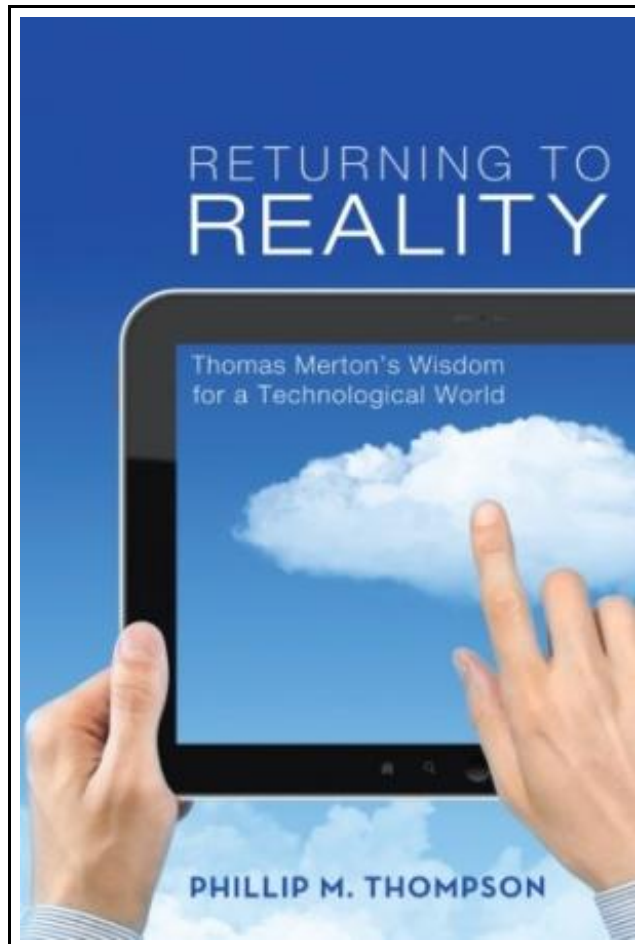# Returning to Reality: Thomas Merton s Wisdom for a Technological World

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(Harold Spencer)

RETURNING TO REALITY: THOMAS MERTON S WISDOM FOR A TECHNOLOGICAL WORLD

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Wipf Stock Publishers, United Kingdom, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Synopsis: This book synthesizes the diverse reflections on technology by monk and spiritual writer Thomas Merton to develop a compelling contemplative critique of the threats and challenges of nuclear war, communication technologies, and biotechnologies that may alter what it means to be human. At the core of his critique, Merton opposes a technological mentality that favors processes of efficiency and utility at the expense of our ultimate purpose, a quest for the wisdom to guide us to the divine source of our being and reality. To counter this modern idolatry, Merton s insights offer a path of reflection, balance, and community. More specifically, Merton offers some constructive approaches and healing possibilities through a balanced approach to work, a careful and intentional managing of technology, and an accessing of the recuperative dimensions of nature. In its conclusion the book brings the insights of these chapters together for a final reflection on how to maintain our humanity and our spiritual integrity in a technological world. Endorsements: Thompson has provided the kind of public model of Merton scholarship we need: the application of wisdom in a critique of the contemporary. What better place to start than with the insinuation of technology in every dimension of human life. . . . Thompson has helped make Merton s contemplative perspective more available for us to see with, and to see as deeply. --Gray Matthews, University of Memphis This is an important and helpful book. Thompson has gathered Thomas Merton s scattered remarks on technology into a coherent account of critique and counsel. . . . To see Merton s often casual, sometimes mordant, and insightful critique of technology switch so easily...

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