

Eastern monasticism will continue in more and more extreme asceticism while the western tends to turn itself more to the community and the maintenance of Christian culture.

Within the communities we find that some things are common in general life to all. We find the monastic orders tend to champion:

sexual continence
asceticism
mysticism
removal

while on the other hand they deny or reject:

marriage
possessions
feastings
public life.

It was easy for them to become retreats from reality. At the same time the ideas have many attractions and you will find that the common idea has an appeal in Protestantism as well as in Roman and orthodox circles in our day. It exists, as one might know, in several shades and variations from the meditationist Carmelite nuns to the Bibletown saints in Florida.

Monastic Groups:

With monasticism came a lot of extreme groups, as one might suppose, along with the normal order of things. You will see notes on the following extreme bodies...the notes may or may not be fully correct as we have mostly the critical notes of our foes with which to make our judgments.

--Therapeutae (the clean...later Albigensians)
--Bosko...a society of holy robbers.
--Audian...emotive and charismatic practitioners
--Euchites...wild enthusiasts, etc.

The fact of being called extreme does not negate the reality of a position and we should not move away from something just because there seem to be a few crackpots in it. A friendly word of warning, that is all.