

WISDOM OF THE DESERT

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**Thomas Merton's preface to "The Wisdom of the Desert" -
Articles - Solitude - Hermitary**

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The Wisdom of the Desert. Chapter VII: On Discretion. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

The Wisdom of the Desert was one of Thomas Merton's favorites among his own books—surely because he had hoped to spend his last years.

14 Jan - 4 min - Uploaded by The School of Life Deserts are places out in the world, but they're also the quieter, deeper, better parts of.

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Related books: [The Outside Child](#), [Metropolitan Cow](#), [Time, Tense, and Reference \(Bradford Books\) \(MIT Press\)](#), [Violin Sonata No. 1, Movement 4 - Piano Score](#), [The Self Development Think and Grow Rich Work Book](#), [Der Frauenfänger: Thriller \(German Edition\)](#).

In fact, the hermits strike the careful reader as "humble, quiet, sensible people, with a deep knowledge of human nature. A fetching description of monastic life followed by casual translations from the Verba Seniorum by one of the great spiritual writers of modern Christianity. Now shoot another, said the elder.

Our danger is far more desperate. The personal tones of the translations, there are some pearls of wisdom in these few pages, some of which have become my favorites: If someone combined the presentation of this book with the translation of another, it would be an A plus.

Not 'difficult' study, as the title might imply. Thomas Merton was one of the most influential Catholic authors of the 20th century.