

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910966106703321
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Titolo	Mystics / / William Harmless
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford ; ; New York, : Oxford University Press, 2008
ISBN	9786611162818 9780198041108 0198041101 9780199851560 0199851565 9781281162816 1281162817 9780199885220 0199885222 9781435617797 1435617797 9780195300390 0195300394
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	xv, 350 p. : ill
Disciplina	204/.22
Soggetti	Mysticism Mystics
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [315]-335) and index.
Nota di contenuto	A theology called mystical : Jean Gerson and William James -- Mystic as fire watcher : Thomas Merton -- Mystic as experienced exegete : Bernard of Clairvaux -- Mystic as multimedia artist : Hildegard of Bingen -- Mystic as cartographer : Bonaventure -- Mystic as mystagogue : Meister Eckhart -- Mystic as desert calligrapher : Evagrius Ponticus -- Mysticism and Islam : Rumi -- Mysticism and Zen Buddhism : Dogen -- Reading mystics : text, community, experience.
Sommario/riassunto	Mystics are path-breaking religious practitioners who claim to have experienced the infinite, word-defying Mystery that is God. Many have

been gifted writers with an uncanny ability to communicate the great realities of life with both a theologian's precision and a poet's lyricism. They use words to jolt us into recognizing ineffable mysteries surging beneath the surface of our lives and within the depths of our hearts and, by their artistry, can awaken us to see and savor fugitive glimpses of a God-drenched world. In *Mystics*, William Harmless, S.J., introduces readers to the scholarly study of mysticism. He explores both mystics' extraordinary lives and their no-less-extraordinary writings using a unique case-study method centered on detailed examinations of six major Christian mystics: Thomas Merton, Bernard of Clairvaux, Hildegard of Bingen, Bonaventure, Meister Eckhart, and Evagrius Ponticus. Rather than presenting mysticism as a subtle web of psychological or theological abstractions, Harmless's case-study approach brings things down to earth, restoring mystics to their historical context. Harmless highlights the pungent diversity of mystical experiences and mystical theologies. Stepping beyond Christianity, he also explores mystical elements within Islam and Buddhism, offering a chapter on the popular Sufi poet Rumi and one on the famous Japanese Zen master Dogen. Harmless concludes with an overview of the century-long scholarly conversation on mysticism and offers a unique, multifaceted optic for understanding mystics, their communities, and their writings. Geared toward a wide audience, *Mystics* balances state-of-the-art scholarship with accessible, lucid prose.

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