



# The Awakening Ground: A Guide to Contemplative Mysticism

By David Chaim Smith

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## The Awakening Ground: A Guide to Contemplative Mysticism By David Chaim Smith

Author David Chaim Smith offers a guide to the practice of mystical contemplation from the perspective of a highly unusual form of non-dual Kabbalah, unfettered by both religious mythology and psychological reductionism. The path articulates the ultimate quest for meaning, which seeks to pass through the clutter of the mind's conceptual associations to nakedly and directly recognize the innate essentiality of all things known as the light of En (no) Sof (end), or the Infinite. Most mainstream conventional schools of Kabbalah hold such a radical aspiration to be inapproachable at best, and heretical at worst.

- The work introduces six stages that articulate how the mind breakthrough its own restrictive habitual reflexes to awaken to the ground of En Sof, which is the mind's essential nature
- Each stage is illustrated by the author's own original works of art and line diagrams
- Draws upon obscure sources such as the 13th-century Kabbalistic text *Fountain of Wisdom*, various alchemical and gnostic texts, and the writings of Isaac the Blind

The author reveals how meaning never remains static--its nature is to move, transmit, and display--yet its precious potential becomes buried under layers of mental constructs. He explains how the mind's habits and reflexes impose structures of containment that try to make sense out of phenomena, but these very structures actually obscure their essence completely. Smith's experiential path to gnostic awakening reveals how, in the wake of the lesser concerns of the conceptual mind, primordial purity shines in resonances of vast poetic beauty, if a sensibility of wonder, awe, and delight is cultivated.

Contemplation begins with intellectual understanding. As contemplation deepens, the mind shifts from the accumulation of data to the unfolding of direct gnostic apprehension. This dissolves the idea that outer and inner or personal and cosmic distinctions exist, allowing phenomena to return to its basis as a single, uninterrupted continuum. As the mind becomes dwarfed by the sheer immensity of this vast wholeness, the character of meaning begins to change. Meaning's

fullness shapes the mind rather than the mind's reflexes and habits shaping meaning. The fullness opens beyond the experiences the mind relies upon to define both itself and the world, but paradoxically only arises within those experiences as their basis. Once this basis is recognized as the root of the paradox, the awakening ground becomes clear.

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## The Awakening Ground: A Guide to Contemplative Mysticism By David Chaim Smith Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"For those whose every fiber thrums at sight of the Tree of Life while thirsting for the soma of Gnosis beyond all forms, David Chaim Smith's, *The Awakening Ground* is a guide you'll be pulling off the shelf for refreshment for many years. Those same shining sparks one sees in the complex connections of Schuon's metaphysics are present here in the windswept yet crystalline-clear architecture for the daring occultist truly looking to distill the quintessence from her Art." (Purnacandra Sivarupa, *Peace Profound*)

In the last few years David Chaim Smith has been quietly amassing one of the most profound bodies of work in contemporary Western esotericism. *The Awakening Ground: A Guide to Contemplative Mysticism* is his most recent published work (there are a couple more already lined up), and his most refined yet in expounding a path of non-dual contemplative mysticism. His work is distilled mainly in Kabbalistic imagery --both in written word and in enigmatic geometrical artefacts that evoke dark alchemical diagrams-- but it also draws heavily from different mystical traditions, including an "unbroken lineage of gnostic realization". (Alejandro Martínez Gallardo, *Cadena Áurea*)

"Well, this I would call a must have book. And one I intend to return to in depth. I think most people mainly associate David Chaim Smith with his beautiful and intricate visual cabalistic vistas, but this is something else. It's his own story of awakening to what's behind the scenes of symbol-heavy old texts. Which makes it valid and relevant for a general 'occult' audience too. Information, as we all know, can be ingested ad infinitum, but it serves no purpose (higher or lower) if the process doesn't allow for insights and genuine wisdom to flow through and take hold. Smith calls this 'awakenings,' and that's indeed a very apt term. As usual, his images are incredibly beautiful, and it's totally possible to see how his manifestation of them helped him delve deeper/higher on his own path. That's not saying you have to be a skilled master artist to 'get' any kind of bigger/inner picture, but the devotion certainly helps. You may file this under 'Cabala' and 'great art,' but make sure you actually use it in inspirational ways--whichever tradition you're coming from." (Carl Abrahamsson, *filmmaker, musician, author, publisher of Fenris Wolf*)

#### From the Author

*Dream Membrane* (ASIN: B00MUR9F4S) is a special collaborative ambient recording featuring David Chaim Smith reading selections from his mystical text *The Awakening Ground: A Guide to Contemplative Mysticism* along with the magical creator of Dark Ambient music, Bill Laswell, on bass and drones, and legendary composer/musician, John Zorn, on shofar and alto saxophone. Evocative and meditative, this is a rare and unique sonic landscape synthesizing Kabbalah, Mysticism and the hypnotic swirls of Dark Ambient music.

#### About the Author

David Chaim Smith was born in 1964 in Queens, New York. His early career was as a visual artist throughout the 1980s. In 1990 he began an immersion into the root sources of Alchemy and the Hermetic and Hebrew traditions of the Kabbalah. In 1996 he abandoned visual art for a total dedication to spiritual practice, from which came a unique blend of practical mysticism and creative innovation. This blend coalesced while working with an obscure thirteenth-century text called *The Fountain of Wisdom*, which he mapped out diagrammatically in notebooks during his ten-year hiatus from visual art. The resulting symbol vocabulary served as the basis for his 2006 return to art, generating the content for several books. He currently lives in the suburbs of New York City with his wife, Rachel.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jim Weigel:**

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#### **Deborah Ayers:**

The experience that you get from The Awakening Ground: A Guide to Contemplative Mysticism is the more deep you looking the information that hide inside words the more you get thinking about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but The Awakening Ground: A Guide to Contemplative Mysticism giving you buzz feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by simply anyone who read the idea because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this kind of The Awakening Ground: A Guide to Contemplative Mysticism instantly.

#### **Jennifer Day:**

This book untitled The Awakening Ground: A Guide to Contemplative Mysticism to be one of several books that best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this book in the book shop or you can order it by using online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, as you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this e-book from your list.

#### **Mary Perez:**

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