



Numinous Experience – Rapture & Religious Experience



transpersonal identification-

identify with everything- the planet- overview effect

mysticism- measure's of one's willingness to be interested in things that cannot be explained by rationale and reason- OTTO

Self-forgetfulness- lost in time, in the moment being absorbed in art, music, and sport. ZONE

Numinous- Think of an extraordinary personal experience- one you have had or want to have- describe it.

Flow State- being so involved in an activity that nothing else seems to matter: ego falls away- time flies. Every action, movement and thought follows inevitably from the previous one. Whole being is involved, and you're using your skills to the utmost."

aware- transitory beauty...

Self- transcendence- spiritual feeling that are independent of traditional religiosity.

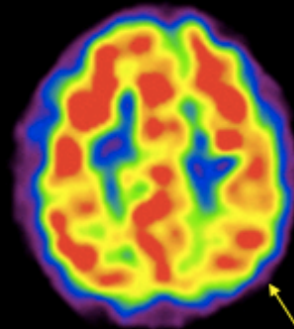
strong sense of "at-one-ness" to...



-sense of absorption of self into something larger

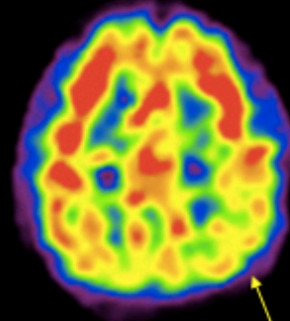
Comparison of Baseline to Prayer

Baseline Scan



Superior Parietal Lobe

Prayer Scan

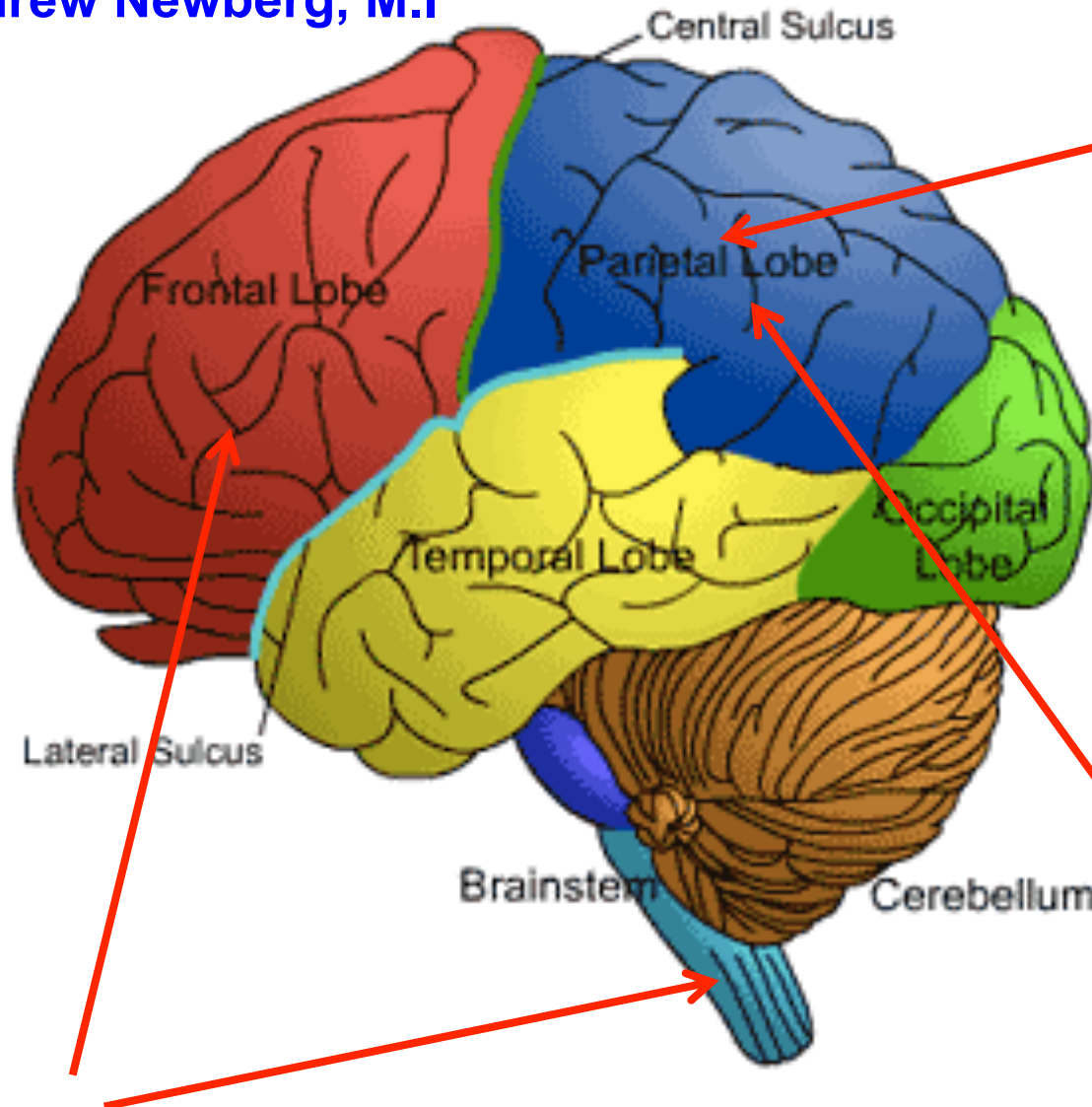


Superior Parietal Lobe

Brain in Prayer:

