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SYRIAC MYSTICISM AND SPIRITUALITY IN EASTERN CATHOLIC MONASTICISM

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Introduction

The Syriac tradition, rooted in the ancient Semitic heritage of Mesopotamia and the Levant, presents a distinctive approach to Christian mysticism and spirituality. Within Eastern Catholicism, especially among the Maronite, Chaldean, and Syriac Catholic Churches, this mystical heritage continues to enrich Christian contemplative life. The Syriac spiritual tradition offers a profound theological anthropology, emphasizing the inner transformation of the soul through divine love, asceticism, and mystical union with God (Brock, 1999). This article explores the core themes and expressions of Syriac mysticism in Eastern Catholic monasticism, with special attention to historical development, theological insights, and liturgical expressions.

Historical Roots of Syriac Mysticism

Syriac Christian spirituality traces its origins to the early desert monastic movements of the 3rd and 4th centuries, influenced by the likes of St. Ephrem the Syrian, St. Isaac of Nineveh, and the anonymous authors of the Book of Steps and the Liber Graduum. Unlike the more speculative Greek tradition, Syriac mysticism is marked by a poetic and experiential approach to

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