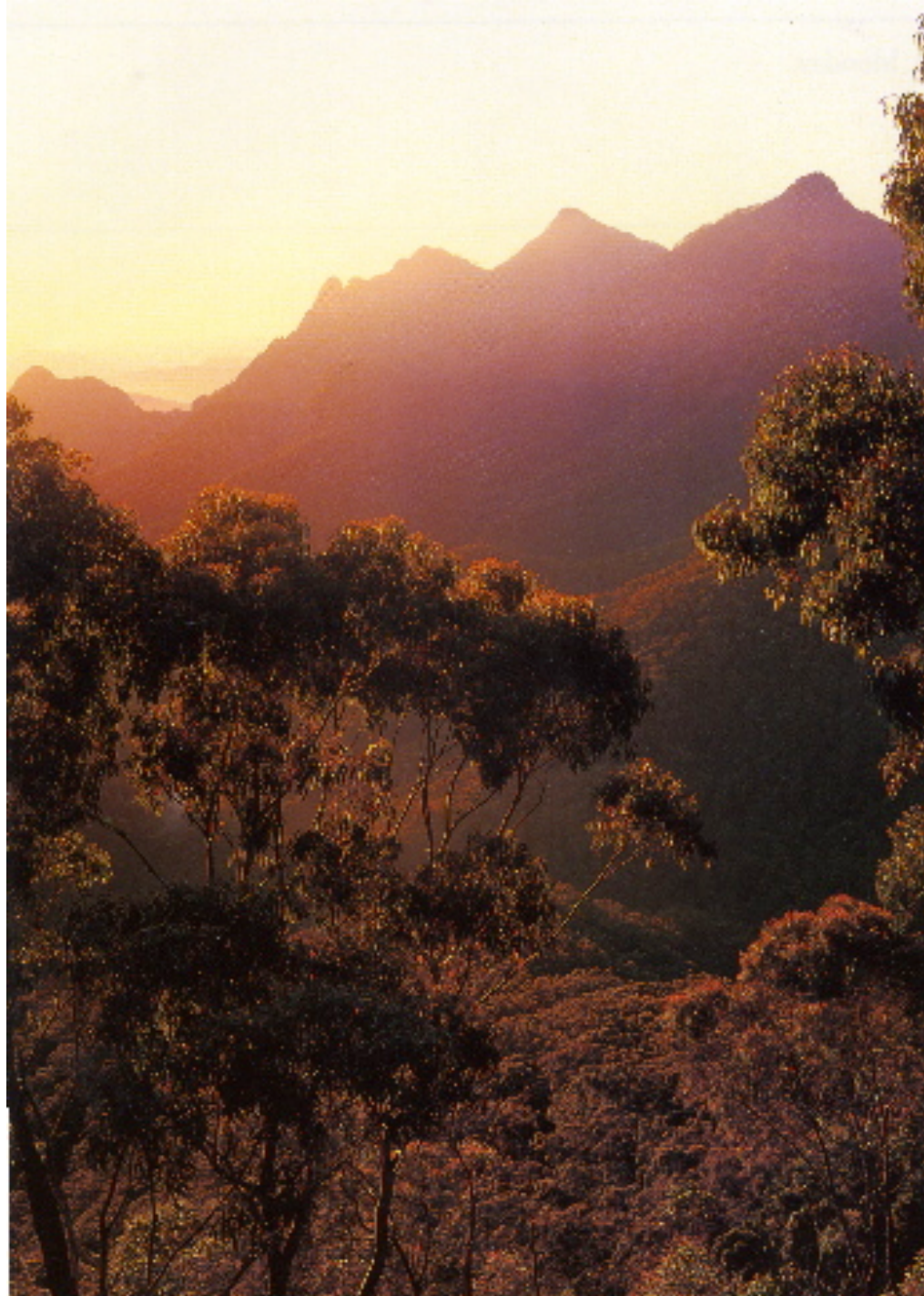


- Radical importance of scientific method
- Judgments based on tested evidence
- Liberated from submission to untested authoritarian abstractions
- trust teaching that is the fruit of experience

