



Divine Reality  
Beyond a personal GOD

***„Meister Eckhart  
remains the great master of mystical theology,  
who is a model for the church today.“***

(Bede Griffiths O.S.B., Kreuth 1<sup>st</sup> April 1992)

„Meister Eckhart is coming to be recognized to-day as the most important spiritual master of the Middle Ages. In his lifetime he was involved in controversy, which led to the condemnation of some of his writings, but to-day, as we see him in the wider context of the medieval world as a whole and the spirituality which is emerging through contact with Eastern spirituality, we

can see that he is not only fundamentally orthodox as a catholic theologian, but is also a pioneer in opening the church to a deeper understanding of the Christian Mystery.

Eckhart was a Dominican Prior, a disciple of **St. Thomas Aquinas**, and a leading figure in his order. His genius lay in his profound insight into the deeper levels of human consciousness. He expressed these insights not only in his Latin sermons, but in his German sermons, preached before simple people, which were actually an important stage in the development of the German language. But he expressed himself with great freedom and often in paradoxical language, which could easily lead to confusion. But behind his paradoxes lay an extraordinary insight into the working of the human mind.

One of these insights was his distinction between **GOD** and the **GODHEAD**. He saw that most people in their prayer project an image of GOD, which, though it may be a useful aid to prayer, falls immeasurably short of the divine reality. This divine reality beyond name and form, beyond word and thought, he called **GODHEAD**. The GODHEAD is known not by the rational mind with its concepts and judgments, but by the *scintilla animae*, the spark of the soul, where the human being encounters the divine reality in its eternal ground. Eckhart was thus able to lead the church beyond the conceptual understanding of a personal GOD to a mystical experience in which the GODHEAD itself is encountered in its infinite, transcendent reality.

He thus remains the great master of mystical theology, who is a model for the church to-day in its encounter with the mystical traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam and other religions of the world.“

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## Meister Eckhart

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