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