

**AN ESSAY IN AID OF THE BETTER
APPRECIATION OF CATHOLIC
MYSTICISM: ILLUSTRATED FROM
THE WRITINGS OF BLESSED
ANGELA OF FOLIGNO**

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An Essay in Aid of the Better Appreciation of Catholic Mysticism: Illustrated from the Writings of Blessed Angela of Foligno by Algar Thorold

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CATHOLIC MYSTICISM

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CATHOLIC MYSTICISM

IN these days, when the methods of democracy not only claim the outer court of a man's social environment, but also threaten the shrine of his thought, many words of ancient descent, accustomed in the past to rule, without question, the peoples of the soul, are fallen, veritable *rois en exil*, on evil times. Faith, for the most part, bereft of her palaces, must dwell in the hiding-holes of superstition, her deadliest foe: reason seems on the way to becoming indistinguishable from the trained use of developed senses. Mysticism, the sublime child of faith and reason, that once led the greatest of our race to heights of now scarcely imaginable intensity of living, hobnobs, in popular esteem, with the patter of the sorcerer and the *tireuse de cartes*.

But the right of words, unlike that of kings, is truly divine, and if the scheme of the world be guided by reason, some day, at length, must surely see these legitimate sovereigns restored to their thrones.