

A DOUBLEDAY IMAGE BOOK \$1.95

ORIGINAL EDITION \$3.00

THOMAS
MERTON

The extraordinary
autobiography
that has become
a modern
spiritual
classic.

The
Seven
Storey
Mountain

COMPLETE AND UNABRIDGED

IMAGE D281



Since its first publication, this autobiography of an exceptional man has been read by millions and has become one of the greatest spiritual classics of our time. Some of the tremendous praise accorded *THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN* is indicated below:

"It is a rare pleasure to read an autobiography with a pattern and meaning valid for all of us. *THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN* is a book one reads with a pencil so as to make it one's own."

Graham Greene

"*THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN* is essentially the odyssey of a soul. As such it stands as a more human document than the comparable 'Apologia Pro Vita Sua' of John Henry Newman. It has warmth and gusto and Augustinian wit."

Saturday Review of Literature

"The autobiography of Thomas Merton is a Twentieth Century form of the *Confessions of St. Augustine*."

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

"*THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN* is a book that deeply impresses the mind and the heart for days. It fills one with love and hope and shame—shame for one's self."

Commonweal

"It is to a book like this that men will turn a hundred years from now to find out what went on in the heart of man in this cruel century."

Clare Boothe Luce

"I found *THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN* more than merely interesting, because it deals, as do so few modern autobiographies (or indeed books of any sort), not with what happens to a man, but what happens inside him—that is, inside his soul. It should hold the attention of Catholic and non-Catholic alike."

Clifton Fadiman

Books by Thomas Merton

THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN
THE SIGN OF JONAS
THE ASCENT TO TRUTH
THE WATERS OF SILOE
SEEDS OF CONTEMPLATION
BREAD IN THE WILDERNESS
EXILE ENDS IN GLORY
WHAT ARE THESE WOUNDS?
THE LAST OF THE FATHERS
NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

Verse

THE TEARS OF THE BLIND LIONS
A MAN IN THE DIVIDED SEA
FIGURES FOR AN APOCALYPSE
THIRTY POEMS

THOMAS MERTON

*The Seven Storey
Mountain*

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



IMAGE BOOKS

A Division of Doubleday & Company, Inc.
Garden City, New York

Image Books edition 1970
by special arrangement with Harcourt, Brace & World
Image Books edition published September 1970

The poems "Song for Our Lady of Cobre" on page 342 and
"For My Brother: Reported Missing in Action, 1943" on
page 489 are quoted from *Thirty Poems* by Thomas Mer-
ton, copyright 1944 by Our Lady of Gethsemani Monastery
and used by permission of the publisher, New Directions.

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

Copyright 1948 by Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc.
All Rights Reserved
Printed in the United States of America

CHRISTO
VERO
REGI

Contents

PART ONE

1	<i>Prisoner's Base</i>	11
2	<i>Our Lady of the Museums</i>	43
3	<i>The Harrowing of Hell</i>	88
4	<i>The Children in the Market Place</i>	164

PART TWO

1	<i>With a Great Price</i>	207
2	<i>The Waters of Contradiction</i>	275

PART THREE

1	<i>Magnetic North</i>	313
2	<i>True North</i>	362
3	<i>The Sleeping Volcano</i>	408
4	<i>The Sweet Savor of Liberty</i>	451

EPILOGUE

	<i>Meditatio Pauperis in Solitudine</i>	493
	<i>Index</i>	513

The book for all seasons

THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN is one of the greatest spiritual classics of our time. Here is the extraordinary testament of an intensely active and brilliant young man who decided to withdraw from the world only after he had fully immersed himself in it. At the age of 26 Thomas Merton entered a Trappist monastery.

Father M. Louis, as he was called in the Order, tells his story with wit, intensity, and exuberance. In every sense a man of his times—the period between the two world wars—Merton spent his childhood in America and France. At twenty, an orphan, he returned once again to America where he enrolled at Columbia. Concerned over the social and economic injustices of modern life, he joined a young Communist group. Later he worked at a Catholic settlement house in Harlem, became a convert to Catholicism, and several years after his conversion entered the Trappist order. The latter section of the book forms a fascinating account of the daily life of a Trappist monk. Written from his cell in the monastery at Gethsemani, THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN is more than a man's experiences with the outside world: it is the portrait of an inner life, the odyssey of a soul.

Bracing in its realism, deeply moving, and challenging in its message for man, THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN is one of those rare books whose validity and meaning are ageless.

IMAGE  BOOKS