Gershom Scholem founded the academic study of Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism. Central to his project was the identification of Kabbalah as 'mysticism'. This however is a weighty presupposition and is by no means to be taken for granted. The paper will explore the construction of 'mysticism' as an episteme in early twentieth century philosophy and analyze both its power and its price as an analytic prism for understanding Kabbalah.

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