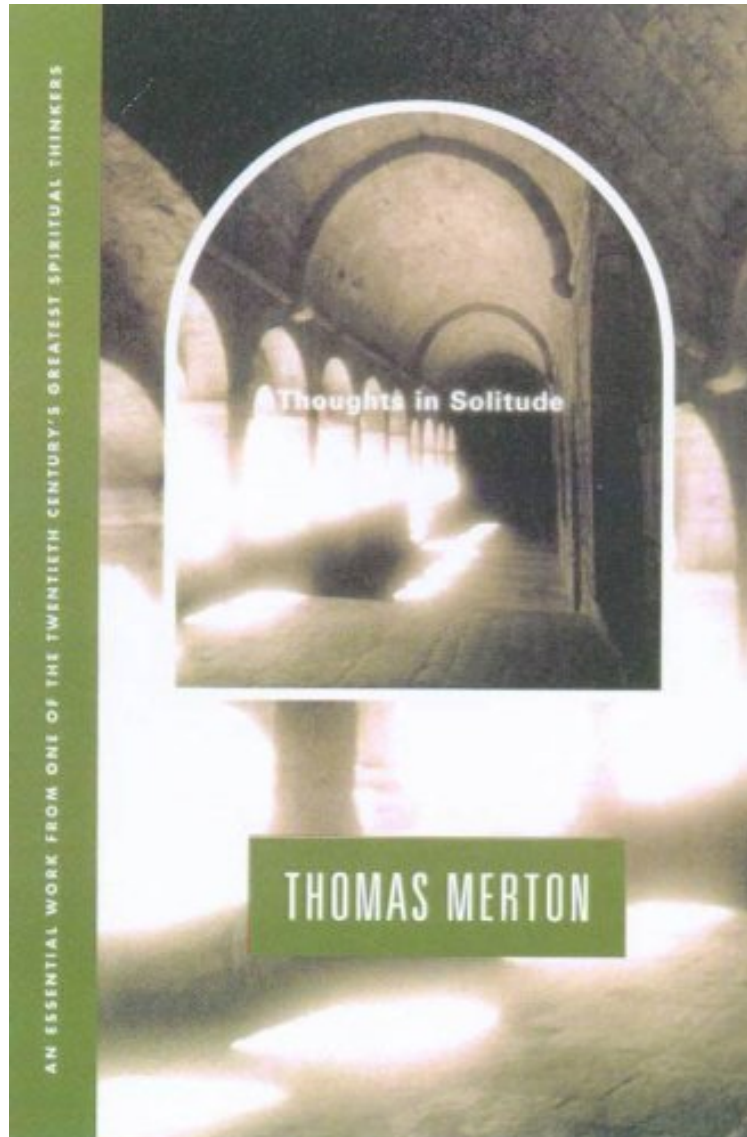


(Free) Thoughts In Solitude

## Thoughts In Solitude

Von Thomas Merton

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**Von Thomas Merton : Thoughts In Solitude** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thoughts In Solitude:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. New Seeds of Contemplation is Thomas Merton's best book.Von Ein KundeNew Seeds of Contemplation is a book ON contemplation. It is a wonderful book, and shows Merton at the height of his "powers" (his relationship with God). It breathes the peace and slowness of the contemplative life, and discusses spiritual problems, thorny issues, questions

that come up, and issues of justice and procedure. Merton is a master at tackling questions probably everyone has wondered about, but not known the answer to, skilled as he was in both prayer AND spiritual direction. It is also a beautiful book, with the monk's simplicity of perspective on being and doing, similar to Brother Lawrence's "Practicing the Presence of God". "Work done under pressure cannot be dedicated to God, because God does not will such work." "If you have to live in a city and work among machines and noise, be glad that you at least have a spark of peace in your soul and know solitude is the source of peace and joy - many people do not even know that anymore." (I am paraphrasing). He was a contemporary monk in a modern world faced with the modern world's problems, but commenting on these from a place apart - his monastery, so his voice was at once very necessary, and irreplaceable. Highly recommended.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Need to contemplate to understand  
Von Hideki Yamada This is a great book, in my opinion, but it does require that the reader be at least somewhat familiar with the contemplative experience in order to fully appreciate its insights. In other words, I do not believe that "New Seeds of Contemplation" is particularly appropriate as an introductory treatise on contemplation. Merton is extremely adept at depicting and expounding on those contemplative experiences that one too often is unable to find the correct words with which to describe. But without any experience of contemplation prior to reading this book, those persons who are just starting to explore a contemplative life may well find its language fleeting and difficult to comprehend. On a personal note, I myself found "New Seeds of Contemplation" a difficult read on my first try. I revisited the book after spending some time at a Cistercian monastery, and it spoke to me in the heart in ways few books have ever spoken. As one of our fellow reviewers has stated, "New Seeds of Contemplation" may require the reader to be at a certain point in life. This does not make the reader "inadequate" for not enjoying the book, nor is the book's value in any way diminished. It is just the way it is.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This is a beautiful little book.  
Von Ein Kunde Thoughts in Solitude, by Thomas Merton, is a beautiful little book with musings and insights which come out of his life as a contemplative monk. One thing I love about Merton - and this book - is that it breathes solitude - slow, reflective, thoughtful, quiet solitude. Merton knows what we ALL should know - that Reality can only be ascertained from a silence and stillness of being. This Reality - the reality of God and of one's Self - is the groundwork for proper action or speech in the world. Far from fleeing one's duties, one only discovers them properly if one has incorporated this into one's life. He speaks of the things that are most useful precisely because they are useless to man, the silence that penetrates the very bones of a monk, the discovery of Self and of God by leaving self and over-externality. One finds one's Self by losing one's self, one speaks with meaning by being silent, one finds God by renouncing gods. The spiritual life IS a contradiction from a worldly standpoint. He who is last shall be first, he who is most mature shall become like a child, he who has nothing shall have everything. The discovery of God and one's Self is a stripping away - not an accumulation, a receptivity, not an overwhelming. Highly recommended.

Kurzbeschreibung Thoughtful and eloquent, as timely (or timeless) now as when it was originally published in 1956, Thoughts in Solitude addresses the pleasure of a solitary life, as well as the necessity for quiet reflection in an age when so little is private. Thomas Merton writes: "When society is made up of men who know no interior solitude it can no longer be held together by love: and consequently it is held together by a violent and abusive authority. But when men are violently deprived of the solitude and freedom which are their due, the society in which they live becomes putrid, it festers with servility, resentment and hate." Thoughts in Solitude stands alongside The Seven Storey Mountain as one of Merton's mosturing and popular works. Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk, is perhaps the foremost spiritual thinker of the twentieth century. His diaries, social commentary, and spiritual writings continue to be widely read after his untimely death in 1968.

de The renowned Trappist monk Thomas Merton wrote Thoughts in Solitude in 1953 and 1954, when his superiors allowed him extended periods of seclusion and meditation. This elegant gift book, with clean, spare type and graphics, does justice to a 20th-classic (this is its 25th printing). What has made this book such an enduring and popular work is that it recognizes how important solitude is to our morality, integrity, and ability to love. One does not have to be a monk to find solitude, notes Merton; solitude can be found in the act of contemplation and silent reflection in everyday life. Also, this is not a pious book that assumes that a relationship with the divine can be obtained only by denying our humanity and striving for saintliness. Instead, Merton asserts that connection with God can most easily be made through "respect for temperament, character, and emotion and for everything that makes us human." --Gail Hudson.com

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connection with God can most easily be made through "respect for temperament, character, and emotion and for everything that makes us human." --Gail Hudson