

Stages or Phases:

Mysticism...

Metaphysics...

Philosophy

And Beyond!?

Glimpse vs. Stations

Islamic mystics called Sufis differentiate between glimpses, which they call "states," and permanent advances on the path, which they call "stations." The former are described as being not only temporary but also fragmentary, while the latter are described as bearing results which cannot be lost. There are three main stations along the path. The first is annihilation of the ego; the second is rebirth in the Overself; and the third is fully grown union with the Overself. The Sufis assert that this final state can never be reached without the Grace of the Higher Power and that it is complete, lasting, and unchangeable. 22.8.28

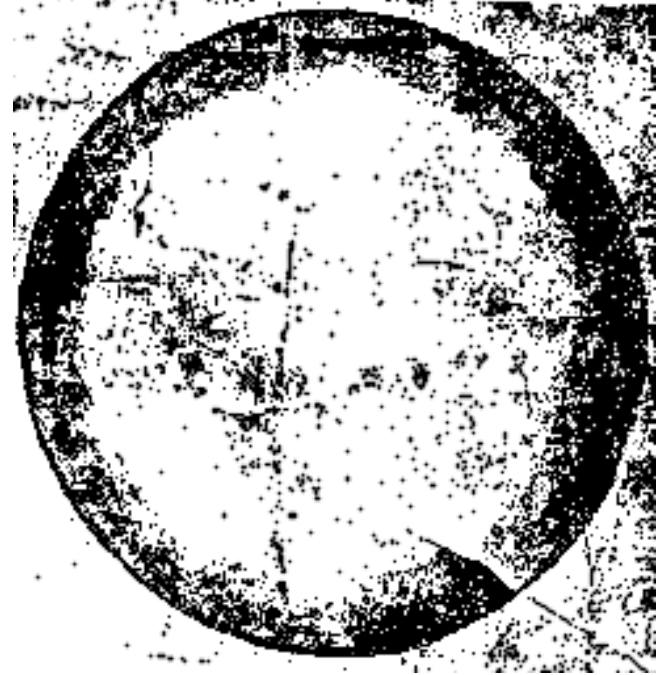
Two things have to be learned in this quest. The first is the art of mind-stilling, of emptying consciousness of every thought and form whatsoever. This is mysticism or Yoga. 20:4.134



*(pictures from zen oxherding pictures.
This is #7: after the first 6 taming the ego!)*

The disciple's ascent should not stop at the contemplation of anything that has shape or history, name or habitation, however powerfully helpful this may have formerly been to the ascent itself. Only in the mysterious void of Pure Spirit, in the undifferentiated Mind, lies the last goal as a mystic.

20:4.134



second is to grasp the essential nature of the ego and of the universe and to obtain direct perception that both are nothing but a series of ideas which unfold themselves within our minds. This is the metaphysics of Truth.
20:4.134



... The combination of these two activities brings about the realization of our true Being as the ever beautiful and eternally beneficent Overself. This is philosophy. (20:4.134 part 3)

...Finally, we return to the world's activity without reacting mentally to its suggestions, working disinterestedly, and knowing always that all is One. This is the philosophical stage. *P.257*



Although the aspirant has now awakened to the witness-self, found the "soul," and thus lifted themselves far above the mass of mankind, they have not yet accomplished the full task set by life. A further effort still awaits. They have yet to realize that the witness-self is only a *part* of the All-self. So the next task is to discover that they are not merely the witness of the rest of existence but essentially of one stuff with it. Have, in short, by further meditations to realize their oneness with the entire universe in its real being. They must now meditate on his witness-self as being in its essence the infinite All... 23.6.88

Thus the ultramystic exercises are graded into two stages, the second being more advanced than the first. The banishment of thoughts reveals the inner self whereas the reinstatement of thoughts without losing the newly gained consciousness reveals the All-inclusive universal self. The second feat is the harder. 23.6.88

To be the witness is the first stage; to be
Witness of the witness is the next; but to BE
is the final one. For consciousness lets go of
the witness in the end. Consciousness
alone is itself the real experience. 25.2.100

Sometimes PB changes the order, putting mysticism first:

We need to know the truth, the wisdom-knowledge, but it is not enough. We need to have the living mystic experience, the vital feeling of what I am, but it is not enough. For we need to synthesize the two in a full actual intuitive realization, conferred by the Overself. This is Grace. This is to emerge finally--born again! 25.2.51

Sometimes PB goes beyond philosophy

Yoga takes a person to a certain level,
philosophy to another, whilst the ultimate
sahaja path takes one to a more complete
experience and the highest vantage point of
all. (16:2.78)

Or:

Long Path → Short Path → Surrender.

... So a third phase becomes necessary, the phase of getting rid of the ego altogether; this can be done only by the final dissolving operation of Grace, which the person has to request and to which they have to give their consent. To summarize the entire process, the Long Path leads to the Short Path, and the Short Path leads to the Grace of an unbroken egoless consciousness. -23.5.206