

Dr. Don E. Galardi
Understanding Major World Religions
Lesson #2 – Notes

Understanding Major World Religions

“Introduction (B) – Primitive Religion and Eastern Thought”

I. Introduction to Primitive Religion

A. Key Regions of the World

B. Characteristics

1. Awe before the deity or the sacred.

a. *Mircea Eliade*

1. “Hierophanies”

b. Rudolf Otto

1. “The Idea of the Holy”

a. “*Mysterium Tremendum*”

2. Differences with Immanuel Kant

3. Biblical example: Isaiah 6:1-8

2. Ritual and expectancy

3. Myths

4. Fetishism

5. Shamanism

6. Prayer

7. Divination

8. Animism

9. Taboos

10. Sacrifices

11. Death

II. Eastern and Western Thought

A. Differing approaches between East and West

1. Western emphasis

2. Eastern emphasis

B. Differences in thought

1. Eastern thought subordinates the finite to the infinite.

2. Eastern thought stresses the intuitive rather than the logical.

a. Contrast to Aristotelian thinking.

1. Law of Non-Contradiction

3. Contrast best seen in the phrases:

either/or West

both/and East

4. Illustrations

“Beneath the Scarlet Sky”

“Star Wars”

5. Overview