

# 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)      Brahmbandhad 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:**

**Sufi'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:**

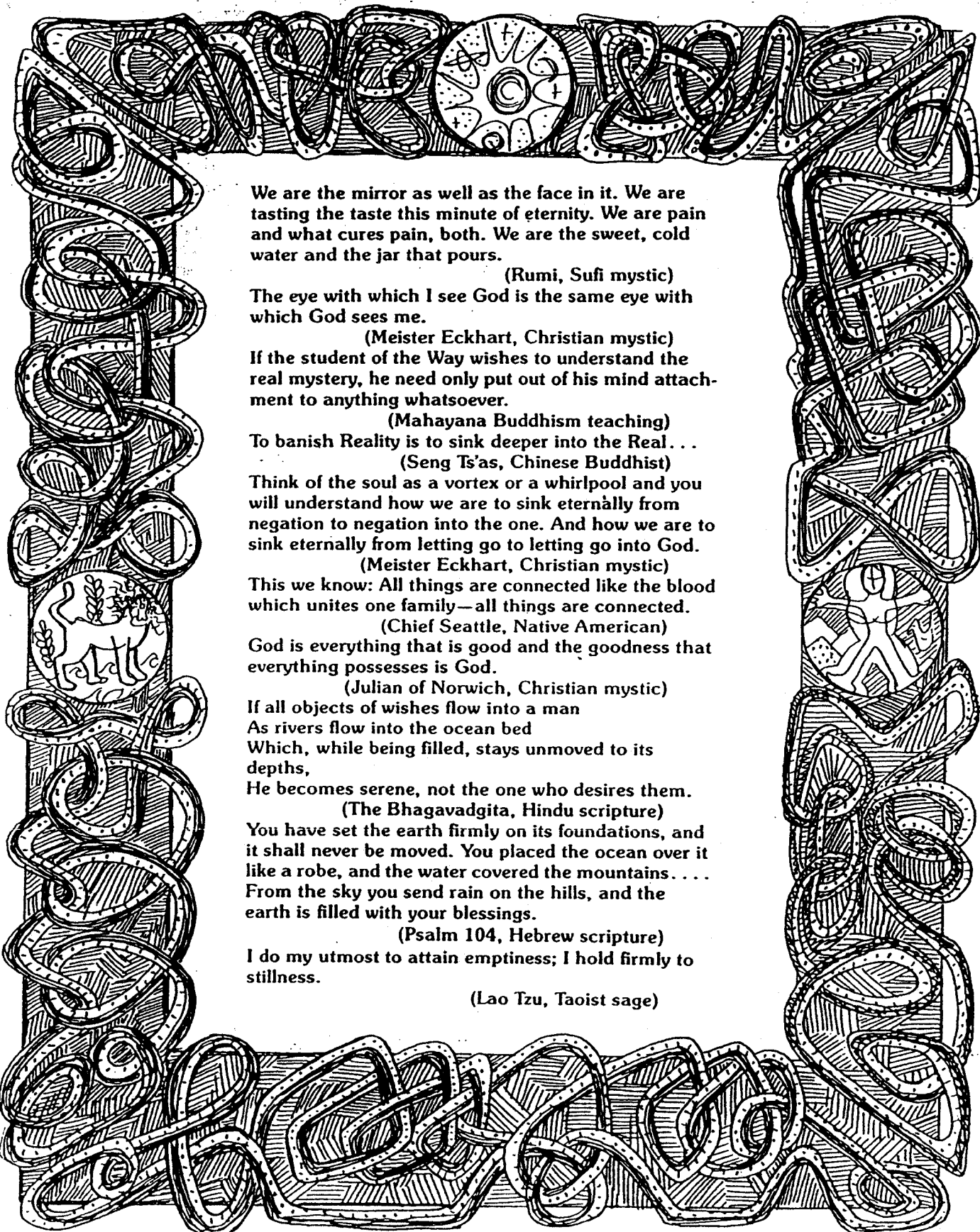
**Siddartha Gautama Shakyamuni**  
**Zen (See especially the Ten Oxherding Pictures)**  
**Dalai Llama**  
**Maseo Abe (Japanese Buddhist)**  
**Thich Nhat Hanh (Vietnamese)**  
**Ken Wilber**  
**Vipassana/Insight Meditation:**  
**Jon Kabat-Zinn**  
**Jack Kornfield**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**The Common Mystic Charachter (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:**

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



We are the mirror as well as the face in it. We are tasting the taste this minute of eternity. We are pain and what cures pain, both. We are the sweet, cold water and the jar that pours.

(Rumi, Sufi mystic)

The eye with which I see God is the same eye with which God sees me.

(Meister Eckhart, Christian mystic)

If the student of the Way wishes to understand the real mystery, he need only put out of his mind attachment to anything whatsoever.

(Mahayana Buddhism teaching)

To banish Reality is to sink deeper into the Real . . .

(Seng Ts'as, Chinese Buddhist)

Think of the soul as a vortex or a whirlpool and you will understand how we are to sink eternally from negation to negation into the one. And how we are to sink eternally from letting go to letting go into God.

(Meister Eckhart, Christian mystic)

This we know: All things are connected like the blood which unites one family—all things are connected.

(Chief Seattle, Native American)

God is everything that is good and the goodness that everything possesses is God.

(Julian of Norwich, Christian mystic)

If all objects of wishes flow into a man  
As rivers flow into the ocean bed  
Which, while being filled, stays unmoved to its depths,  
He becomes serene, not the one who desires them.

(The Bhagavadgita, Hindu scripture)

You have set the earth firmly on its foundations, and it shall never be moved. You placed the ocean over it like a robe, and the water covered the mountains. . . . From the sky you send rain on the hills, and the earth is filled with your blessings.

(Psalm 104, Hebrew scripture)

I do my utmost to attain emptiness; I hold firmly to stillness.

(Lao Tzu, Taoist sage)