

A STREAM OF SELECTIVE SPIRITUAL CONTEMPLATIVE HISTORY

By Gerald G. May (with later additions by Tilden Edwards)



SHALEM
INSTITUTE FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

A STREAM OF SELECTIVE SPIRITUAL CONTEMPLATIVE HISTORY

Gerald G May with later additions by Tilden Edwards

Century Some Selective Historical Influences on Contemplative Tradition and Shalem Beyond Hebrew & Greek Scriptures

bce	Egyptian Roots: First recorded sense of personal relationship with God
bce	Patanjali: Yoga Sutras, knowing/acting/feeling, Raja Yoga, forms of Yoga and meditation practices
bce	Buddhism: Gautama Buddha: The Role of the Eight-Fold Path
1	Philo of Alexandria: God's Spirit is manifest in human spirit as nous
2	Ammonius Saccas: Teacher of Plotinus and Origen. Possible Buddhist influence; may have been 2nd Century. . . Ammonius?
2	Clement of Alexandria: Gnosis is a gift from God
3	Origen: Asceticism, self-knowledge, psychological approach to prayer
3	Plotinus: Purgation-illumination-union, creation from & return to the One
3	Christian Desert Mothers and Fathers: Prayer and manual labor in solitude
4	Cappadocians: Apatheia, longing for God, darkness, eros/agape, hesychia, human freedom, relation to Trinity
4	Evagrius Ponticus: Prayer of speech, mind, and heart, "Unknowing," apatheia, accidia
4	Augustine: God within and beyond, longing for God, personal God, community, charity, Trinity
4	Cassian: Introduced Eastern monasticism to West, "Discretion," fire of love
6	Benedict: Community, Rule, Offices, Stability, Hospitality
6	Pseudo-Dionysius: Apophatic, mystery as a way of knowing, cloud, ray of darkness, unknowing. Might have been earlier
6	Gregory the Great: Contemplation as way of seeing, support of spiritual direction, service
7	John Climacus: Meditation on death, dying to self
7	Maximus the Confessor: Faith as goal of the spiritual journey, God as infinite abyss, God works in us through energia
7	Isaac of Ninevah: Gift of tears, strong influence on Sufism
10	Simeon the New Theologian: Vision of light and tears, mystical life normal for Christians, manifesting in love
12	Kabbalah: Historic emergence of long, varied Judaic mystical tradition
12	William of St. Thierry: Trinity in faith through love (strong influence on Julian)
12	Bernard of Clairvaux: Freedom and grace, divine marriage, stages of love of God
12	Hugh and Richard of St. Victor: Psychology and philosophy of contemplation, soul is God's dwelling place
12	Hildegard of Bingen: Chant, poetry, art, creation spirituality
12	Aelred of Rievaulx: "Spiritual journey," spiritual friendship with Christ and persons
12	Francis and Clare: Creation, nature, male/female spirituality, Jesus' passion and compassion
13	Rumi: Poetry, song and dance, founded "whirling dervishes;" one of many Sufi Moslem mystics
13	Meister Eckhart: Apophatic mysticism, emphasis on creation, going beyond images of God
13	Mechthild of Magdeburg: Mysticism and the Beguine Movement
14	Jan Van Ruysbroeck: Trinity exemplified in person, love flashing like lightning through cosmos
14	Gregory Palamas: Chief exponent of Hesychasm, God's "uncreated light" enables us to participate in God
14	Theologica Germanica: Relinquishment of self-image and narcissism
14	Hafiz: Love Poems to God
14	The Cloud of Unknowing & Book of Privy Counseling: Simple loving intention toward God, methods of quiet prayer
14	Julian of Norwich: Mother God, creation, constant intent to behold Christ, pleasing God by seeking God
14	Catherine of Siena: God's creation as act of love
15	Nicholas of Cusa: Coincidence of opposites, mystical one-ness
15	Catherine of Genoa: Social action arising from contemplation

Century Some Selective Historical Influences on Contemplative Tradition and Shalem Beyond Hebrew & Greek Scriptures

16	Martin Luther: Priesthood of all believers, growth in trust through immediate experience of Christ
16	Ignatius Loyola: Discernment, Scriptural imagery, contemplation in action, finding God in all things
16	Teresa of Avila: Works and grace in prayer, psychology of spiritual life
16	John of the Cross: Poetry, Dark Night, realized union
16	Francis de Sales: Scriptural imagery meditation, relational "practicing the presence," spiritual direction
16	Jacob Boehme: God as ground of being, coincidence of opposites
17	Brother Lawrence: Practice of the Presence, simplicity
17	George Fox: Society of Friends, Inner Light in Community
17	Thomas Traherne: Poetry, contemplative awareness as that of innocent child
18	Jean-Pierre De Caussade: Sacrament of Present Moment, discernment in contemplation
18	Gerhard Tersteegen: Integration of contemplation and intellect
18	Baal-Shem-Tov: Rabbi Yisrael ben Eliezer, Founder of modern Hasidism, worship and cling to God in all of life, Holy Sparks
18	John Wesley: Group formation, sanctification as process
18	John Woolman: Moment-by-moment guidance by God, social action
19	Theophan the Recluse: Mind in the heart in prayer, Jesus prayer
19	Therese of Lisieux: "Little Way," simplicity, suffering, discernment
20	Friedrich Von Hugel: Spiritual Direction, Spirit living in history
20	Mohandas Gandhi: Contemplative non-violent social action
20	Evelyn Underhill: Common roots in mystical traditions, psychology of mysticism
20	Elizabeth of the Trinity: Intercession for spiritual guidance, "changeless and calm" prayer
20	Thomas Kelly: Inner guidance, "Continually renewed immediacy"
20	Howard Thurman: Contemplative living from African-American perspective
20	Douglas Steere: Contemporary Quaker and ecumenical spirituality, spiritual companionship
20	Abraham Heschel: Jewish mysticism and social action; Sabbath
20	Shunryu Suzuki: "Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind," Soto Zen
20	Bede Griffiths: Presence of God in human heart and universe: "Knowledge by love; Hindu-Christian relationship"
20	Simone Weil: Perfect attentiveness, identification with the unchurched
20	Thomas Merton: Interfaith dialogue, personal spiritual integrity
20	Thich Nhat Hanh: Zen, non-violent social action
20	Seung Sahn Soen-sa Nim: Rinzaï Zen, "Don't know mind."
20	Martin Luther King, Jr.: Prayerful non-violent action
20	Anthony de Mello: East-West integration, body in meditation
20	The Dalai Lama, Tarthang Tulku and Many Other Contemporary Tibetan Buddhists: Non-violence, way of compassion, Mahamudra/Dzogchen, practices, contemplative psychology
20	Western Jesuit missionaries to Japan influenced by Zen practice, e.g., Thomas Hand and William Johnston Monastics Thomas Keating and Laurence Freeman, founders of contemplative movements focused on different prayer forms
21	Richard Rohr: Contemplation and action, prophetic, vision for the church and world culture
21	Cynthia Bourgeault: Contemplative wisdom tradition
21	Raimon Panikkar: Contemplative theological vision of Christ and Trinity that connects them with other faith traditions
21	John Philip Newell: Celtic Christian Spirituality
21	Rowan Williams: Contemplation as the key to prayer, art, ethics and a renewed humanity