This study aims to define and characterize mysticism in literature with particular reference to the poetry of Coventry Patmore and Francis Thompson. There are affinities between Patmore and Thompson as mystical poets too, but the divergences are more marked. In both, however, the mysticism is religious in motive and inspiration overtly Christian in reference but not without a universal bearing. Needless to say, it assumes two forms – immanent and transcendental. In Patmore, the former type is pronounced though, in the religious odes, he is explicitly concerned with transcendental themes. In Thompson, both types of mysticism are well represented.

In determining what is mystical in Patmore and Thompson, emphasis in this study has been laid on the textual evidence. Whereas the available criticism on the poets leans heavily on the biographical and the psychological, this study offers a markedly textual base, its underlying assumption being that mysticism in literature reveals universal characteristics, beyond the terms and accents it may owe to a particular creed. It is broadly from this angle that this work aims to establish how for Patmore and Thompson are mystical poets and what links them as such, taking into account their place in the mystical tradition of English poetry. The discussion of the stylistic aspect of
their poetry has also been attempted specifically in the fifth chapter to throw light on the quality of their mystic vision.

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_Padma} Madhulika Singh