



# Seeking Paradise: The Spirit of the Shakers

*Thomas Merton*

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## **Seeking Paradise: The Spirit of the Shakers** Thomas Merton

The Shakers are largely remembered today for a legacy of extraordinary craftsmanship. But what was the spirituality that infused this uniquely American sect? Could it have any relevance for seekers today? These questions fascinated Thomas Merton, who sensed surprising analogies between the Shakers and his own monastic tradition. The essays, talks and letters collected here - joined by a stunning selection of Merton's photographs of a nearby Shaker village - present a haunting evocation of a lost tradition. In the Shakers' approach to work as a form of worship, in their practice of community, their simplicity and rejection of violence and their profound witness to the Kingdom of God he found lessons for all Christians. In their prophetic departure from the American myth of progress, efficiency and individualism, he found a message of enduring value and relevance for our time.



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