Experience is  
not  
limited to what  
can be tested  
by scientific  
method







# Apollo & Daphne

Bernini



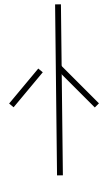
Edvard Munch

The Cry

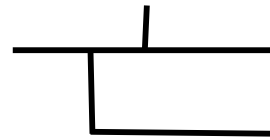
1893



Too busy - Iso gashii



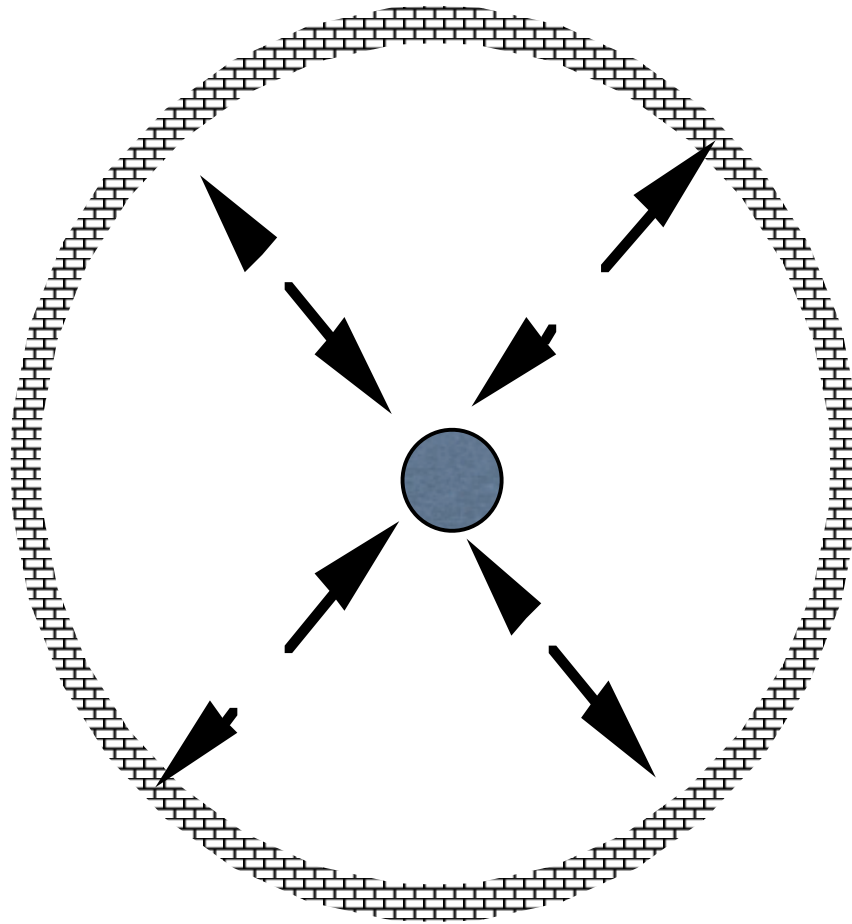
Heart



Destruction

Religious

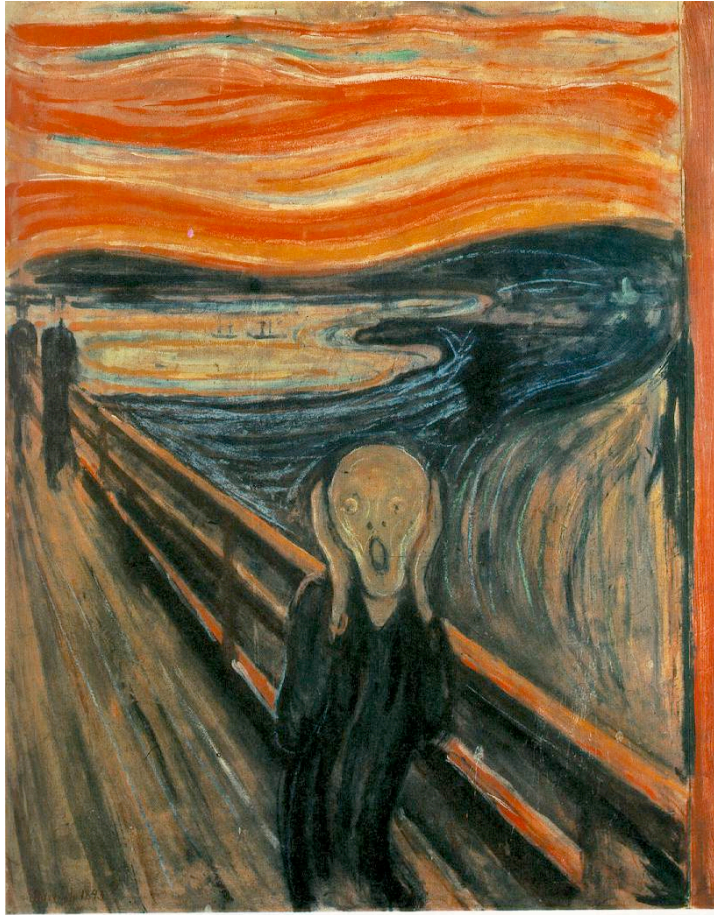
Experience



Religion Re + ligare To bind back



God  
Sanskrit ← **Ghu** ('called' 'calling') + **To**  
(‘The one’)



Religious  
Experience  
is  
Experience of  
Communion with  
‘God’

