



## The Essential Mystics: Selections from the World's Great Wisdom Traditions

*Andrew Harvey (Editor)*

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A brilliant introduction to the essential texts and themes of the great mystic visionaries.

## **The Essential Mystics: Selections from the World's Great Wisdom Traditions Details**

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## **From Reader Review The Essential Mystics: Selections from the World's Great Wisdom Traditions for online ebook**

### **Sharon Neufer says**

I am using this book as a daily devotional, reading just one small section each day and reflecting on that. It's pretty dense to read straight through, and I am finding this a better approach for me.

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### **Elizabeth Olson says**

Andrew Harvey has collected important mystical writings from major faith traditions, with each tradition given its own chapter. For each chapter he's written introductions highlighting particular themes. The collection is impressive in scope and depth, but would be more useful as a resource if an index were included.

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### **Dr. A.R. Davis says**

This is not an analysis of mysticism, it is a collection of primary sources grouped by the cultures that wrote them, with very brief introductions into each section. As such, it is an interesting first glimpse at the subject, but the author's repeated references to the end of the world, "the human race may die out", "in a time when the natural world is being destroyed", "crucial now to our human survival", "as we all face the threat of extinction", make me think of a long-haired, white robed, man in the supermarket parking lot with a sign, handing out pamphlets of unintelligible gibberish. Why were these fragments chosen? Why were others omitted? Why be concerned about the fate of one planet, one species, even if it is ours, when mysticism claims the entire universe is "god"? I prefer my mysticism more up-to-date, sprinkled with a bit of quantum mechanics and wondering about the life that exists on the thousands of exo-planets recently discovered. This book is twenty years old, and we're still here. We should look elsewhere for enlightenment.

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### **Ron Krumpos says**

Andrew Harvey has edited this book which is essential to any study of comparative mysticism.

"The Essential Mystics / The Soul's Journey into Truth" is one of the books in the primary bibliography of my free ebook on comparative mysticism" at <http://suprarational.org/gail2012.pdf> which includes many of its quotations of mystics.

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### **David Palmacci says**

Amazingly full of meaning and connection to the truth our lives are more than what we see, that instead we are apart of something beyond what we can imagine in our present consciousness.

The best way to describe this book in my own words is the following; consider the fact there are many religions around the world. Each religion is a sort of path. This book states the principles of those "paths", and when you know the different paths you start to see a map of all of them leading to the same place. The world and its history have shown us how groups of different beliefs and ways of life fight amongst each other over who is right and who is wrong, when the fundamental truth is that we all travel to the same destination which is the next step of our existence into what is good.

This book covers Islam, Judaism, Greek Philosophy, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christianity.

I recommend it to anyone who seeks a positive enlightenment in your life.

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### **Ron says**

Meh...Reader's Digest guide to World Religions. Nothing new here, except marketing such a book to our feminine side.

As one reviewer stated, would make a good reference book, if it provided an index...

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### **Steve Wilson says**

This collection contains some great writings from such a wide range of traditions. I will definitely re-visit this book from time to time.

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### **Ivan Granger says**

An excellent anthology from Andrew Harvey. Poetry and brief excerpts from sacred writings among many world traditions: primal cultures, Taoism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Ancient Greece, Christianity, and Islam. Open to any random page and you'll find an uplifting verse, saying, explanation, or wisdom story.

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### **Carisa says**

I could not get into this book.

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