

Power Gender And Christian Mysticism

Christian Mysticism The Roots of Christian Mysticism Christian Mystics The New Big Book of Christian Mysticism The Riddle of Christian Mystical Experience The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Christian Mysticism Christian Mysticism Aspects of Christian Mysticism Light from Light Two Worlds are Ours A Course in Christian Mysticism Christian Mysticism Today Exploring Lost Dimensions in Christian Mysticism Christian Mysticism and Incarnational Theology Soundings in the Christian Mystical Tradition Christian Mysticism Christian Mysticism and Other Essays The Cambridge Companion to Christian Mysticism Modern Buddhist and Christian Mysticism The Christian Mystery Dr Kevin Magill Olivier Clément Ursula King Carl McColman Paul Mommaers Julia A. Lamm Harvey D. Egan SJ William Major Scott Louis K. Dupré John Macquarrie Thomas Merton William Johnston Dr Louise Nelstrop Louise Nelstrop Harvey D. Egan William Ralph Inge Harry Leroy Haywood Amy Hollywood Charles M. Mueller Louis Bouyer

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this book introduces students to christian mysticism and modern critical responses to it christianity has a rich tradition of mystical theology that first emerged in the writings of the early church fathers and flourished during the middle ages today christian mysticism is increasingly recognised as an important christian heritage relevant to today's spiritual seekers the book sets out to provide students and other interested readers with access to the main theoretical approaches to christian mysticism including those propounded by william james steven katz bernard mcginn michael sells denys turner and caroline walker bynum it also explores postmodern re readings of christian mysticism by authors such as jacques derrida jean luc marion and jean françois lyotard the book first introduces students to the main themes that underpin christian mysticism it then reflects on how modern critics have understood each of them demonstrating that stark delineation between the different theoretical approaches eventually collapses under the weight of the complex interaction between experience and knowledge that lies at the heart of christian mysticism in doing so the book presents a deliberate challenge to a strictly perennialist reading of christian mysticism anyone even remotely familiar with christian mysticism will know that renewed interest in christian mystical writers has created a huge array of scholarship with which students of mysticism need to familiarise themselves this book outlines the various modern theoretical approaches in a manner easily accessible to a reader with little or no previous knowledge of this area and offers a philosophical theological introduction to christian mystical writers beyond the patristic period important for the latin western tradition

some books on mysticism offer new age syncretism others propose simplistic methods of producing spiritual experiences still others deconstruct religious experience the roots of christian mysticism by oliver clement however avoids these pitfalls clement presents the mysticism of the early fathers themselves from whose writings he offers exceptionally rich selections that are not readily available in so doing he introduces the reader to christian mysticism through the words of those who were "drunk with god" but whose religious experience was firmly rooted in christ most importantly given the modern propensity for bogus spirituality clement shows the indissoluble unity between mysticism and doctrine the fathers speak doctrine in voices radiant with the dark vision of god and their doctrine is both the fruit of prayer and the form of spirituality from this perspective the church's teachings about god christ church sacrament and christian vocation become the objects of contemplation and the personal quest for god finds its way within not apart from the church ecclesia christian mysticism

therefore always occurs within the womb of the church particularly within the locus of the liturgy and thus is prevented at the outset from becoming merely a freewheeling and self authenticating form of emotional exuberance mysticism thus firmly rooted is considered the normal spiritual life of all christians all the faithful are called to realize fully the grace of their baptism that is to fulfill their humanity by being divinized through grace these words might be disconcerting or raise the specter of "enthusiasm" but some proper understanding of this calling however embryonic is indispensable to spiritual growth to the life of the church and to the transformation of culture why for example when so many americans claim to be christian does their faith have so little impact on our culture or why are the church's moral teachings found to be so excessively burdensome perhaps christians have seldom been directed toward a spirituality that would open them to a fuller vision of their true destiny in christ a recent classroom experience illustrates the point a young christian father of two vigorously proposed many practical reasons for using contraception his understanding of fatherhood operated on a purely naturalistic level his concern to provide for his children likewise revolved around material goods but once he glimpsed the ultimate destiny in christ to which he and his children were called he saw his fatherhood as a participation in a sacred mission and trust only then did the church's teaching and the sacrifices it entails make sense enough to follow such illumination is an essential component in the birth of mystical life from which for the fathers the moral life flows to use clement's terms "only when the beauty goodness of the truth captures the spirit heart is the person able to engage in christian praxis and to make the sacrifices necessary not merely to be good but to be transformed into christ" this transformation entails strenuous spiritual combat with a fallen human nature that the fathers understand with exquisite perception but even here the patristic thrust is basically positive an attraction to the beauty and goodness of god that calls forth virtue rather than an emphasis on the direct destruction of sin clement aptly describes asceticism as "an awakening from the sleep walking of daily life it enables the word to clear the silt away in the depth of the soul freeing the spring of living waters it is the word who acts but we have to co operate with him not so much by exertion of will power as by loving attentiveness" although spiritual growth naturally encompasses the activities of prayer fasting and so forth clement never discusses this apart from christ and trinity salvation is not achieved through pelagian self development but in christ and through his church the fathers' theological center prevents their mysticism from collapsing into self centered or naturalistic forms the beauty that attracts is never separated from her sisters truth and goodness the roots of christian mysticism needs to be read by christians seeking spiritual depth