**God** ‘The Heart and the Beyond of Everything’ (Teilhard de  
Chardin)

## 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

## Gerard Manley Hopkins : God's Grandeur (1877)

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

# Danger

Imagining 'God' based on our  
experiences

Creating a 'God' in our own image

# Dangers in Institutionalised Religion

## Judaism

- Prophet - Moses

• Book - Torah

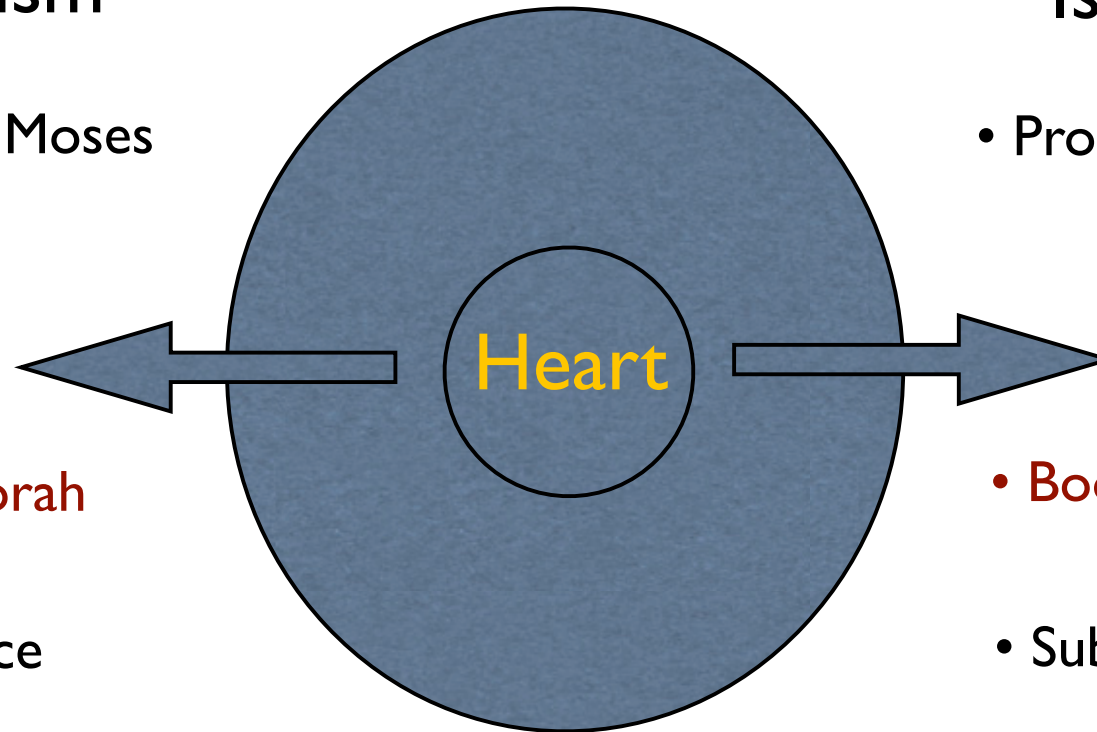
- Obedience

## Islam

- Prophet - Muhammad

• Book - Qur'an

- Submission



## Fundamentalist 'Christianity'

• Book - New Testament

- Obedience

• Book - Catechism

- Submission

- Atheism - Rejection of illogical 'gods'
- Agnosticism - But this cuts off too much experience



## 1John 1:1-3

We declare to you what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. We declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you may have communion with us; and truly our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

- Book - New Testament

- Book - Catechism





## Matthew 11:28-29

‘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.’







## Holiness

‘The holiness of the Church is constantly shown forth in the fruits of grace which the Spirit produces in the faithful. And so it must be.

It is expressed in many ways by those who, each in his or her own state of life, tend to the perfection of love’ (Vatican II LG 39).

Communion with God is the most satisfying communion we can experience, for it is the communion for which we most long. In the famous words of Saint Augustine: 'You have made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless till they rest in You' (Confessions I.1).

Jesus promised the Samaritan woman: 'The water that I will give will become in you a spring of water gushing up to eternal life' (John 4:14). On a later occasion he promised that rivers of life-giving water would flow from the heart of those who believed in him (see John 7:38-39). At the last supper we hear Jesus say: 'If you love me you will keep my word, and my Father will love you, and we will come to you and make our home with you' (John 14:23). He concludes with a prayer: 'As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us ... so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and I in them' (John 17:21,26).

John of the Cross speaks of God dwelling in us and gracing us with his love. God says to each one 'I am yours and for you. I am delighted to be what I am so as to be yours and give myself to you' (Living Flame 3.6).

## A journey to the heart

‘Heed the counsel of your own heart, for no one is more faithful to you than it is. Your soul often forewarns you. It is better than seven watchmen in a tower’.

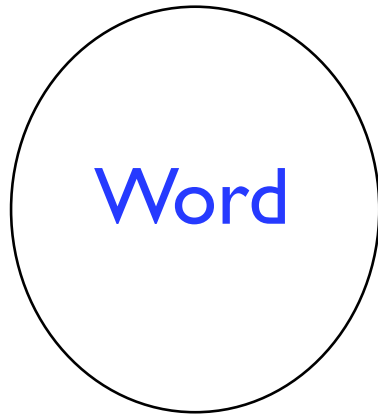
He is not telling us to follow our heart blindly, for he adds: ‘While you heed your heart, beg the Most High to guide you in the path of truth’ (Sirach 37:13).

Proverbs also stresses the importance of the human heart: ‘More than all else, keep watch over your own heart, since there are the wellsprings of life’ (Proverbs 4:23).

We are to listen humbly and attentively to others, listening for God’s Word. But we must remember that God dwells within us and God respects our heart/soul. When God speaks his Word to us we will know, for the Spirit within will say Yes to what we hear. Heart will be speaking to heart.



Revelation



heart

speaks to

heart



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'