

***The Sacred:***

The Wholly Other, the Beyond Which One Cannot Go, the Ultimate Which Lies Beyond, the Really Real

***Characteristics of The Sacred***

(from Rudolf Otto, Emile Durkheim, Thomas O'Dea, Edward Sapir, others)

- experienced emotionally, not intellectually
- beyond rational and ethical conceptions
- ambiguous and paradoxical
- bi-polar, producing responses of both:
  - terror and attraction
  - fear and love
  - horror and fascination
- non-empirical
- non-utilitarian, non-instrumental
- all-powerful, even over-powering
- awesome, invoking a response of awe and respect
- requiring/demanding our
  - attention, observance, obeisance—often in moral or ethical terms
- simultaneously:
  - attractive and repugnant,
  - monstrous and sublime,
  - dangerous and intriguing
  - daunting and fascinating
- supportive and strength-giving
- spontaneously generative and creative
- urging humility, humbleness—and simultaneously exaltation
- outside of space and time
- completely radical
- extraordinary
- totally separate from the ordinary, prosaic, and everyday