and by anyone wanting to taste doctrine as a living word it is an excellent introduction to patristic thought and offers not only extensive selections of their writings but an appendix of about seventy pages of biographical material only one criticism of the book is offered references to modern writers need to be noted so the reader can pursue them otherwise this book is a gem jerrilyn szelle crisis april 1996

ursula king s christian mystics offers a distinctive perspective on spirituality the author presents the christian mystical tradition through short biographies of its great figures biographies which are highly readable without oversimplifying the ideas of these great figures this is an outstanding entryway into the rich and deep world of christian mysticism recommended for readers of all backgrounds michael sells professor of comparative religions haverford college

this revised and expanded edition offers a big possibility the hope of achieving real experiential union with god the christian of the future will be a mystic or will not exist this word of warning from theologian karl rahner was uttered half a century ago and today christianity is indeed in crisis is mysticism necessary for the survival of christianity what exactly is christian mysticism how can it be relevant in our crisis ridden world questions like these inspire the new big book of christian mysticism a newly updated edition from beloved spiritual teacher and bestselling author carl mccolman the new big book of christian mysticism serves as both introduction and practical instruction for a living contemplative practice today in addition to the overview of mysticism spiritual and prayer practices in mysticism the various types of mysticism in christian tradition and influential mystics through the millennia this second edition offers an embodied understanding of the mystic life with a more diverse range of voices and perspectives from howard thurman to pauli murray it also includes new chapters and themes that address embodied mysticism contemplation and social justice and the ongoing relevance of jesus s message of radical equality and inclusivity this bigger book introduces both christians and non christians to the contemplative tradition within christianity a tradition that has often been marginalized or cloistered to the church s detriment as a practice oriented book this is an invitation to embrace the mystical element within christianity a practice that can equip faithful persons with a joyful sense of divine intimacy not just for personal benefit but as a foundation to a life of service and activism in the interest of justice mccolman s overview of mysticism shows how it has been practiced and lived through

the centuries and will prove inspirational for today's seekers regardless of their faith tradition at its heart christian mysticism is an ancient practice that incorporates meditation contemplation worship philosophy the quest for enlightenment the thirst for a better world and the experience of divine presence

a distinctive feature of mystical experience is that it is imageless mystics of various traditions witness indeed to their going beyond all intermediaries so as to enjoy immediate union understandably the idea of imageless immediacy is attractive and it is especially in vogue with those who hope to discover that different religious spiritualities converge if only the particularity of say the christian way would be left behind however a crucial question arises here if mystical union consists in simply transcending what is part and parcel of the human condition where is its relevance is the mystic as such in a position to be his or her human self thinking and loving enjoying and suffering can he or she be active in the world of humankind obviously it is especially in the christian tradition that this matter comes to the fore as a radical difficulty for here there is the divine image and mediator so much so that the humanity of jesus ought to be integral to a person's union with god perhaps the christian mystic is such an extraordinary figure that the humanity and all other images and intermediaries are for him or her at best a stepping stone that is bound to disappear the riddle of christian mystical experience aims to clarify this issue by analyzing the writings of such visionaries as julian of norwich teresa of avila and maria petyt of the ecstasy minded masters richard of saint victor bernard of clairvaux and bonaventure describing francis of assisi's experience of the cream of the flemish mystics namely hadewijch and jan van ruusbroec nevertheless the preference for the mystical text does not prevent the riddle from drawing on the insights of modern philosophers such as jean paul sartre and jean luc marion when treating of images and idols or michael polanyi and ludwig wittgenstein when reflecting on intermediaries the main result of this procedure may come as a surprise far from turning into a detached creature who forgets about the humanity and the human the full fledged mystic is as a flemish mystic puts it wholly in god where he rests in enjoyment and wholly in himself where he loves with works experiencing union with intermediary and without intermediary the true christian mystic is unimaged as well as imaged upon the humanity of our lord through heartfelt affection

