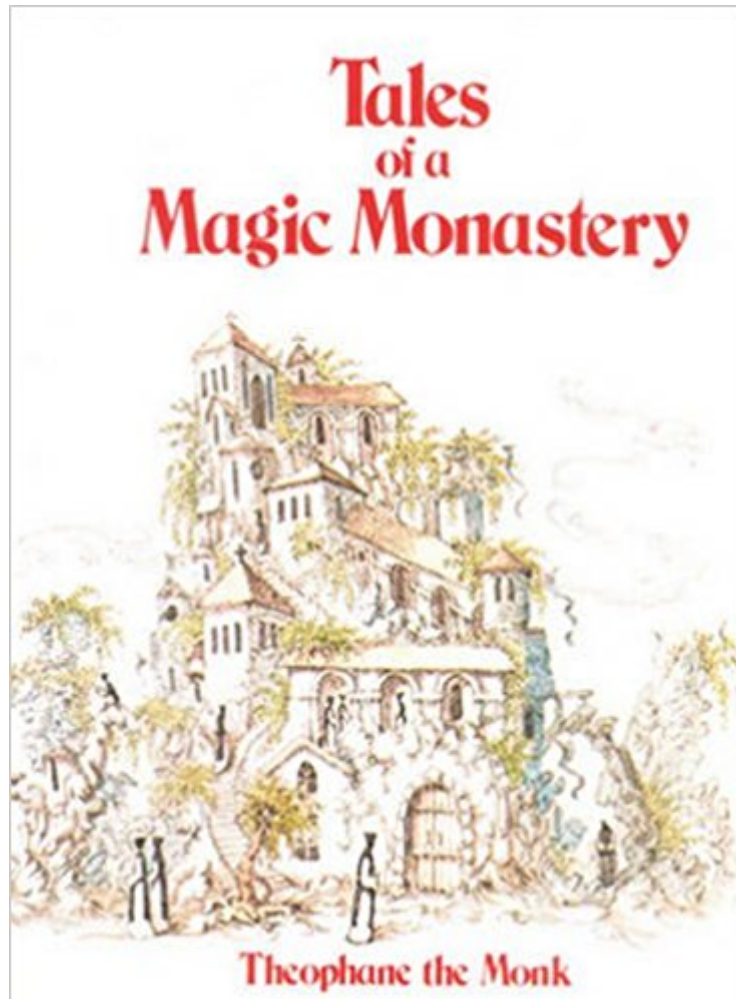


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# Tales Of A Magic Monastery (Tales Magic Monastery Ppr)



## Synopsis

Here, the charming, mature stories from the internationally beloved monk are accompanied by original art. Like the parables of Jesus, these tales repeatedly unfold new levels of meaning if we are willing to sit with them.

## Book Information

Series: Tales Magic Monastery Ppr (Book 1)

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## Customer Reviews

Father Theophane is my friend. I spent five years at Saint Joseph's Abbey when he was Vocation Director. He was a "zen koan" in the flesh. After five years I left to become a teacher in a Catholic boy's high school near Boston. Every day in every class I taught, I would wait for silence from everyone, then sound a pair of small Tibetan cymbals and read a selection from an Emily Dickinson poem, or the Writings of Chuang Tzu by Thomas Merton, or the Sermon on the Mount, or Tao Te Ching, or a story from Theophane's Tales of a Magic Monastery. Then I would begin class which could be Chemistry, Physics, Math, Scripture or Sexuality. For over 35 years I maintained this practice. Through the years my former students have testified how wonderful it was to begin every class this way. The stories of Theophane the Monk have stayed with them for all the years since we shared my class. Many of them have practiced meditation into their older middle age. Especially beloved from Tales are the following: "The Pearl of Great Price", "Myself", "The Gun", and most especially "Now!" I have always felt that "Tales of a Magic Monastery" will last as long as "Apothegmata Patrum" (the "Sayings of the Desert Fathers"). Thank you Father Theophane and may

we meet again.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Father Theophane. I'd enjoyed this book, and I'd already given several copies to friends. But, I had assumed the some monks banded together and made up Theophane. There is such a whimsical and free feeling about these stories that a pretend author seemed not only possible but likely. It surprises me that one person could come up with all these different perspectives. But, Father Theophane himself is surprising! He first strikes you as a sort of reprobate monk - a bit wild in appearance and manner. Except, when he says Mass, all that personality and charisma are companioned by Theophane's deep reverence. He's an exceptional character. This book helped me know God better and know myself better. I highly recommend it.

Tales of a Magic Monastery is a collection of fables written by one of the most delightful monks of modern America. Father Theophane -- Theophane the Monk -- was a Trappist priest (or monk) who spent a number of years at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. The abbot there was none other than Father Thomas Keating, the originator of the Centering Prayer Movement in the United States -- a force to spread the habit of contemplative prayer beyond monastic walls and into modern Americans' daily lives. Both monks later relocated to St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, Colorado. There, Father Theophane (1929-2003) spent many years in inter-religious dialogue, being among the first in this country to invite Buddhist monks of various traditions to the United States, and to cultivate long-lasting bonds of friendship with them in a spirit of mutual learning and enrichment. This slim volume by a monk who walked the talk is the only book that Father Theophane wrote. In some ways, it is reminiscent of the Jesuit Anthony de Mello's fable collection -- *The Song of the Bird* -- being also a distillation of a rich spiritual life and the stuff of which sermons are made. Father Theophane's book includes exquisite pen-and-ink drawings by John O'Brien, and opens with a reminder of the sparkle that was always to be found in his deep blue eyes: "All these stories are true"...Made more to keep on the bedside table than to read at a single sitting and then shelve, *Tales of a Magic Monastery* would make a great gift book for someone at a crossroads in life.

Disclaimer: Theophane's twin sister was my grandma, so I'm obviously more than a bit biased. Yes, he was one person, yes, he had a vibrance and childlike love of life coupled with a deep and mature reverence for God, and from that, this amazing book came.

Open to any page and walk into a place of calm and tranquility. Where Theophane treads one finds no hostility, no discord, only blessed peace. Read these vignettes when things are out of hand and you will be rewarded.

I've given away more than fifty copies of Magic Monastery since it was first published, each with a note that: "it takes seven years to REALLY read this book." Each reading peels the onion for a deeper insight into Theophane's revelation of mystery.

'Tales of a Magic Monastery' published in '81 is a slim 95 page paperback book consisting of 12 chapters containing short 1 or 2 page tales written by an apparent nome-de-plume known as Theophane the Monk. Join Theophane and his mythical cast of monks as they search for truth not only within the sacred walls of the monastery, but also those self imposed barriers created by each of us; our fears, our presuppositions, our unwillingness to let go and refind ourselves deeper within are exposed and confronted in this captivating volume. Each vignette and evocative illustration will not only delight but promote thoughtful consideration that will bring you back for further examination again and again. Great reading for a short trip, or even better as a companion reader for a retreat or personal meditation.

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