

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Summary and Key Terms</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>Abbreviations</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1	Basic Research Questions	10
1.2	Research Methodology	11
1.3	Review of Literature	12
1.4	Plan of the Thesis	15
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>Spirituality and Mysticism</b>	<b>19</b>
2.0	Introduction	19
2.1	Nature and Forms of Spirituality	19
2.2	The Study of Spirituality	21
2.2.1	Spirituality or Spiritualities	23
2.3	Nature Spirituality	29
2.3.1	Infatuation with Nature	30
2.3.2	Disdain for Nature	32
2.4.	The Nature and Forms of Mysticism	36
2.4.1.	Mysticism and the Everyday World	41
2.4.2.	Mysticism and the Natural World	46
2.4.3	Mysticism and Contemplation	50
2.4.4	Nature Mysticism	53
2.5	Conclusion	58
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>Places of Francis</b>	<b>60</b>
3.0	Introduction	60
3.1	The Carceri	61
3.2	The Portiuncula	64
3.3.	LaVerna	67
3.4	Greccio	69
3.5	Fonte Colombo	71
3.6	San Francesco del Deserto	72
3.7	Dialectic of City and Wilderness in the Life of Saint Francis	74
3.8	Conclusion	77

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>The World of Nature</b>	79
	4.0	Introduction	79
	4.1	Elements	79
	4.2	Fruit, Colored Flowers and Herbs	87
	4.3	The Animal Kingdom	88
	4.3.1	Wild Beasts and Tame	93
	4.4	Fish	100
	4.5	Birds	101
	4.6	Reflection on Nature Stories	105
	4.7	Conclusion	112
<b>Chapter</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>The Canticle of the Creatures</b>	114
	5.0	Introduction	114
	5.1	The Circumstances of the Composition of the Canticle	114
	5.2	The Stigmata at La Verna	118
	5.3	The Praises of God	123
	5.4	The Canticle of the Creatures	129
	5.5	Maternal Qualities of Francis	148
	5.6	Reflections on the Canticle	152
	5.7	Conclusion	159
<b>Chapter</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Gathering the Fruits</b>	161
	6.0	Introduction	161
	6.1	The Language of Mysticism	162
	6.2	St Francis of Assisi	166
	6.3	Concluding Remarks on Francis' s Mysticism	169
	6.4	Spirituality	171
	6.5	Ecology	182
	6.6	Conclusion	185
<b>Chapter</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	186
<b>Bibliography</b>			189