the wiley blackwell companion to christian mysticism brings together a team of leading international scholars to explore the origins evolution and contemporary debates relating to christian mystics texts and the movements they inspired provides a comprehensive and engaging account of christian mysticism from its origins right up to the present day draws on the best of current scholarship by bringing together a collection of newly commissioned readings by leading scholars considers examples of mysticism in both eastern and western christianity offers a brilliant synthesis of the key figures and historical periods of mysticism its core themes such as heresy gender or aesthetics and its theoretical considerations including theological literary social scientific and philosophical approaches features chapters on current debates such as neuroscience and mystical experience and inter religious dialogue

christian mysticism is unique in its view of jesus death and resurrection as the very cause and exemplar of the mystical life in all its purity jesus saving death on the cross exemplifies the mystical letting go of everything consoling tangible and finite in order to surrender totally to the mystery of the father s unconditional love in this introduction to christian mysticism reverend harvey egan s j presents four christian mystics as paradigms of the classical tradition st ignatius of loyola st teresa of avila st john of the cross and the unknown author of the cloud of unknowing from this foundation he moves to two contemporary figures thomas merton and pierre teilhard de chardin each of whom reflects a contemporary transposition of the two mystical traditions the apophatic which emphasizes the radical difference between god and creatures and the kataphatic which emphasizes the similarity between god and creatures

aspects of christian mysticism by william major scott first published in 1907 is a rare manuscript the original residing in one of the great libraries of the world this book is a reproduction of that original which has been scanned and cleaned by state of the art publishing tools for better readability and enhanced appreciation restoration editors mission is to bring long out of print manuscripts back to life some smudges annotations or unclear text may still exist due to permanent damage to the original work we believe the literary significance of the text justifies offering this reproduction allowing a new generation to appreciate it

in this revised edition of a longtime bestselling anthology of christian mysticism editors louis dupre and james wiseman bring together

selections from the writings of twenty three of the most important christian mystics from origen of alexandria in the third century to thomas merton in the twentieth this edition retains most of the authors included in the first addition but has replaced some authors from that edition with ones that will be of greater interest to readers today e g francis and clare of assisi francis de sales and jane de chantal and evelyn underhill a general introduction discusses the place of mysticism within the christian life as a whole while individual chapter introductions place the mystical writers in their historical context and relate their works to others in the anthology in addition the editors have completely updated the bibliographies at the end of each chapter students and teachers of spirituality as well as persons interested in their own spiritual growth will welcome this popular revised resource because it makes readily available in one volume major works by important christian mystical writers like its predecessor it is sure to be welcomed in the academic world and spiritual and devotional circles

in this masterful historical survey theologian johnmacquarrie demonstrates how christians especially thegreat mystics have experienced at their own radiant core the love and presence of god the word mysticism evokes ecstatic visions asceticism andesoteric teaching yet the author maintains mystics arebetter thought of as people who exhibit common humancuriosity long to explore religious mystery and ultimatelyfind a deep personal relationship with god macquarrie discusses in detail the ten common traits ofmysticism before tracing two millennia of christianmysticism he mainly allows the mystics to speak forthemselves but he is also particularly insightful aboutthe greatest individuals of the tradition from paul to thepatristic platonists to the classic medieval mystics to a hostof twentieth century exemplars

