



# New Seeds of Contemplation

By Thomas Merton

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## New Seeds of Contemplation By Thomas Merton

One of the best-loved books by one of the great spiritual authors of our time, with a new introduction by best-selling author Sue Monk Kidd.

*New Seeds of Contemplation* is one of Thomas Merton's most widely read and best-loved books. Christians and non-Christians alike have joined in praising it as a notable successor in the meditative tradition of St. John of the Cross, *The Cloud of Unknowing*, and the medieval mystics, while others have compared Merton's reflections with those of Thoreau. *New Seeds of Contemplation* seeks to awaken the dormant inner depths of the spirit so long neglected by Western man, to nurture a deeply contemplative and mystical dimension in our lives. For Merton, "Every moment and every event of every man's life on earth plants something in his soul. For just as the wind carries thousands of winged seeds, so each moment brings with it germs of spiritual vitality that come to rest imperceptibly in the minds and wills of men. Most of these unnumbered seeds perish and are lost, because men are not prepared to receive them: for such seeds as these cannot spring up anywhere except in the soil of freedom, spontaneity and love."

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## New Seeds of Contemplation By Thomas Merton Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Amazon.com Review**

"It can become almost a magic word," Thomas Merton says of contemplation; "or if not magic, then inspirational, which is almost as bad." With these words, Merton takes us through the reality of contemplation, which is, the author says, "life itself, fully awake, fully active, fully aware that it is alive. It is spiritual wonder." Above all, contemplation is "awareness of the reality" of the Source, "with a certitude that goes beyond reason and beyond simple faith." As these definitions should suggest, in this 20th-century classic on the contemplative life, as in the best of Merton's work, this Trappist monk wonderfully combines a disciplined and deeply learned intellect with the lyrical passion of the poet. It is this rare combination that makes this book not only informative but also moving. Covering a diverse range of subjects ("Faith," "The Night of the Senses," "Renunciation"), it moves the reader through certain traditional "phases" of contemplation, and gives an idea of what to expect in this spiritual process (including despair and darkness). The book describes, but it also enacts. In its own prose it invites the reader to "cast our awful solemnity to the winds and join in the general dance." --*Doug Thorpe*

### **Review**

"Destined to go down as one of the great spiritual classics of the twentieth century."

"Destined to go down as one of the great spiritual classics of our century."--Francine du Plessix Gray, "New Republic" "A guide for countless generations of spiritual seekers."-- "Monos"

### **From the Inside Flap**

In print for more than forty years, "New Seeds of Contemplation has served as a guide to the contemplative life for several generations of spiritual seekers. The word "contemplation is itself somewhat problematical, according to Thomas Merton: "It can become almost a magic word, or if not magic, then 'inspirational, ' which is almost as bad." In this modern Christian classic, Merton reveals contemplation to be nothing other than "life itself, fully awake, fully active, fully aware that it is alive." The thirty-nine short "seeds" that make up this book are intended to awaken and cultivate the contemplative, mystical dimension of the spiritual path for everyone. "New Seeds of Contemplation is a revised and expanded version of Merton's earlier book "Seeds of Contemplation.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Christine Kaufman:**

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or even read a book titled New Seeds of Contemplation? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have other opinion?

**Robert Russo:**

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**April Miller:**

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