

PHILOSOPHY
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Grekov I.M. Gnostic tradition on essence and role of mystical experience

It is considered Gnostic interpretation of the essence of the mystical experience and its role in the comprehension of the divine and human self-knowledge. The conceptual and historical boundaries of gnosticism and common elements of Eastern and Western mystical tradition are identified. The basic idea is that within gnosticism and relevant to it religious and philosophic trends not faith and reason are the main tools of understanding the essence of the divine and the human, but the living, experience, epiphany as a special personal experience. Within the Christian tradition this experience related to the inner spiritual work is praying, theologians called "smart doing" or "spiritual sober". In Sufism, the fundamental idea is the path of ascension to the Creator through spiritual improvement, carried out by his personal efforts. This experience of improvement in order to achieve higher knowledge is called "work."

Key words: gnosticism, hermeticism, knowledge, mystical experience, faith, reason, smart doing, work.