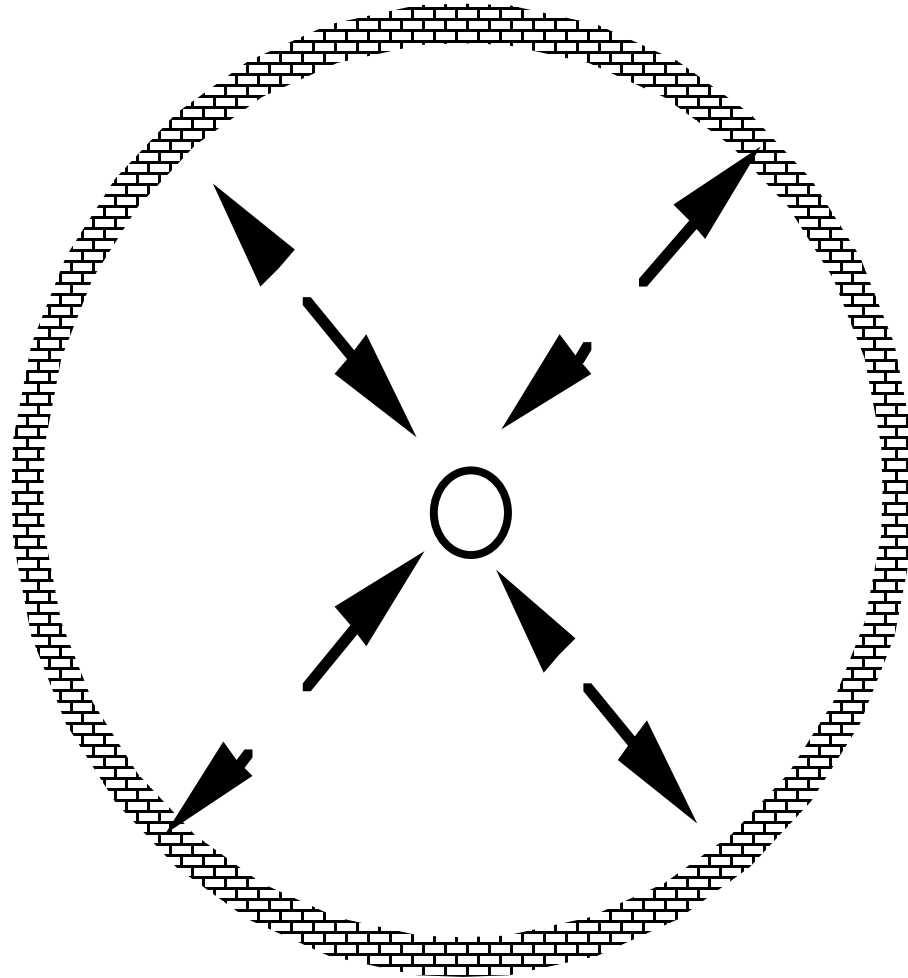


Religious

Experience



Religion Re + ligare To bind back

God Sanskrit Ghu ('called' 'calling') + To ('The one')

Religious	God	Experience of
Experience is	Centre – Heart	Communion with
God		

God 'The Heart and the Beyond of Everything'

Teilhard de Chardin

# The Numinous dimension of religious experience

## Word

### Judaism

- Prophet Moses

### Islam

- Prophet Muhammad

## Heart

- Book - Torah

- Obedience

- Book - Qur'an

- Submission

‘The world is full of God’s glory’(Isaiah 6:3)



# God is experienced

- in nature
- in people & events
- in words spoken & written
- in works of art

They reveal something of the truth, beauty & goodness of the transcendent & mysterious God

‘But what is my God? I put my question to the earth.  
It answered, 'I am not God', and all things on earth declared the same.  
I asked the sea and the chasms of the deep  
and the living things that creep in them,  
but they answered, 'We are not your God. Seek what is above us'  
I spoke to the winds that blow, and the air and all that lives in it replied,  
'Anaximenes is wrong. I am not God'.  
I asked the sky, the sun, the moon, and the stars, and they told me,  
'Neither are we the God whom you seek'.  
I spoke to all the things that are about me,  
all that come through the door of the senses,  
and I said, 'Since you are not my God tell me about Him.  
Tell me something of my God'.  
Loud and clear they answered, 'God is the One who made us!'  
I asked these questions simply by gazing at these things.  
Their only answer was their beauty.’

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs –

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and ah! bright wings.

