HEAVENLY VISIONS & HOLY DREAMS  
  
'We can make no distinction between the man who eats little   
and sees heaven and the man who drinks much and sees snakes.'  
 – Bertrand Russell  
  
This is an invitation to explore the relationship   
between religion and madness. Stories have always   
been a source of power for religious organizations,   
proof of their authority to interpret ideas of the divine.  
  
Being a biblical prophet wasn’t a foolproof shield against   
accusations of insanity. Mental disturbances were often   
seen as divine punishments or demonic possessions,  
were rarely regarded as heavenly visions or holy dreams.  
  
But ignore the historical downsides. The employment of   
mystical concepts and language will revolutionize your life,  
**although without some boundaries, mysticism can veer   
into potentially dangerous, unorthodox, even occult areas.**  
Many Christians only want their doubts quenched but   
I try and let readers decide for themselves. The words   
people use to describe mental illness say a lot about   
how they understand the nature of existence and how  
  
mysticism has wormed its way inside evangelicalism   
so that the two have become integrated and inseparable.  
There is both compromise and infiltration going on, so  
I would encourage you to continue your own research.  
  
There’s much more out there than we can imagine   
about our God, so much we can’t understand or know,  
but is extremely difficult to discern between angels and   
fallen angels. Finding out about a mystical experience   
  
that imparts secret knowledge is different to believing.  
I don’t think it’s wrong or dangerous to read revelations,  
everyone’s journey with God is a beautiful thing, even   
if it doesn’t look or seem the same as Julian's or mine.  
  
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