



The Silent Cry: Mysticism and Resistance

Dorothee Sölle , *Martin Rumscheidt (Translator)* , *Barbara Rumscheidt (Translator)*

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Exploring the religious impulse known as mysticism - the "silent cry" at the heart of all the world's religions. Mysticism, in the sense of a "longing for God," has been present in all times, cultures, and religions. But Soelle believes it has never been more important than in this age of materialism and fundamentalism. The antiauthoritarian mystical element in each religion leads to community of free spirits and resistance to the death-dealing aspects of our contemporary culture. Religion in the third millennium, Soelle argues, either will be mystical or it will be dead. Therefore, Soelle identifies strongly with the hunger of New Age searchers, but laments the religious fast food they devour. Today, a kind of "democratized mysticism" of those without much religious background flourishes. This mystical experience is not drawn so much of the tradition as out of contemporary experiences. In that sense, each of us is a mystic, and Soelle's work seeks to give theological depth, clarity, and direction. This, her magnum opus, conjoins Soelle's deep religious knowledge and wisdom with her passion for social justice into a work destined to be a classic of religious literature.

The Silent Cry: Mysticism and Resistance Details

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Author : Dorothee Sölle , Martin Rumscheidt (Translator) , Barbara Rumscheidt (Translator)

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Monica says

my kind of woman, dorothee is

Andrew Marr says

A powerful overview of mysticism, mostly Christian but with helpful references to Hasidic rabbis & Sufi masters as well. What is unique about this book is that the author is a committed social activist & her interest in mysticism is centered on the intersection between mysticism & social outreach. This is a very intense book that should set the heart on fire for mystical prayer and social concerns both.

Debbie Blane says

Finished at long last! This book is STUPENDOUS! It is well written and thought provoking, and a perfect read for me on my way out of China and on my way towards Sudan.

Russ Booton says

I loved this book. Solle connects the dots between mysticism, liberation theology, and political activism, with examples from the lives and writings of prominent figures. In my mind, this is a perfect sequel to the writings of Evelyn Underhill. I heartily recommend it.

Dougw says

Brilliant analysis of mysticism and it's place in contemporary culture. The ideas in this indispensable book bear deep reflection. A book to be read and re-read.

Carrie says

Amazing book to understanding suffering and human real people to reference. A core base for my theology of jeong.

Bob Seabury says

very intense and dense. I feel this might turn out to be an important book in my life, but there was too much to absorb in one reading. will most likely go back to it.

Naum says

Mysticism. Suffering, Resistance.

In an age of materialism and fundamentalism, "mysticism" is of essence to Jesus followers.

The word itself may be confusing to Americans, and I am not sure the early plodding in this book succeeded in expository. Or it could be until my reading synced with the writer style, a difficult chore I find with works translated from German. But wading through the early chapters was well worth the effort, as the read kept getting better and better, until final parts detail stories of saints engaged in "mysticism" resistance and liberation -- St. Francis, John Woolman, Dorothy Day, MLK and others with foreign spelled names that I would mangle at the tip of my keyboard.

Dawna Richardson says

I found this to be a thought provoking read. It is somewhat dated in terms of current world issues but the essence of the mysticism of oneness remains the same. Mysticism is indeed the experience of the oneness and wholeness of life where one acts without any why or wherefore.

Glen Grunau says

I chose this book because it was recommended by a small group of Soulstream partners who read it together and then shared their enthusiasm with the rest of us. A highlight for me was the broad introduction given to mysticism throughout the ages in many different Christian traditions as well as in other religions. The world wide mystical community is breathtaking in its expanse. To be a part of this tradition is an encounter in unitive consciousness.

A chapter was devoted to each of several places where mystical encounter is often likely to be discovered: in nature, eroticism, suffering, community, and joy.

Contrary to popular opinion, mysticism embraces activism - resistance. Mysticism is by definition activist. It is particularly resistant to any society of consumerism, which by its very nature, is rife with injustice. Soelle makes the case that we resist such injustice best when we seek ego-lessness, possessionlessness, non-violence, and liberation.

Such mystical resistance is relatively new territory for me. I have until present, often been content simply to "hold an opinion" on such matters of injustice. I was struck by the criticism of Henry David Thoreau against all who are merely content to hold an opinion and unwilling to engage in "a deliberate denial of the state's

authority".

Yet I was also taken by the suggestion that any focus on what my efforts of resistance may achieve is superfluous in the face of mystical prayer which is free of any investment of outcome. It is the silent cry which "gives away its own ears and eyes to let itself be given those of God" .

Carter West says

This arresting volume offers us a view into the heart of one of the most dynamic theologians of the last 50 years. Sölle's last work brings together her longtime passions for the self's Christ-realization and for social transformation, demonstrating their inseparability. Her mastery of the literature of classical Christian mysticism is especially impressive – Meister Eckhart is a constant companion. She keeps returning to Eckhart's call to act "**sunder warumbe** (without a why and wherefore)" as one essential lever to lift one's understanding of the contemplative life. Such holy gratuitousness proves essential in building a bridge between mysticism and political engagement. "Resistance" is the key theme here, and there Sölle rightly perceives a commonality between the two. Both are lives lived across the grain of the culture of dominance, the former in hope of a self authenticated in love, the latter determined to bring about whatever liberating power is available to us. A serene carelessness for any "must" as to consequences and outcomes in either realm enables the disciple to claim maximum freedom of action and maximum sustained effort. In those two spheres of living, Sölle perceives one united human spirit, and she is very persuasive.

As much as I feel compelled to affirm this book as an essential work for the development of my faith, though, I had to give it only four stars (only!). The final few chapters, those dealing with the witness of several politically engaged mystics, tended to lose their focus. The incisive analysis of the "mystics" of the book's first two-thirds gave way to a more loose and wandering style, making it difficult at points to boil her prose down to the essence of the thought of each figure (Henry David Thoreau, e.g., or Dom Helder Camara). Her rambling here, though, only served at last to highlight the vitality of the first sections of the book. Reading it, I realized how long I'd been in need of an author who could bring together the social and the personal, the political and the mystical. Sölle fills that bill admirably.

Petra Steinmair-Pösel says

One of my favourite books ever!

Steve Allison says

I read this several years ago. Gave away my hardcopy. So, recently downloaded to Kindle and plan to read again. More later.

Curtis says

Best Soelle that I've read yet. Although it is also the longest. For those with less time to read, Theology for

Skeptics is great as well. This one, however, establishes mysticism as an important focus for postmodern religion as well as fuel for resistance.

mahatmanto says

beli ebook ini karena dikomporin teman yang sedang studi mengenai mistik sebagai perlawanan terhadap agama institusional.

tema seperti ini agaknya muncul di sepanjang sejarah agama institusi, yakni kebutuhan akan keluwesan institusi agama dalam mengikuti dinamika umatnya.

buku ini terbit tahun 1997 dalam bahasa jerman, namun baru 2001 hadir dalam bahasa inggris. dalam bibliografi karya-karya soelle [yang panjang itu] buku ini termasuk di deretan belakang, namun tema itu sudah lama ia gumuli.

konon, resistensi dia itu diinspirasi oleh meister ekhardt, juga kierkegaard, dan bonhoeffer. yang terakhir ini pendeta yang meringkuk di dalam penjara hitler, ketika semua pendeta jerman pada masanya berada di belakang sang fuhrer.

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--bentaar.. (less)
