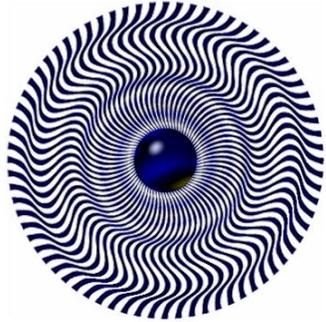


Christian Mystics



Many of us have been fascinated; have been spellbound by the 'wisdom' of mystics over many centuries.

We all have a desire to know more and Mystics have come up with 'deeper knowledge' which appears to go further than conventional truth.

But is there really more to it than what meets the mystical eye?

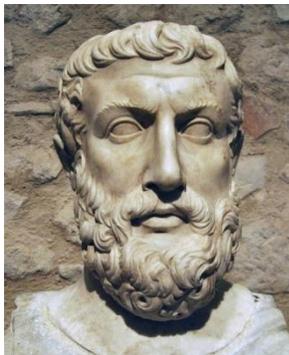
For a long time Mysticism and Christianity have been at odds with each other. They have never mixed well in the past.

The reason for that is that Christianity essentially comes from the Jews.

The Bible is a very Jewish book. Every single author of every book of the Bible was a Jew. Jewish thinking is woven right through the texts of both the Old as well as the New Testament. And to top it all up, Jesus himself is a Jew!

Every single Apostle was a Jew. The early church was essentially made up of Jews. Christianity is a very Jewish religion!

But Jewish thought is entirely different from Greek thought.



Greek Philosophy has greatly influenced our thinking in the Western World over the centuries.

It is also the driving force behind Mysticism itself.

And Greek thought has very little in common with the Jewish way of thinking. It is in fact the exact opposite of it altogether.

As Christians we are much closer to the 'worldview' of the ancient Jews than that of the Greeks. But Mysticism is trying to change that with its wisdom which is 'made by men'.

The Bible also has much to say about wisdom.

But none of what the Bible has to say about wisdom holds any appeal to the Mystic (both in the past, in the present as well as the future).

Proverbs 9:10 makes the following statement:

Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, Teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning. 10The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom!

When have you ever heard a mystic complying with a statement like that?

Such a statement would almost be blasphemy to the mind of a Mystic, both to the mind of a Christian as well as a non-Christian Mystic alike.

The word 'fear' provokes the fiercest opposition and the strongest criticism from any contemporary Mystic. 'Fear' is a negative that does not feed our soul (or so we are told)

But are those words in scripture simply by accident or do they contain any meaning?

Of course Christian Mystics who are also the strongest critics of the Bible itself can easily do away with such a verse by claiming it was simply a human error and it should never be in the Bible.

But if we are serious about God's word then we have to look for its meaning for every word that is written in scripture is there for a reason (**2. Timothy 3:16: *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for instruction, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness.***)

When this verse of scripture was written by Timothy he was referring exclusively to the Old Testament for the New Testament had not yet been written.

The 'fear of the Lord' implies that the belief in 1 God is essential. But it goes much further than that. We are told that if we want to find wisdom we can only find it if our own relationship with God is in order.

Fear means much more than simply to be afraid of somebody. It implies 'respect', a right relationship, a right status before God (of having Him made our Lord), and a recognition that we depend on Him.

It does not say that the 'fear of God' is the beginning of wisdom. By calling God 'Lord' means that God has taken on a very special place in our life. He has become personal to us, He has gained sovereignty over our life, He has become the Lord of our life.

No Mystic on earth can honestly say that this is the case in his or her life. Their thoughts and their words prove the exact opposite to that.

The 'fear' is not like the 'fear' a dog has when he stands in front of a lion but rather that of a creature who has come to understand a bit of the greatness of God, of who God really is. Such a 'fear' can only exist in someone who knows his creator.

So true wisdom can only ever start if the relationship with our creator is in order. This is something which has always been absent, which has been missing in Mysticism both in the past as well as in the present.

Instead of starting with the 'fear of the Lord', Mysticism has always started with the greatness of the human mind. This has also led Mystics towards 'faith' in multiple gods and into syncretism itself.

Christian Mystics (like Richard Rohr) have tried to understand spiritual truth with a Greek mind. The intentions may well have been sincere but the outcome has been a disaster.

Christian Mystics like their non-Christian partners will always lead us towards the wisdom of men. But by doing so it will make a horrendous error.

It will lead us away from the cross!

Richard Rohr refuses to accept the truth that Jesus death on the cross was the atonement for our sins. The cross is no longer essential to his confused and false Christian faith.

And he does so despite the fact that the entire Old Testament points towards the sacrifice the Messiah would make in order to save us from our sins.

The entire message of the New Testament is based on that truth.

Without the cross there can be no salvation, there is no gospel, there is no 'good news'!