thomas merton s lectures to the young monastics at the abbey of gethsemani provide a good look at merton the scholar a course in christian mysticism gathers together for the first time the best of these talks into a spiritual historical and theological survey of christian mysticism from st john s gospel to st john of the cross sixteen centuries are covered over thirteen lectures a general introduction sets the scene for when and how the talks were prepared and for the perennial themes one finds in them making them relevant for spiritual seekers today this compact volume allows anyone to learn from one of the twentieth century s greatest catholic spiritual teachers the study materials at the back of the book including additional primary source readings and thoughtful questions for reflection and discussion make this an essential

text for any student of christian mysticism

mystical theology has developed through a range of meanings from the hidden dimensions of divine significance in the community's interpretation of its scriptures to the much later science of the soul's ascent into communion with god the thinkers and questions addressed in this book draws us into the heart of a complicated beautiful and often tantalisingly unfinished conversation continuing over centuries and often brushing allusively into parallel concerns in other religions raising fundamental matters of epistemology representation metaphysics and divine reality contributors approach the mystical from postmodern feminist sociological and historical perspectives through thinkers such as meister eckhart thomas aquinas catherine of siena ignatius of loyola william james evelyn underhill ernst troeltsch rudolf otto jacques derrida jean luc marion and jean louis chrétien medieval and early modern radical prophetic approaches are also explored this book includes new essays by sarah apetrei tina beattie raphel cadenhead oliver davies philip endean brian fitzgerald ann loades george pattison simon d podmore joel d s rasmussen and johannes zachhuber

this book examines the relationship between transcendence and immanence within christian mystical and apophatic writings original essays from a range of leading established and emerging scholars in the field focus on the roles of language signs and images and consider how mystical theology might contribute to contemporary reflection on the word incarnate this collection of essays re-examines works from such canonical figures as eckhart augustine plotinus pseudo dionysius nicolas of cusa teresa of avila john of the cross julian of norwich along with the philosophical thought of iris murdoch jacques lacan and martin heidegger and the contemporary phenomena of the emerging church presenting new readings of key ideas in mystical theology and renewed engagement with the visionary and the everyday the therapeutic and the transformative these essays question how we might think about what may lie between transcendence and immanence

called in a special way to listen to god's whispers the mystics amplify not only what it means to be baptized into the life death and resurrection of jesus christ and to having the trinity living in them but also what is deepest in the human spirit mystics experience themselves as an infinite question to which only god is the answer as an immense longing that only love can quench as a nothing in the face of the no

thing they are god's fools troubadours the great artists and poets of the interior life whose learned ignorance articulates the art of loving god neighbor self the church and the world in soundings in the christian mystical tradition harvey egan draws on fifty years of reading and teaching the mystics to sketch the varieties and passion of the mystical life across more than two millennia through their stories and words egan reveals that all were conscious of the paradox of human identity supremely and unsurpassably manifested in the god man that the genuinely human is disclosed only through surrender to god and that the search for god cannot bypass the genuinely human harvey d egan sj is the author of numerous works on christian mysticism and the thought of karl rahner he is currently professor of systematic and mystical theology at boston college

this work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it this work is in the public domain in the united states of america and possibly other nations within the united states you may freely copy and distribute this work as no entity individual or corporate has a copyright on the body of the work scholars believe and we concur that this work is important enough to be preserved reproduced and made generally available to the public we appreciate your support of the preservation process and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant

the cambridge companion to christian mysticism is a multi authored interdisciplinary guide to the study of christian mysticism with an emphasis on the 3rd through the 17th centuries written by leading authorities and younger scholars from a range of disciplines the volume both provides a clear introduction to the christian mystical life and articulates a bold new approach to the study of mysticism

investigations of mysticism often focus on the past while largely ignoring current developments this book contributes to a reversal of that trend with a rigorous examination of a wide selection of contemporary buddhist and christian authors the focus is on the intriguing intersections and subtle divergences now emerging in areas such as ineffability nonconceptuality paradox inverted agency unity and self dissolution the analysis combines the theoretical framework of cognitive linguistics with a range of methodological approaches from discourse and thematic analysis to corpus linguistics wide ranging systematic and informative the book is invaluable to all of those interested

in the phenomenon of mysticism within the modern world

a scholarly and masterful exploration of the meaning and importance of mystery and mysticism to the christian revelation offering a fuller understanding of christian spirituality down the ages and a firmer grasp of what it means to be a christian

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