

**AN INTRODUCTION
TO
THE MYSTICAL LIFE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649615711

An Introduction to the Mystical Life by P. Lejeune & Basil Levett

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

P. LEJEUNE & BASIL LEVETT

**AN INTRODUCTION
TO
THE MYSTICAL LIFE**

AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE
MYSTICAL LIFE

BY THE
ABBÉ P. LEJEUNE

DOMESTIC PRELATE TO HIS HOLINESS
CURÉ-ARCHPRIEST OF CHARLEVILLE

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY
BASIL LEVETT

R. & T. WASHBOURNE, LTD.
PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON
AND AT MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, AND GLASGOW
1915 *All rights reserved*

PREFACE

IN order to avoid a misunderstanding to which the very title of this work might lead, it cannot be too forcibly stated that the Mystical Life is not with any infallible certainty the outcome of our own personal effort, however rightly that effort may have been made. Let us suppose that a soul has realized all the proper conditions of recollection and generosity which we are about to describe, is it certain that the Mystical Life will result from such effort, as effect from cause? Certainly not; we shall presently hear the greatest mystical writers themselves declare that this life is the gift of God—a gift which He makes to whom He pleases, and when He pleases; we shall hear them affirm that it is absurd to suppose that we can ever hope to win this grace for ourselves by our personal industry. What, then, is man's part in this matter? It consists only in cultivating the ground for grace, in working the soil so as to render it fit to receive the heavenly showers; but this labour

will with no more certainty ensure the growth of the Mystical Life in the soul, than will that of a gardener who digs ensure the needful rain for his garden. Alvarez de Paz, for example, devotes many a page, as do several other mystical writers, to *Preparation for Contemplation*. He tells us that God does not allow Himself to be outdone in generosity, and that very often the gift of the Mystical Life follows on man's good will ; but he hastens, at the same time, to assure us that there is no necessary connection between man's effort and this precious gift ; and that if the Mystical Life usually does appear on a soil thus prepared, it cannot be said to germinate always by reason of a law in itself infallible and binding upon God. There is, indeed, no connection between man's effort and a resulting grace of this nature ; and what is more, there exists no promise on God's part to give the Mystical Life as a reward of this effort.

We beg our readers to pay attention to this important declaration. It will prevent any misunderstanding of our teaching in the following pages. We feel sure that, after this warning, no one can accuse us of nourishing in certain souls the dangerous illusion that the Mystical Life will infallibly result for them from the con-

PREFACE

vii

ditions we are about to study. Once again, it is not the means for attaining to the Mystical Life which we pretend to reveal ; this would be pure presumption. We only hope to point out to souls of good will some of the practices which spiritual writers teach as forming the best dispositions for that life ; and we can only repeat that, although these dispositions may have been realized in their fulness, and to perfection, God ever remains free to grant this Life at any time He pleases, or to withhold it for ever.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE END WE HAVE IN VIEW : THE MYSTICAL LIFE - - - - -	1
II. THE FIRST DISPOSITION : PERSEVERANCE IN THE PRACTICE OF MENTAL PRAYER - -	33
III. THE SECOND DISPOSITION : THE HABIT OF RECOLLECTION - - - - -	58
ARTICLE I.—ITS DEFINITION, ITS ADVANTAGES, AND ITS DIFFICULTIES - - - -	58
ARTICLE II.—ON THE DIVERSE FORMS OF RECOLLECTION - - - - -	84
IV. THE THIRD DISPOSITION : HUMILITY - -	129
V. THE FOURTH DISPOSITION : MORTIFICATION -	176
VI. ON MORTIFICATION THROUGH THE THREE VOWS OF THE RELIGIOUS LIFE - - - -	221
ARTICLE I. — ON MORTIFICATION THROUGH POVERTY - - - - -	224
ARTICLE II. — ON MORTIFICATION THROUGH CHASTITY - - - - -	242
ARTICLE III. — ON MORTIFICATION THROUGH OBEDIENCE - - - - -	262
VII. HOW THE SOUL PASSES FROM THE ORDINARY SPIRITUAL LIFE TO THE MYSTICAL LIFE -	285

