

At this meeting we discussed the first 3 chapters of "New Seeds of Contemplation" by Thomas Merton.

This book is very difficult to read because of the philosophy of Thomas Merton and his passion to "remove" oneself from the "I". The "I" doesn't exist, it is not us.

We discussed centering prayer, and how does free will play into contemplation prayer.

Discussion about being in the presence of God and Contemplation versus Actual life.

What does the meaning of "Not my will, but your will be done." Does that mean that no matter what happens in life we can just say it was the will of God, whether that was something good or bad?

There were many deep ideas/philosophies that Thomas Merton discusses and a lot of them let us to with more questions than answers.

I'm sure I didn't do justice, writing these notes for all the deep discussions we had at this meeting.

Thanks to Michael and Jonathan for their insights and explanations into most of the topics we discussed from this book.

At our next meeting, we will read chapters 4,5 and 6.

As we also discussed, I have looked up on YouTube documentaries on Thomas Merton. Watching them helps shed a little light on his writings.

See you all at our next meeting on Tuesday June 18 at 6pm.

If anyone still needs a copy of "New Seeds of Contemplation" we still have a couple of books. Just let me know.

Norbert