous books ever written on a man's search for faith and peace, *The Seven Storey Mountain* was hailed on publication as "a twentieth-century form of *The Confessions of St. Augustine*" (Bishop Fulton J. Sheen). While still in his early twenties, Merton, an intensely active and brilliant young man, found that nothing in his worldly life assuaged a growing restlessness. A curiosity about spiritual matters, fueled by the writings of Etienne Gilson and the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins and William Blake, led him first to baptism as a Catholic and ultimately to entry into a Trappist monastery — "the four walls of my new freedom." Here he wrote this extraordinary testament — the unique spiritual document of a man who withdrew from the world only after he had fully immersed himself in it.

"The book is written simply; the sensory images of boyhood are wonderful, and the incisive quality of his criticism, that tartness of his humor, have not been sentimentalized by Merton's entry into a monastery."

— *Commonweal*

"The fervor of his progress to the Trappist monastery at Gethsemani is deeply moving. It is a difficult matter to write about, but I think there will be many who, however alien the experience may remain to them personally, will put the narrative down with wonder and respect."

— *New York Herald Tribune Books*

"*The Seven Storey Mountain* is essentially the odyssey of a soul . . . It has warmth and gusto and Augustinian wit."

— *Saturday Review of Literature*

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