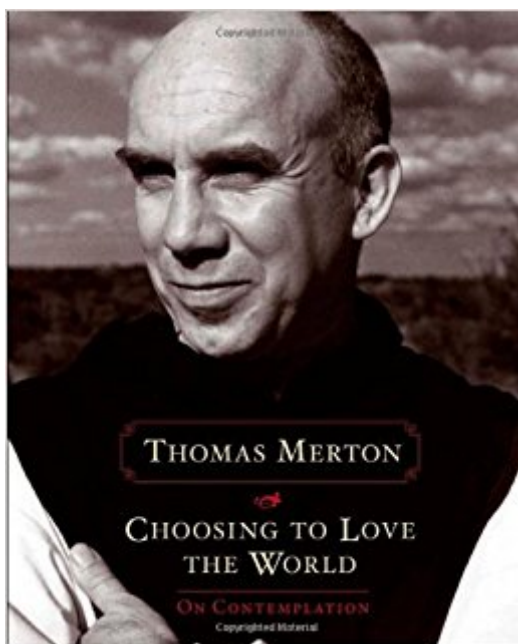


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# Choosing To Love The World: On Contemplation



## Synopsis

Amid the noise and distractions of everyday life, is it really possible to choose to love the world? In these times of great uncertainty and anxiety, how can we find God? Thomas Merton felt the urgency of these questions more than 50 years ago, and his reflections upon them are more relevant than ever. One of America's most beloved mystics of the 20th century, Merton's voice was prophetic in the troubled era of the 1960s. In this new collection of thoughts and meditations selected from his most inspiring books and letters, Merton's radiant wisdom and foresight serve as a beacon of light for all of us searching to find true meaning and solace in today's difficult times. "Father Louis," as he was known at the Abbey of Gethsemani, fully embraced the contemplative life of a monk, yet he never held the world at arm's length: "We and our world interpenetrate. It is only in assuming full responsibility for our world, for our lives and for ourselves, that we can be said to live really for God." Sharply honest in his words but balanced by his poet's heart, Merton explores themes that include the inner ground of love, living in wisdom, and dialoguing with silence. He teaches that contemplation is possible for everyone and that the fundamental context for seeking God's presence is always our everyday lives. "In the deep silence, wisdom begins to sing her unending, sunlit, inexpressible song: the private song she speaks to the solitary soul." In *Choosing to Love the World*, Thomas Merton inspires us to look deep within ourselves and, in the peaceful silence of contemplation, to find and sing our own song. Edited by Jonathan Montaldo, associate director of The Merton Institute for Contemplative Living, and director of Bethany Spring, the Merton Institute retreat center in Trappist, Kentucky.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Thomas Merton Thomas Merton (1915–1968) Thomas Merton is renowned as one of the most influential American spiritual writers and social activists of the 20th century. His autobiography *The Seven Storey Mountain* has sold more than one million copies, and he wrote more than 60 other books and hundreds of poems and articles on topics ranging from monastic spirituality to civil rights, nonviolent action, and the nuclear arms race.

There are two ways to read this book. Each page contained an excerpt of another document, with sections devoted to particular aspects: monastic life, contemplation, silence, and so on. Each page could be used as a meditation for a given day. This is one way. The other option is to use it as a sampler. Each page has its source cited, allowing the reader to track down the source document for deeper examination. I found the excerpts I were most drawn into came from two sources, and *Choosing* allowed me to find them, keeping the meditation going.

If you need something to lift your spirituality, this is wonderful! Even if you are not into a major religious faith, this book is for you.

It seems Jonathan Montaldo had his finger on Merton's pulse and took only the most ripe passages for this collection. I bought an extra hardback and a Kindle copy. The spacious gift book format may have you thinking this is Merton Lite--if there were such a thing. It's not. These passages carry weight. Highest recommendation.

Merton has a gift for cutting right through all the extraneous stuff and cutting right to the point. He calls the hard shots, no doubt about it. Call it "centered", call it "free"... I call it, "holy". For those of us who are struggling with negativity about a world full of problems, Merton provides solutions, albeit ones we'd rather ignore, that really provide the answer to the question: *Who could love this world?*

The reading of this book, *"Choosing To Love The World"*, The listening to the music of *"The Mahavishnu Orchestra"*, The love of my family and my friends, Have changed my life. All is Blessed.

I read this book more as a devotional each morning, sometimes just a sentence is enough to ponder

for the rest of the day. Merton has truly emptied himself into God's Love and teaches us to do the same.

Great Author on a Great Topic.

Thomas merton gave light to the facts we are now seeing today-disenfranchment of the people of the world.his words were eloquent and profound.a. most read for anyone concerned about life and humanity

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