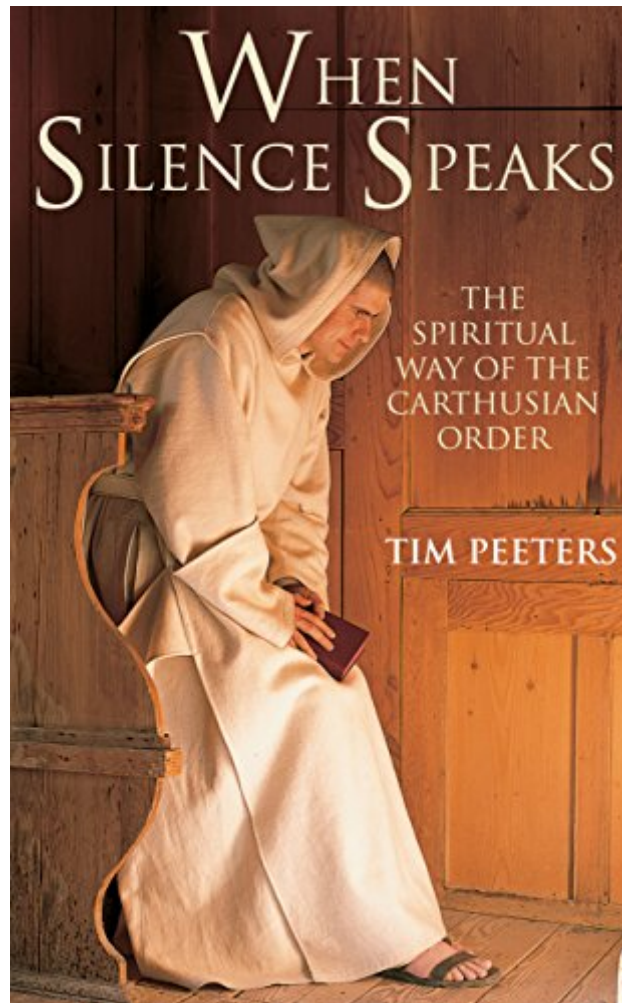




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# When Silence Speaks: The Spiritual Way Of The Carthusian Order



## Synopsis

True solitude is a rare experience in today's busy world. For many people it has negative connotations, but for the Carthusian monks it is a blessing. They have given up everything in order to share in the desert experience of Jesus and to continue the ancient traditions of the Desert Fathers, who searched for God in the realms of silence. When Silence Speaks uncovers the deep spiritual foundations on which this remarkable and mysterious order of hermits has built for more than nine centuries: solitude and silence, separation and simplicity, contemplation and prayer, asceticism and perseverance. It includes an anthology of the original spiritual literature of the Carthusian tradition, the testimonies of monks who still follow the Carthusian way today, and a selection of photographs that provide a rare window into their world away from the world.

To understand what is almost incomprehensible, writes author Tim Peeters, we will take a walk with Saint Bruno and the Carthusian monks. We will climb into the high mountains of the Chartreuse massif near Grenoble [in France] where the origins of the order are situated. We will watch over the walls of the monasteries and enter into the cells and the hearts of the monks. And we hope you will taste something of the ultimate goal of this solitary and silent life: God, who speaks when the Carthusian listens and keeps quiet. The original Dutch version of this book received the award for Religious Book of the Year in Belgium. It has also been published in French and Italian.

## Book Information

File Size: 2793 KB

Print Length: 192 pages

Publisher: Darton, Longman and Todd (August 31, 2015)

Publication Date: August 31, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01C5PQI76

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #434,553 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #43

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Worship & Devotion > Monasticism & Asceticism #148 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church Institutions & Organizations #170 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Worship & Devotion > Monasticism & Asceticism

## Customer Reviews

This is an unusual book in that it goes into great depth about the spiritual life of the Carthusians. The question arises: Does it make any real sense to the reader and what message if any can be gained from it? In order to understand what is being said we have to think in terms of the Incarnation. We are not who we think we are for within each of us is a depth that can hold the entirety of God. Meister Eckhart says: *ÄfÄçÄ â ¬Ä Æœthe depth of God and the depth of the soul are one single deep.ÄfÄçÄ â ¬Ä â„ç And as the psalmist says ÄfÄçÄ â ¬Ä ÆœDeep calls unto deepÄfÄçÄ â ¬Ä â„ç so when these monks are in silent company and prayer then what is deep in each one calls to what is deep in each other and this calling goes all the way through the entire universe because of their total detachment and their total surrender to God. They are an echo chamber for the Word. What message is contained in their life and silence and commitment? The message is simple: Change the direction in which you are seeking happiness.*

Very good insight into the spirituality and way of living of these outstanding men.

I found this book to be clear and concise. I'm soon making a vocational retreat. Will update my review upon y return assuming I return. Pray for me. ÄfÄçÄ Å Ä â ç

good product

Excellent resource for the admirer of Carthusian life. A glimpse of the life and a connection to its roots and its relevance to us today

Fits into collection of Desert Fathers seamlessly.

This is a most rewarding book on total committment to Jesus and to a life lived for God alone in a

Monastery. The book is not about life in the Monastery but rather about spiritual growth and the pitfalls that we meet along that path. It is a book to be read slowly and to spend time thinking about what was just read. To rush through the book would be comparable to rushing through a textbook on Astrophysics in a couple of days--rather worthless for most of us mortals. But this is a treasure and very well worth reading by anyone, lay or religious, Catholic or other form of Christianity, that wants to understand how God helps us in the spiritual life that we seldom discuss with anyone. I do recommend it for these people. It is also good for those who wonder what Monks do in there Monasteries all day, and night!

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