



# Letters to a Spiritual Seeker

*By Henry David Thoreau*

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## Letters to a Spiritual Seeker By Henry David Thoreau

Henry David Thoreau is famous for the literary excellence of his political and nature writings but his friend Harrison Blake understood that the significance of Thoreau's life was in fact spiritual, and he asked him for guidance in finding a path of his own. The result was a regular exchange of letters charting the evolution of Thoreau as a writer and thinker. The fifty letters, assembled and annotated here are by turns earnest, oracular, witty, playful, practical, insightful and inspiring.

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## Letters to a Spiritual Seeker By Henry David Thoreau Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

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Thoreau's indelible writings on nature, liberty, justice, solitude, and simplicity are infused with spirituality, and, indeed, his entire quest to live an honorable life is a spiritual one, although he didn't overtly characterize it as such. He did, however, directly address matters of the spirit in a remarkable set of 50 letters written to Harrison Gray Otis Blake, an ex-Unitarian minister who initiated their 13-year correspondence in 1848 in his only extant letter. Dean, the Thoreau scholar who rescued Thoreau's magnificent and forgotten *Wild Fruits* (1999), now gathers together for the first time the American sage's still stirring and relevant spiritual musings and expertly sets them within biographical and historical contexts. Here Thoreau explicates his inclusive view of spirituality born of his intense attentiveness to nature and deep study of both Eastern and Western religious traditions. Here Thoreau, who has a knack for turning everyday activities into striking metaphors, analogies, and allegories, muses provocatively on work, contemplation, and responsibility. With quotable lines on every page, this is an important and affecting addition to the Thoreau shelf. *Donna Seaman*  
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### Review

"I open this book at random and find daily strength in Thoreau's words that gives me courage .... This is a book I keep on my desk as a record of shared faith."

I open this book at random and find daily strength in Thoreau's words that gives me courage. . . .This is a book I keep on my desk as a record of shared faith. --Terry Tempest Williams, author of *Leap* and *The Open Space of Democracy*"

### About the Author

**Bradley P. Dean**, an independent scholar living in West Peterborough, New Hampshire, has written extensively on Thoreau's life and writings and has edited two of Thoreau's previously unpublished book-length manuscripts.

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