



# THOMAS MERTON

---

Thomas Merton was a Catholic Monk, theologian, mystic and social activist. As a scholar of comparative religion, he is known for his exploration of Eastern and Native American spiritualities from a Christian perspective. He attempted to put these diverse spiritual practices and experiences into dialogue with each other.



## Selected Quotations

- "Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbours worthy if anything can."
- "A tree gives glory to God by being a tree. For in being what God means it to be it is obeying God. It "consents," so to speak, to God's creative love. It is expressing an idea which is in God and which is not distinct from the essence of God, and therefore a tree imitates God by being a tree."
- "To say that I am made in the image of God is to say that Love is the reason for my existence, for God is love. Love is my true identity. Selflessness is my true self. Love is my true character. Love is my name."
- "By my monastic life and vows I am saying No to all the concentration camps, the aerial bombardments, the staged political trials, the judicial murders, the racial injustices, the economic tyrannies, and the whole socio-economic apparatus which seems geared for nothing but global destruction in spite of all its fair words in favor of peace. [...] I make monastic silence a protest against the lies of politicians, propagandists, and agitators, and when I speak it is to deny that my faith and my church can ever be aligned with these forces of injustice and destruction. But it is true, nevertheless, that the faith in which I believe is also invoked by many who believe in war, believe in racial injustices, believe in self-righteous and lying forms of tyranny. My life must, then, be a protest against these also, and perhaps against these most of all."



## Online Materials:

- [Clips from Merton's teachings on spirituality](#)
- [Clips from Merton's last talk before his death:](#)
- **Further Reading**
- A podcast series of reflections and contemplations from 2020 inspired by Thomas Merton
- Thomas Merton: Essential Writings (Orbis Books, 2000)