The cross is the central truth of the whole Bible! We can read in Revelation that Jesus still carries the visible nail prints on his resurrected body. Those nail prints will stay with Him forever to come!

If a Christian mystic like Rohr claim 'deeper insight' or 'greater knowledge' and by doing so denies the most essential truth of the Bible he does neither have 'deeper insight' nor 'greater knowledge' but all he can show forth is incredible arrogance and total spiritual blindness.

Something has obviously blinded his eyes.

The reason why Mystics struggle with the issue of atonement is because they cannot accept spiritual exclusivity. They are at odd with many of the statements which are made in the Bible.

As a result of it they have chosen to highlight the concept of 'love' as the one thing that can unite everyone. The irony is that by doing so they have at the same time rejected the greatest act of love itself. The fact that Jesus died for our sins in order to save us from hell!

If you only focus on 'love' you look at the universe through pink colored glasses.

But this is not wisdom and this is not deeper spiritual truth.

It is in fact a very great misunderstanding.

Jesus could be both stern and also very loving.

He physically attacked the money lenders in the temple and he showed great love and compassion to sinners. But he also preached a lot about hell (more so than he preached about heaven). He warned people on many occasions that this is where they would end up unless they repent.

The early church never preached about 'love' to unbelievers. They preached about God's righteousness and about men's need to be saved from the wrath of God. The 'love of God' was preached to converted Christians. The message of love was a message that was preached to fellow Christians but not to the unconverted. To the unconverted the message was one of repentance but never of unconditional love.

When you read the book of Acts you will soon find out how the early church preached the gospel to the unconverted. The times may have changed but people have not.

Jesus did share some wonderful parables about the loving and caring heart of His father but the essence of his message was always to lead sinners to repentance in order to save them from hell.

In contrast to this, most mystics would deny the existence of a literal hell altogether.

Surely a 'God of love' would never send anyone to such a terrible place.

Neither does this 'God of love' require repentance for if God is all about love than it is easy to get away with our sins. Our rotten character, our awful stinking sins will be harmless in the tolerant eyes of a 'God of love' who is more like an old senile grandfather than a God who is righteous and real.

We will be told instead that we need more 'Christ conciseness' in order to gain access to deeper spiritual truth.

Hell is one of the most offensive words/ ideas/ places to anyone who has not yet been converted.

In Genesis 3:4 we witness a conversation that Satan had with Eve in the garden : God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" 4The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! 5"For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."...

First Satan questioned the word of God. After that he denied it outright.

His tactics have not changed to this day.

Christian mystics have questioned some of the most basic fundamental foundational truth of the Bible. From there it is only one step to deny the truth altogether.

Instead of preaching a gospel that will lead men to salvation mystics have spread a message that will spread doubt and confusion.

Christian mysticism will ultimately always lead towards syncretism but with one very important exclusion.

While Christian mystics have no problem living in harmony with man and woman of other 'beliefs' (endorsing and promoting the message of other religions like Buddhism's, Hinduism or even Islam will be looked upon as a positive) they will fiercely oppose any Christian who believes that Jesus is the only savior of mankind.

Such a statement would make the face of any mystic boil over in anger.

He will viciously attack anyone who holds such an 'arrogant' and 'intolerant' views but at the same time he also fails to explain why those statements came from the lips of Jesus himself.

John 14:6 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

Acts 4:12 *Salvation exists in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*

2. Cor. 5:21 *For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*



In its final analysis Mysticism is nothing more than a big river of mud.

It is mud because in muddy water it becomes hard to see and objects can also get very distorted. Muddy water also has the power to draw you.

Many gullible Christians have jumped into this river of mud. Some have done so innocently, other deliberately because they

believe that there must be more to the truth than what is revealed in the Bible. But the outcome will always be the same in the end.

The mud will sooner or later destroy you!

It is only a question of time. The process will be slow and gradual so that you will not even notice it.

But one day when the last drop of 'spiritual' blood has been squeezed out of you, you will be spiritual motionless for you will have died on the inside.

A true sign of a dead spirit in a person is that such a man or a woman can listen to the fieriest sermon which has been inspired by the Holy Spirit and it will leave them cold on the inside. It will have no impact; it will have no effect on them at all.

When this happens the mud will have done his work. The spirit which was once alive will have died!

Christian mysticism is always a 'dead end street'.

It may look so very promising at the beginning but in due time it will lead to nowhere. But such is the 'mystical' wisdom of men.

1 Corinthians 2:7- 14 *Among the mature, however, we speak a message of wisdom—but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7No, we speak of the mysterious and hidden wisdom of God, which He destined for our glory before time began. 8None of the rulers of this age understood it. For if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory*

9Rather, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed it to us by the Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11For who among men knows the thoughts of man except his own spirit within him? So too, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13And this is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

14The natural man does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God. For they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned