

Make the definition broad enough and everybody who's thought to be religious is included in; but will the word stretch that far? Decide for yourself as you reflect on these two typologies (from a reference work of high quality and easy use, Jn. Ferguson's ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MYSTICISM AND MYSTERY RELIGIONS (Crossroad/82, 9.95). Then, for the rest of this page, try a mini-essay on "I am a mystic in the sense(s) that...."

A benefit additional to self-location/understanding:

You (and almost everybody else) are laden with +/- feelings about what's signaled by words beginning with "mys-." Arguable assumptions, attitudes, conceptions lie behind those feelings. As we perceive/judge reality (neighbor, religions and religious experiences we don't "identify with," the world) through those feelings, the more we let the light and air of reality into them the more accurate will be our perceiving/judge--and so the more we can be ministers of truth (or as mystics, as the author of the Gospel of Jn., like to say, life/light/love).

- 3 Positive sensations: joy, bliss, love, peace.
- 4 Sense of the numinous.
- 5 Sense of certitude: the reality of the mystical experience.
- 6 Paradox. So in the *Isa Upanishad* (5)
It moves. It does not move.
It is far. It is near.
It is within this whole universe.
It is outside it.
- 7 Ineffability.
- 8 Transience: the experience does not last.
- 7 Resultant change of attitude and behaviour.

Typology of Mysticism

One typology, based on W. T. Stace, suggests the following analysis:

- 1 Unity (a) External: a sense of cosmic oneness.
(b) Internal: fading of ego into a state a pure awareness.
- 2 Transcendence of time and space.

Another, produced by C. Jinarajadasa, has been presented in tabular form as follows:

TYPE	THEME	METHOD	OBSTACLE	IDEAL
Grace	Gulf between man and God	Prayer	Self-reliance	Righteous man
Love	God's love to man	Adoration	Worry over unworthiness	Bhakta or Saint
Pantheistic	God and man are one	Affirmation	Matter (i.e. Illusion)	Yogi
Nature	God revealed in nature	Contemplation	Ignorance, superstition	Philosophic
Sacramental	'Real Presence'	Symbolism in ritual	Invalid ritual	Priest
Theosophical	Plan of the Logos	Discipleship		Master of Wisdom