# Table of Contents

**Introduction**

**Part I: What Is Mysticism?**

1. We Are All Mystics  
Mysticism of Childhood  
Are Mystics Completely Different?  
Mystical Sensibility  
"I Am What I Do": C. S. Lewis

2. Ecstasy  
Stepping Out and Immersing Oneself  
Commotion and Unity: Martin Buber  
Rabi’ā and Sufi Mysticism  
Mansur al-Hallaj: *Agnus Dei Mohamedanus*  
We Have Not Been Created for Small Things

3. Definitions, Methods, Delimitations  
From the Hermeneutic of Suspicion to a Hermeneutic of Hunger  
Pluralism of Methods and Contextuality  
The Distinction between Genuine and False Mysticism

4. Finding Another Language  
The Cloud of Unknowing and the Cloud of Forgetting  
*Sunder Warumbe*: Without a Why or Wherefore  
A Language without Dominance  
The *Via Negativa*, the Way of Negation  
The Paradox  
Silence

5. The Journey  
Ladders to Heaven and Stations on Earth  
Purification, Illumination, Union: The Three Ways of Classic Mysticism  
Traces of a Different Journey: Thomas Müntzer  
Being Amazed, Letting Go, Resisting: Outline of a Mystical Journey for Today
Part II: Places of Mystical Experience

6. Nature
Places and Placelessness
A Morning Hymn: Harriet Beecher Stowe
Monotheism, Pantheism, Panentheism
Sharing and Healing: A Different Relation to the Earth

7. Eroticism
Heavenly and Earthly Love and Their Inseparability
The Song of Songs
Marguerite Porète and the Enrapturing Far-Near One
The Bitterness of Ecstasy: D. H. Lawrence and Ingeborg Bachmann
Sacred Power

8. Suffering
Job: The Satanic and the Mystical Wager
Between Dolorousness and Suffering
"Even When It Is Night": John of the Cross
"Better in Agony than in Numbness": Twentieth-Century Mysticism of Suffering

9. Community
The Hidden Sacred Sparks: Hasidim
Community, the Sinai of the Future: An Examination of Buber's Relation to Mysticism
Without Rules and Poor, Persecuted, and Free: The Beguines
The Society of Friends and the Inner Light

10. Joy
The Mystical Relation to Time: Thich Nhat Hanh
Publicans, Jesters, and Other Fools: The Abolition of Divisions
Dancing and Leaping: The Body Language of Joy
The Relation of Mysticism and Aesthetics

Part III: Mysticism Is Resistance

11. As If We Lived in a Liberated World
The Prison We Have Fallen Asleep In: Globalization and Individualization
Out of the Home into Homelessness
Acting and Dreaming: Becoming Martha and Mary
The Fruits of Apartheid

12. Ego and Ego-lessness
The Ego: The Best Prison Guard
"Go Where You Are Nothing!"
Asceticism: For and Against
Tolstoy's Conversion from the Ego to God
Freedom from the "Ring of Cold": Dag Hammarskjöld
Success and Failure

13. Possession and Possessionlessness
Having or Being
Naked and Following the Naked Savior: Francis of Assisi
John Woolman and the Society of Slave Owners
Voluntary Poverty: Dorothy Day
Middle Roads and Crazy Freedoms

14. Violence and Nonviolence
The Unity of All Living Beings
The Duty of Civil Disobedience: Henry David Thoreau
Mahatma Gandhi and *Ahimsa*
"Our Weapon Is to Have None": Martin Luther King Jr.
Between Hopes and Defeats

15. A Mysticism of Liberation
The Death and Life of Severino: João Cabral
Kneeling Down and Learning to Walk Upright: The Theology of Liberation
"When You Dance with Death, You Must Dance Well": Pedro Casaldáliga
The Voice of the Mute: Dom Helder Camara
Learning to Pray and a Different Mysticism

Notes

Bibliography

Index