# God is revealed in

- the Vedas & Upanishads
- the sayings of K'ung-fu-tzu (Confucius)
- the sayings of Gautama the Buddha
- the oracles of the Hebrew Scriptures
- the New Testament
- the Moslem Qur'an
- the mystics, poets, artists of all cultures





Matthew 11:28-29

Jesus is God's perfect human word, God's Word-made-flesh  
His Spirit is his love-communion with God whom he calls 'Father'  
'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'



## John 1:18

No one has ever seen God. It is God's only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, who has made him known'

The Mystical dimension of religious experience

Spirit

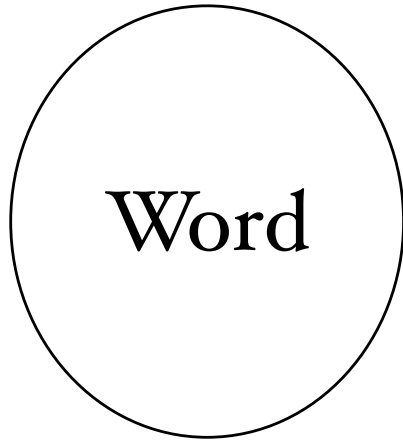
Buddhism

Heart

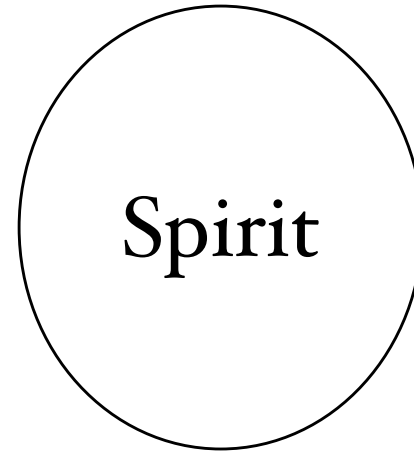
Enlightenment

‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us’(Romans 5:5)

# Revelation



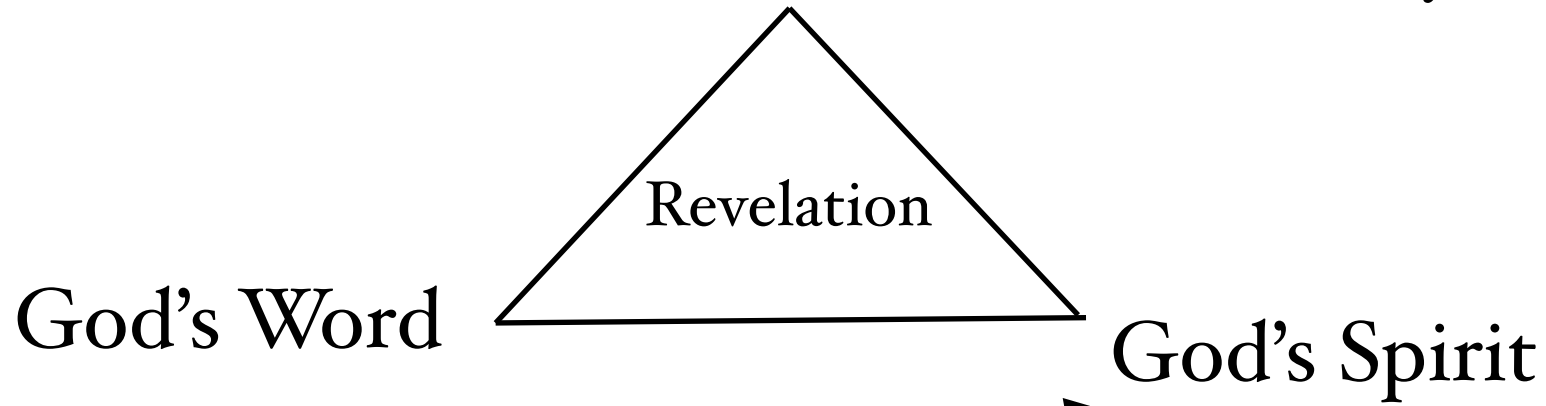
heart



speaks to

heart

# Transcendent ('holy') God



- Nature
- Events
- Prophetic oracle
- Sacred Writings



# Jesus, God's Son

## The Dancer, The Singer, The Lover

God the 'Father'

The Dance,  
The Song,  
Love



God's Spirit

The Dancing,  
The Singing,  
The Loving

‘The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all’ (2Corinthians 13:13).

‘The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the hierarchy of the truths of faith.’(Catechism n. 234)