

Dimensions of Mysticism In Human Experience

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Orthodoxy = conforming with right beliefs

Dogma = a system of beliefs

Doctrines = a set of beliefs taught by a party or church

Doctrines
Doctrines

Teachings who, when,
Teachings where, why,
Teachings what

Truth = a fact or belief accepted as true

Truth
Truth

(Heterodoxy = not conforming with orthodox beliefs)

Apostasy = complete abandoning of one's beliefs, standing outside or beyond

Heresy = a belief contrary to, at odds with orthodox views

Untruths = something untrue, false, a lie

EXPERIENCE

The Mystical, The Mysterious Other, The Essence

| <u>Synonyms</u> | <u>Examples</u> | <u>Possibilities</u> | <u>Dangers</u> |
|--|---|---|---|
| ecstasy, aha!, wow, rapture, revelation, unsynonymous, mysterious, awe, wonder, miraculous union with God spiritual high effulgence epiphany, breakthru intense centering personal experience visionary direct and immediate | St. Francis St. John of the St. Paul, Jesus on Mt. Of Transfig- uration Mother Theresa | Renew life Clarify what counts Refresh one's faith Contemplation Helping others | Privatism, isolation Self absorption Threat to organized Religion's power Madness, extreme Asceticism Playing/becoming God, godlike Pantheism Disregard common wisdom, teaching Independence from Grace Anti-reason Elitist |

MYSTICS OF VARIOUS RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

Rev. Dr. Tim Dissmeyer, 3/14, 2006

Early Church:

Gregory of Nyssa (335-398)
Augustine (North Africa, 354-430)

Medieval Catholic and Orthodox Mystics:

Bernard of Clairvaux (French, 1091-1153)
Hildegard of Bingen (German, 1098-1179)
Francis of Assisi (Italian, 1182-1226)
St. Bonaventure (Italian Franciscan, 1217-1274)
Meister Eckhart (German Dominican, 1260-1328)
Jan van Ruysbroeck (Flemish, 1293-1381)
Julian of Norwich (English, 1342-1413?)
Thomas a Kempis (German Augustinian, 1380-1471)
Albrecht Durer
Michelangelo
Rafael
Teresa of Avila (Spanish Carmelite, 1515-1582)
St. Francois de Sales, (French, 1567-1622)
Roberto de Nobili (Italian Jesuit, 1577-1656, missionary to India)

Later Catholic Mystics:

Ludovicus Blosius (Benedictine, sixteenth Century)
Charles de Foucauld (French Catholic, 1858-1916) Brahmandhad Upadhyay (Indian
Brahmin convert to Catholicism, 1861-1907)
Abishiktananda (born Henri Le Saux, French Benedictine)

Later Protestant Mystics:

Matin Luther (German, 1483-1546)
John Donne (English, 1572-1631)
Jacob Boehme (Lutheran, 1575-1624)
Jeremy Taylor (English, 1613-1667)
Richard Baxter (English, 1615-1667)
Angelus Silesius (1624-1677)
George Fox (Quaker, 1624-1691)
John Bunyan (English, 1628-1688)
William Law (English, 1686-1761)
Emanuel Swedenborg (Swedish, 1688-1772)
Jonathan Edwards (American, 1702-1758)
John Wesley (English, 1709-1791)
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (German, 1749-1832)
William Blake (English, 1757-1827)
William Wordsworth (American, 1770-1850)
Novalis (Friedrich von Hardenberg, (1772-1801)
John Keats (English, 1795-1821)
Alfred, Lord Tennyson (English, 1809-1892)
Soren Aabye Kierkegaard (Danish, 1813-1862)
Emily Bronte (English, 1818-1848)
William James (American, 1842-1910)
Vincent van Gogh (Dutch, 1853-1890)
William Butler Yeats (English, 1865-1939)
T.S. Eliot (English, 1888-1965)
Thomas Raymond Kelly (American Quaker, 1893-1941)

Nature Mystics:

American:

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1802-1882)
Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)
Margaret Fuller
Bronson Alcott
Theodore Parker
Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)
Walt Whitman (1819-1892)
Matthew Fox
Thomas Berry

British:

Forrest Reid

Other:

Aborigines (Australia)
Maori (New Zealand)
Chewong (Malaysia)
Desana (Amazon)
San Bushmen (Africa)
Native American Tribes
Nicholas Roerich (Russian artist, 1873-1947)

Contemporary Mystics:

Fr. Bede Griffiths (English Benedictine, 1906- 1993)
Sister Vandana Mataji and Sister Ishpriya
Evelyn Underhill (English Church of England)
Thomas Keating (Cistercian)
John Main (British)
Carl Jung
D.H. Lawrence (British)
Georgia O'Keefe
Raimundo Panikkar (a Christian-Hindu-Buddhist theologian)
Ignatius Hirudayam (Jesuit)
Ma Jaya Sati Bhagavati (born Joyce Green, Brooklyn, NYC,)
Mother Theresa
Thomas Merton (Trappist American)
Albert Einstein
Tolstoy
Matisse
Mahatma Gandhi
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Christian Zen masters:
Willigis Jaeger (German Benedictine)
Hugo enomiya-LaSalle (German Jesuit)
Robert E. Kennedy (American Jesuit)
Ruben Habito (American)
Kevin Hunt (Trappist)
Dorothy Day (Catholic, founder of the Catholic Worker, -1980)
C.S. Lewis (British, 1898-1963)
Dietrich Bonhoeffer (German Lutheran, 1906-1945)
Walker Percy
Flannery O'Connor
John Lennon

Elizabeth O'Connor

Jewish Mystics:

Kabbalah:

Moses ben Shem Tob de Leon (Spanish)

Moses Cordovero

Isaac Luria

Hasidism:

Baal Shem Tov (1700-1760)

Rabbi Nachman of Breslov (Ukrainian, 1772-1810)

Martin Buber

Islamic Mystics:

Suffi's:

Hasan of Basra (-728)

al Hallaj (- 922)

al Farabi (873-950)

al Ghazali (-1111)

Kabir

Rumi

Ibn al-Farabi

Attar

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Seyyed Hossein Nasr

Hindu Mysticism:

Advaita (nonduality) Vedanta

Shankara

Sri Ramana Maharishi (Indian, -1950)

Buddhist Mysticism:

Siddartha Gautama Shakyamuni

Zen (See especially the Ten Oxherding Pictures)

Dalai Llama

Maseo Abe (Japanese Buddhist)

Thich Nhat Hanh (Vietnamese)

Ken Wilber

Vipassana/Insight Meditation:

Jon Kabat-Zinn

Jack Kornfield

The Common Mystic Character (from *The Mystic Heart* by Wayne Teasdale,, New world Library, 1999):

"I have learned ... that all the world's religious traditions have similar potential to help us become better human beings." -His Holiness, the Dalai Lama

Characteristics of mystic spirituality:

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|---|---|
| 1. Actual moral capacity | 5. Spiritual practice |
| 2. Solidarity with all living beings | 6. Mature self-knowledge |
| 3. Deep nonviolence | 7. Simplicity of life |
| 4. Humility | 8. Selfless service and compassionate action |
| | 9. The prophetic voice |