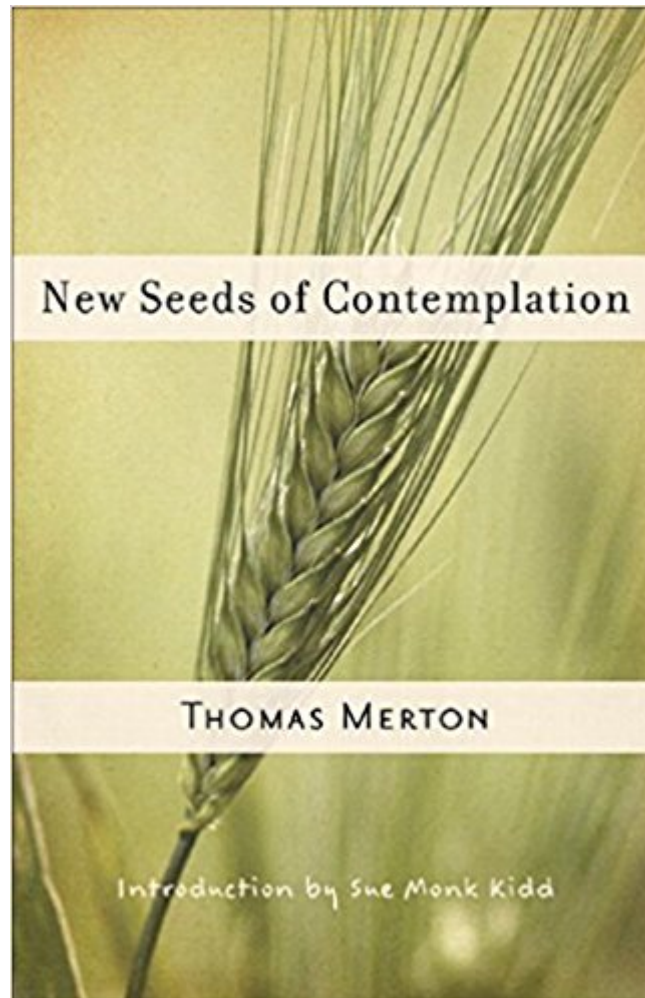




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# New Seeds Of Contemplation



## Synopsis

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."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"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 --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

"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"

Merton speaks the language of my soul, uncovering areas that have not till now been known about or delved into. It works for me to re-read passages just read a day ago. This is a purposeful slow read for me, am still less than halfway thru. Re-reading allows the truth to be recognized and "felt" more deeply in consciousness, therefore the real message, the one that really needs to be heard, can be received. To me what Merton writes is not just more heady philosophy but an opportunity for one to "awaken to the living truth" in one's heart of hearts.

He became too discursive. It's captured in a moment not of your choosing and when it comes it lifts your whole being.

This is truly one of Merton's best works. Through it he provides the reader new and fresh insights on contemplation. Helps the reader understand God's presence and how we can contemplate on His presence throughout our days and lives.

The clarity with which Merton's thoughts are put forth allows ones to examine their own ways of believing and behaving. I'd encourage a reading of this book if one is spiritually searching and ready to pursue a serious look at their lives.

This is a book that will require periodic review. There are so many amazing concepts that need studying but for me, it gave me great relief to know that God alone gives the grace of contemplation.

I was worried that I wasn't doing enough in my prayer life, that I wasn't working hard enough.

Just a fantastic read for anyone looking to expand their spiritual understanding. In Thomas Merton style, it blends traditional Catholicism with Eastern influence. However, any denomination or spiritualist will gain valuable insight. However, it is something that only a Trappist monk who rarely speaks could write, so be prepared for a bit of introspection and occasional redundancy. Otherwise, just a delight and a blessing!

The book simply is wonderful!. It takes you to places that you have only thought of going. It takes on a trip into the land of the ego--and then past the ego into the land of nothingness. It is quite a trip, but is well worth the read. This is a book that one should pickup and read every few years.

Thomas Merton is a modern prophet, and "New Seeds of Contemplation" is his calling from the desert. Engaging a new generation in the ancient practice of meditative and contemplative prayer, Merton [re]introduces contemplation into the lexicon of contemporary Christianity. An easy and engaging book, "New Seeds" can draw today's believers more deeply into the faith of our Fathers. This book is a must for those seeking to more profoundly experience God in their prayer lives. Reviewed by: Dr. Jeffrey Wincel (D.Min), author of "Climbing The Mountain of God, The Path to Mystical Discipleship", "Surviving the Fall, America's Second Great Depression" and "Defying the Trend: Business Ethics and Corporate Morality from a Faith Perspective"

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