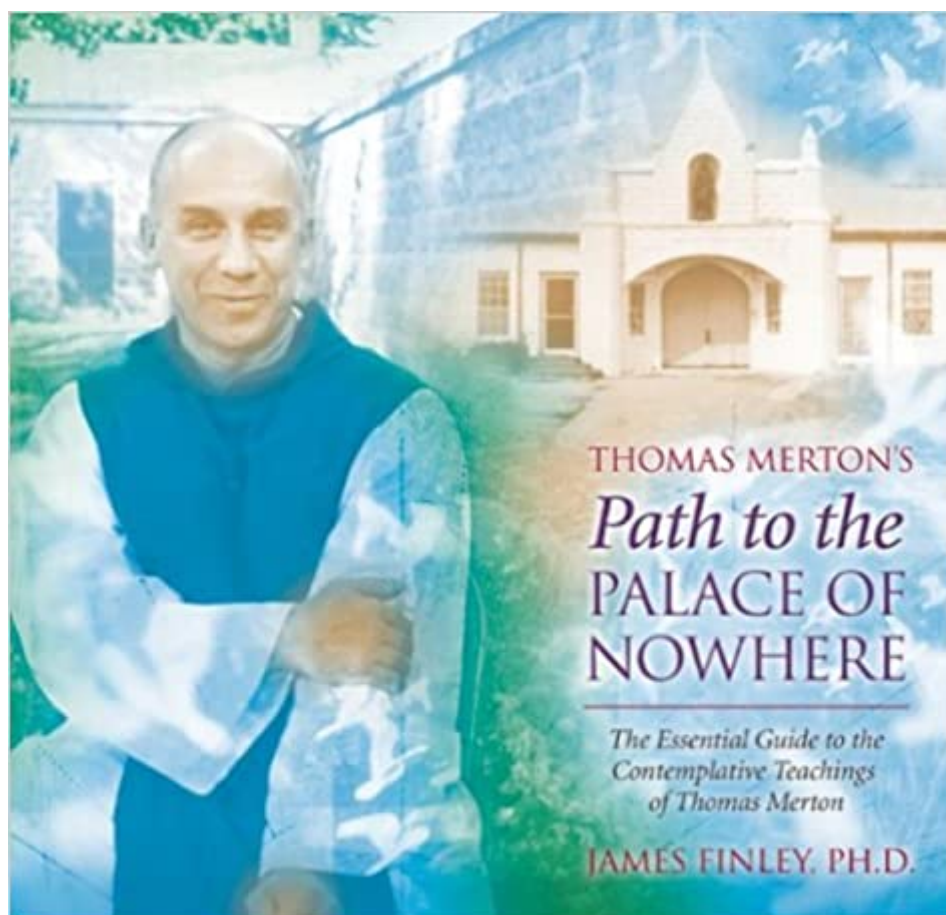


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# Thomas Merton's Path To The Palace Of Nowhere



## Synopsis

Thomas Merton-Trappist monk, author, and student of Zen-remains one of the most important and beloved figures in the modern Christian contemplative movement. James Finley, who for six years lived, prayed, and studied with Merton at the Abbey of Gethsemani, shares the gifts passed on to him by his friend on Thomas Merton's Path to the Palace of Nowhere. Here is a participatory approach to Merton's most useful teachings, helping us "to disappear into God, to be submerged into his peace, to be lost in the secret of his face."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"James Finley leads us to discover that the contemplative path is indeed available to us all...His poetic style is itself an immersion into contemplative practice."

### SOUNDS TRUE BESTSELLER IN NEW CD FORMAT

An absolute treasure. This is one of the best wisdom recordings I've ever listened to. Right up there with Jack Kornfield, Ram Dass, Alan Watts and Marianne Williamson. I cannot recommend it too highly. It is entertaining, edifying and inspiring. It demands serious attention - it's not light weight - but you will be rewarded for your investment. Get it, listen to it, listen to it again, then share it with your friends.

James Finley has the low even tempered voice of a late-night FM DJ. He has many profound

insights that he delivers, ending each with a call to meditation. I highly recommend either the CD format for listening in the car or through audible and your smartphone.

Amazing!

love it!

Although James Finley's presentation is a little melancholy, his temperament is easy to follow. Don't expect to be exhilarated by his method but do expect to be challenged. Growth is the only evidence of life and Thomas Merton's path to wholeness is not a journey for the faint of heart. Be prepared not to be pampered. If you are serious about your spiritual life, you will be moved to action but not action packed. It all depends on where you are before you enter Merton's Palace of Nowhere. Personally I could have used a little more of a boost but I can go to other author's like Richard Rohr. In reality I have to go within myself to best understand how the Spirit of God is working through me. Sometimes very subtle and other times it's like a wake up call in the middle of the night., (many times through dreams) It all depends on what you are ready to accept on your quest. God doesn't go where He/She is not invited. If you are brave enough to invite a guest into your heart you will receive the gift of grace to further the relationship. In the end, as it is in the beginning. it's all about the relationship

IF YOU ARE among the growing number of Christians who feel drawn to the contemplative journey, this is a series you must listen to. It strips away the mystique and delivers a straight forward, helpful, guide to the contemplative journey. You should find the series to both informing and reassuring. I've listened to it twice and plan to review it on a regular basis. James Finley is one of today's best living authors on the subject of contemplation. IF HOWEVER, you are a Christian just examining the contemplative life, this is not a good book for you. It is not rooted well in Scripture. It blurs Christian and Eastern meditation practices. The author's delivery is monotone and quiet, most likely putting you to sleep. The central texts come from the writings of Thomas Merton. Important statements are delivered with a casual authority that are not backed up by science nor Scripture, leaving the reader to wonder if they are, indeed correct, or just the opinions of Merton and Finley.

I listened to this series with a group of people interested in the contemplative journey within the Christian tradition. There were about eight of us, and everyone, without exception, loved it. James

Finley is a guide to the essence of the Christian contemplative experience. His presentation style is quiet, intending to evoke the contemplative stance. He speaks with the authority of someone who has been there, done that, not just read about it.

This is a fascinating set of 8 CDs about the life and teachings of Thomas Merton offered by one of his students. I keep listening to the same CDs, learning new things at a deeper and deeper level. Outstanding set for people of the contemplative mystical bent: affirmative, instructive and lyrical.

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