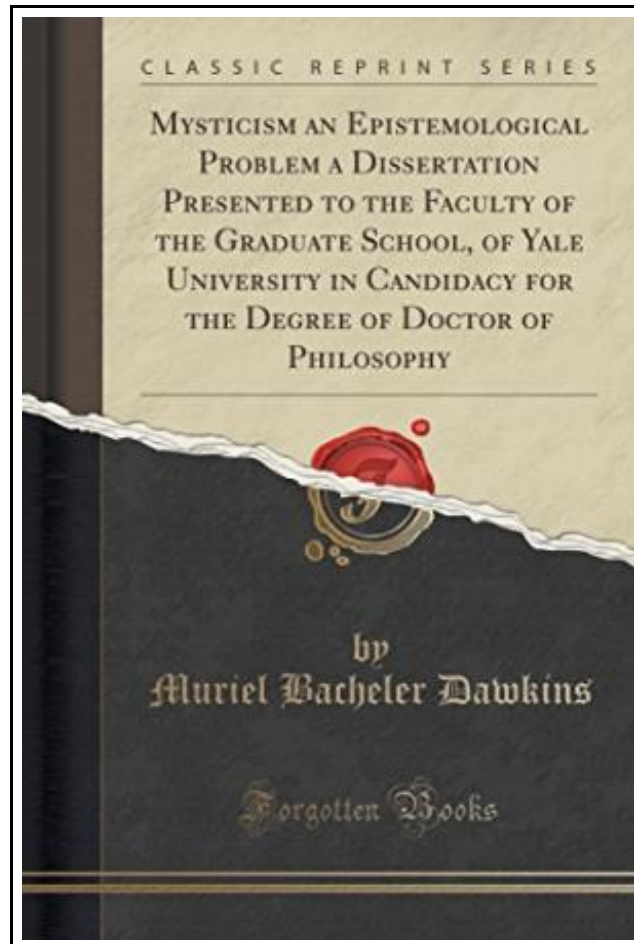


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from *Mysticism an Epistemological Problem a Dissertation Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School, of Yale University in Candidacy for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy* Mysticism as a philosophy is a doctrine of the Abstract Universal. Whenever, from the time of the Indian Upanishads, through Neoplatonism and mediaeval catholic mysticism, even in the later days of the Quakers, mysticism has become speculative, has sought to formulate its own inner meaning, it has been marked by a characterless Absolute at the center of it. It would be hard, perhaps, to discover a poorer speculative theory. Not only has the mystic's theory been often and most thoroughly refuted, but it is really incapable of rational statement. For whoever formulates the doctrine, does, by that very act, refute it. The mystic finds no satisfaction in any object of knowledge which is less than absolute, ultimate - yet every object of knowledge is less than ultimate, is somehow defined, does somehow depend for its character on another. Therefore reality must be to the mystic no object of sense or of knowledge at all, nothing defined or definable, nothing even real or imaginable - and in these positings the mystic not only contradicts himself and all principles of rationality, but he also destroys his own doctrine by actually defining his Real, though only indeed as an absolutely unknowable, a zero, -and his ineffable zero he defines in turn as somehow the only Real. For the mystic, having, in his attempt to avoid all limitation of his Real, limited it to absolute nothingness, seeks to give it character by way of contrast. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds...

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