

THE PAPERS OF HOWARD WASHINGTON THURMAN

VOLUME I: MY PEOPLE NEED ME, JUNE 1918–MARCH 1936

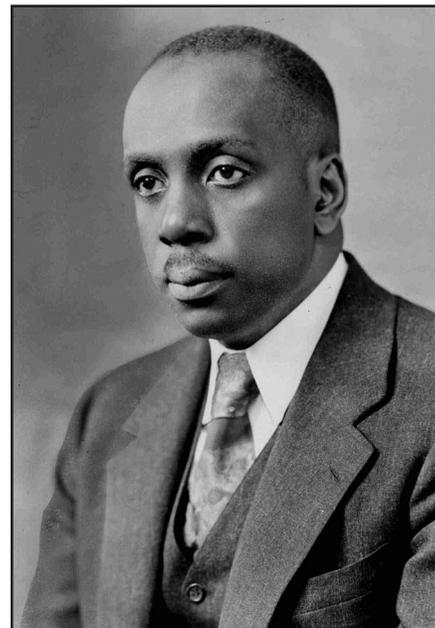
The Papers of Howard Washington Thurman is a four-volume, chronologically-arranged documentary edition spanning the long and productive career of the Reverend Howard Thurman, one of the most significant leaders in the history of intellectual and religious life in the mid-twentieth-century United States. As the first to lead a delegation of African Americans to meet personally with Mahatma Gandhi, in 1936, Thurman would become one of the principal architects of the modern, non-violent Civil Rights Movement and a key mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1953, *Life* magazine named Thurman as one of the twelve greatest preachers of the century.

The four volumes of this collection, culled from over 58,000 documents from public and private sources, will feature over 850 selections of Thurman's sermons, letters, essays, and other writings—many published here for the first time. Each volume will open with an editorial statement, followed by a thematic introductory essay to guide the reader through the dominant themes in Thurman's thought: his understanding of spirituality and social transformations, his creative ecclesiology, and his conception of civic character and the national democratic experiment. Detailed annotations to each document illumine Thurman's personal, professional, and intellectual development and place the texts into their historical context. The volumes are further augmented with detailed chronologies and representative illustrations.

Forthcoming in June 2009, Volume I (June 1918– March 1936) documents Thurman's early years in his native Daytona, Florida, his formal education and his leadership in the student movement, his years at Howard University as a professor of philosophy and religion and dean of Rankin Chapel through to his historic trip to India and meeting with Mahatma Gandhi in 1936. The texts, images, and editorial commentary presented here reveal the early development of a vision that would drive Thurman's career as an educator, theologian, minister, and advocate for social justice and would inform the twenty-three books that he began publishing in the mid-1940s. This volume not only provides rich insights into Thurman's thinking and spiritual growth, but it also offers a window onto the landscape of the defining issues, events, movements, institutions, and individuals that shaped his formative years.

This documentary edition is made possible through the efforts of the Howard Thurman Papers Project, a division of the Leadership Center at Morehouse College in Atlanta. This project is funded through support from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.; the Henry Luce Foundation; the Pew Charitable Trusts, Inc., and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

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