

# Understanding Mysticism

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# Understanding Mysticism

**Henry Clay Sheldon**



## **Understanding Mysticism:**

*Understanding Mysticism* Richard Woods, 1981-01-01      *Mysticism* Jess Byron Hollenback, 1996 This sweeping study of mysticism by Jess Hollenback considers the writings and experiences of a broad range of traditional religious mystics including Teresa of Avila, Black Elk, and Gopi Krishna. It also makes use of a new category of sources that more traditional scholars have almost entirely ignored, namely the autobiographies and writings of contemporary clairvoyants, mediums, and out of body travelers. This study contributes to the current debate about the contextuality of mysticism by presenting evidence that not only are the mystic's interpretations of and responses to experiences culturally and historically conditioned, but historical context and cultural environment decisively shape both the perceptual and affective content of the mystic's experience as well. Hollenback also explores the linkage between the mystic's practice of recollection and the onset of other unusual or supernormal manifestations such as photisms, the ability to see auras, telepathic sensitivity, clairvoyance, and out of body experiences. He demonstrates that these extraordinary phenomena can actually deepen our understanding of mysticism in unexpected ways. A unique feature of this book is its in-depth analysis of empowerment, an important phenomenon ignored by most scholars of mysticism. Empowerment is a peculiar enhancement of the imagination, thoughts, and desires that frequently accompanies mystical states of consciousness. Hollenback shows its cross-cultural persistence, its role in constructing the perceptual and existential environments within which the mystic dwells, and its linkage to the fundamental contextuality of mystical experience.

**Mysticism in Early Modern England** Liam Peter Temple, 2019 *Mysticism in Early Modern England* traces how mysticism featured in polemical and religious discourse in seventeenth-century England and explores how it came to be viewed as a source of sectarianism, radicalism, and most significantly, religious enthusiasm.

*Mysticism* Winfried Corduan, 2009-07-01 *Mysticism* is a controversial topic that all too frequently receives one-sided coverage. On the one hand, there are many enthusiasts who are willing to defend mysticism at almost any cost, including sacrificing logical and theological integrity. On the other hand, there are philosophers and theologians who see mysticism as not much more than an evil to be stamped out. This book takes a careful look at the philosophical and theological questions involved and attempts to locate a modest place for mysticism within a genuine evangelical framework. Questions addressed in this book include: such matters as: Is mysticism a perennial philosophy that appears in different guises but is always the same underneath? Can we argue for an objective reality behind all mystical experience? How can we understand the fact that mystics talk about something that they say is beyond language? How has mysticism shown up in various Christian traditions? Can we reconcile mysticism with the New Testament? The conclusion of this book is based on an understanding of mysticism as an unmediated link to an absolute. In that sense, there is a form of mysticism taught in the New Testament, but it is a mysticism that does not require ecstatic experience and does not constitute a separate source of revelation. Nevertheless, this New Testament mysticism describes an integral part of biblical spirituality.

**Understanding Mysticism** Mary Lallier

Tsakiris,1977 *Yoga, Meditation, and Mysticism* Kenneth Rose,2016-09-08 Contemplative experience is central to Hindu yoga traditions Buddhist meditation practices and Catholic mystical theology and despite doctrinal differences it expresses itself in suggestively similar meditative landmarks in each of these three meditative systems In *Yoga Meditation and Mysticism* Kenneth Rose shifts the dominant focus of contemporary religious studies away from tradition specific studies of individual religious traditions communities and practices to examine the contemplative universals that arise globally in meditative experience Through a comparative exploration of the itineraries detailed in the contemplative manuals of Theravada Buddhism Pata jalian Yoga and Catholic mystical theology Rose identifies in each tradition a moment of sharply focused awareness that marks the threshold between immersion in mundane consciousness and contemplative insight As concentration deepens the meditator steps through this threshold onto a globally shared contemplative itinerary which leads through a series of virtually identical stages to mental stillness and insight Rose argues that these contemplative universals familiar to experienced contemplatives in multiple traditions point to a common spiritual mental and biological heritage Pioneering the exploration of contemplative practice and experience with a comparative perspective that ranges over multiple religious traditions religious studies philosophy neuroscience and the cognitive science of religion this book is a landmark contribution to the fields of contemplative practice and religious studies **The Meaning and Value of Mysticism** Emily Herman,1916 **Mysticism in Christianity** William Kaye Fleming,1913 Lectures on Mysticism and Nature Worship Carl Henrik Andreas Bjerregaard,1897 *The Philosophy of Mysticism* Edward Ingram Watkin,1920 A Psychological Interpretation of Mysticism ... Clarence Herbert Hamilton,1916 *Mysticism in Heathendom and Christendom* Edvard Lehmann,1910 *Mystical Divine Encounters* Gideon Edwards,AI,2025-02-14 *Mystical Divine Encounters* explores the intersection of religious experiences spirituality and mysticism across cultures examining whether these encounters are genuine interactions with the divine or products of the human mind The book addresses the profound impact of these experiences on belief systems and history emphasizing the need for an interdisciplinary approach incorporating comparative religion neuroscience and the psychology of belief It delves into historical accounts and neurological research arguing against dismissing mystical experiences as mere imagination acknowledging their transformative power The book progresses by first establishing core concepts related to mysticism and divine encounters It then delves into case studies from various religious traditions like Christianity Islam Buddhism and Hinduism highlighting common threads and unique characteristics Scientific explanations are explored considering brain activity altered states of consciousness and psychological factors By synthesizing theological and scientific perspectives *Mystical Divine Encounters* offers a framework for understanding these experiences recognizing both neurological underpinnings and subjective meanings *Pantheistic Dilemmas and Other Essays in Philosophy and Religion* Henry Clay Sheldon,1920 Mysticism: A Guide for the Perplexed Paul Oliver,2009-09-01 Mysticism is one of the most enduring and fascinating aspects of religious life

and one of the most difficult to unpick It has over the centuries inspired many of the leading figures in different faiths to seek a sense of union with God or with the spiritual forces in the universe and is increasingly part of the spiritual mainstream Designed for students grappling with this complicated area this book enables readers to understand the nature of mysticism and to examine in detail the traditional methods used by mystics in seeking an intimate understanding of the spiritual world Including a detailed survey of mystical trends within all the main world religions and case studies of the lives of important mystics *Mysticism A Guide for the Perplexed* also examines the nature of the mystical lifestyle and the extent to which ordinary people can develop a sense of personal mysticism *The Other Side of Silence* Morton T. Kelsey,1997 A classic work on Christian meditation *Descenders to the Chariot* James Davila,2021-11-22 The Hekhalot literature is a bizarre conglomeration of Jewish esoteric and revelatory texts in Hebrew and Aramaic produced sometime between late antiquity and the early Middle Ages and surviving in medieval manuscripts These texts claims to describe the self induced spiritual experiences of the descenders to the chariot and to reveal the techniques that permitted these magico religious practitioners to view for themselves Ezekiel s Merkavah as well as to gain control of angels and a supernatural mastery of Torah Drawing on epigraphic and archaeological evidence from the Middle East anthropological models and a wide range of cross cultural evidence this book aims to show that the Hekhalot literature preserves the teachings and rituals of real religious functionaries who flourished in late antiquity and who were quite like the functionaries anthropologists call shamans

**History of Christian Doctrine** George Park Fisher,1901 *Paul the Mystic* James Mann Campbell,1908 **The Journal of Religion** ,1929 Includes section Book reviews

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