

Pathwork on
Mysticism and Mystics

What is Mysticism? Who are the Mystics? Pathwork Lecture 18 *Free Will* gives a framework by which to understand these topics.

36	<p>QUESTION: I asked last time about the difference between the mystic and the occult and black and white magic, but there was no time to answer. Can you do so now?</p> <p>ANSWER: Well, you all know very well the difference between black and white magic, I am sure. So I will answer the question concerning the difference between mysticism and magic. You see, we do not have these exact words or terms, but I understand what you mean by them. Even among human beings there is confusion when it comes to these terms. One person may have a very different idea of the meaning of such a word than another person. Therefore, to use these words may lead to misunderstanding.</p>
37	<p>The true meaning of mysticism is to reach and experience God to the extent possible for an incarnated being. The mystic way, therefore, means complete purification, and the goal remains utterly and solely God, fulfilling His will, and experiencing Him. But the true mystic will not even want to have this highest of all experiences as the ultimate goal because this again would be a selfish goal, and selfishness is diametrically opposed to mysticism. Therefore, the goal of the true mystic in our eyes is <u>service</u>. To reach <u>perfection</u> and to reach that state of <u>happiness</u> where you can be of <u>best service to your fellow-creatures</u> is the goal. And only a <u>very healthy</u>, <u>very integrated</u>, and <u>very harmonious</u> person, a <u>very happy person</u> can really give, <u>love</u>, and <u>help</u>. Thus the goal of the mystic is God, not because the union with God means <u>inexpressible happiness</u> and <u>unimaginable bliss</u> -- though this is a wonderful byproduct, so to speak -- but <u>service to God through service to one's fellow-creatures through the utter fulfillment of God's will in every particle of life.</u> ... The mystic will, on the way to his ultimate goal, also encounter some of the same psychic forces and may even use them occasionally, but his goal will always remain clear in his mind. The mystic will not be sidetracked by the fascination of magic which represents a great temptation and the grave danger that he may lose his way or misuse the powers he has learned to use. He will not be taken in by often very astounding and revolutionary experiences. Many people have started out on the mystic way, but abandoned it because they were too impressed by magic forces which, at one point or another on this path, would become available.</p>