- 1) Increase in pre-frontal cortex activity
- 2) Decrease in S.P.L. activity

“The mind is mystical by default”
– Andrew Newberg, M.I



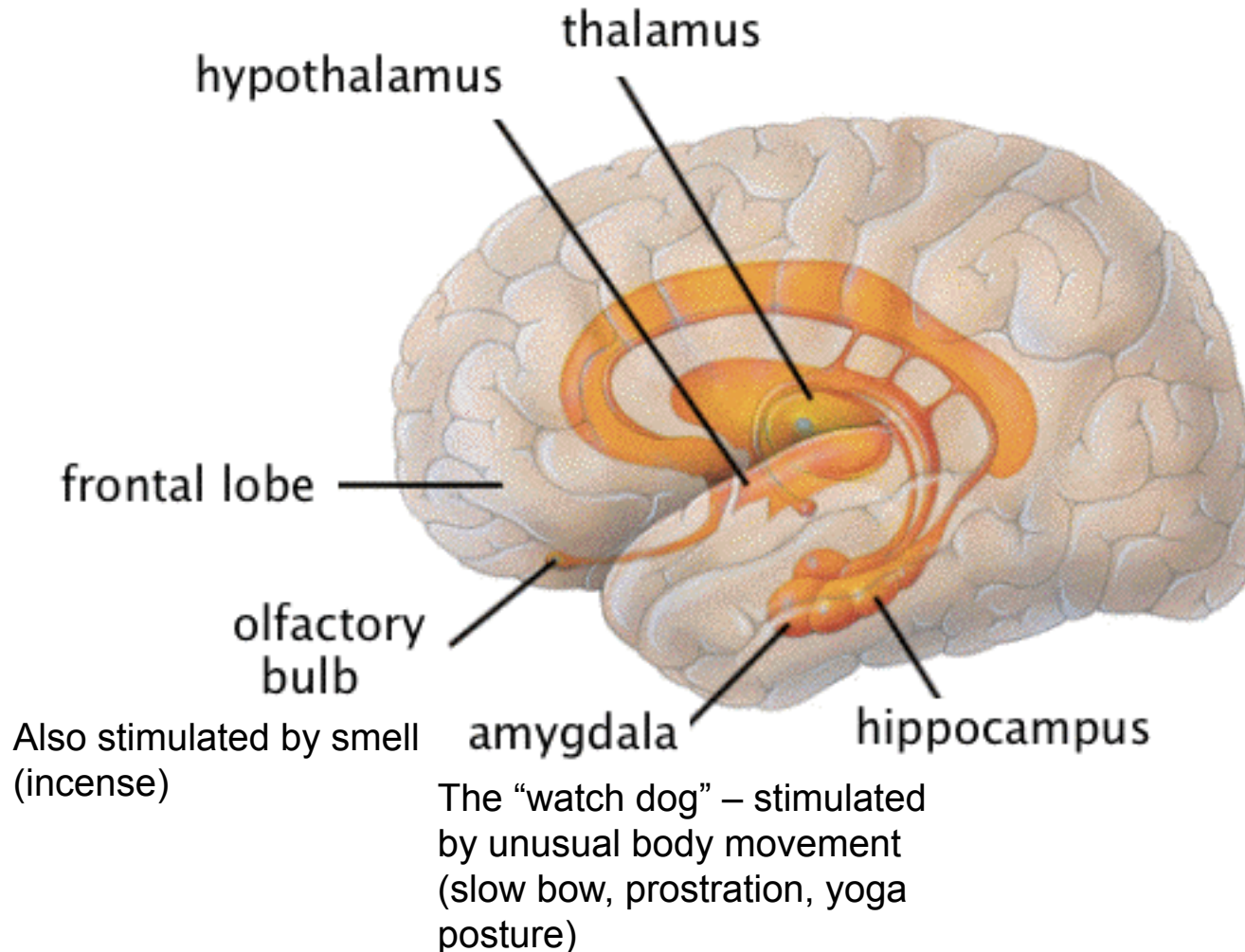
Orientation Association Area – source of mystical and religious experiences

1. Where sense of self relative to one's surroundings is derived

Thinks in binaries/ opposites – also language center – basis of human tendency to create myths.

Sense of LOVE/
CONNECTEDNESS to others

- GENERATES PRIMAL EMOTIONS: fear, aggressiveness, rage, also feelings of devotion/ desire for connection to larger realities



Impacted by rhythmic stimulation:

-wolf cries
-chanting
-singing

EXAMPLES:
Non-Western

**THE LIMBIC SYSTEM –
“TRANSMITTER TO GOD”**

Impact of spiritual behaviors (like prayer, religious services, meditation and physical exertion):

- lower blood pressure
- decreased heart rate
- lower rates of respiration
- reduced levels of cortisol (hormone)
- positive changes in immune system function
- longer life expectancy
- higher baseline of general psychological well-being (more content and happy)

Meditation??

Describing Religious Belief

Atheism

Universalism

Exclusivism

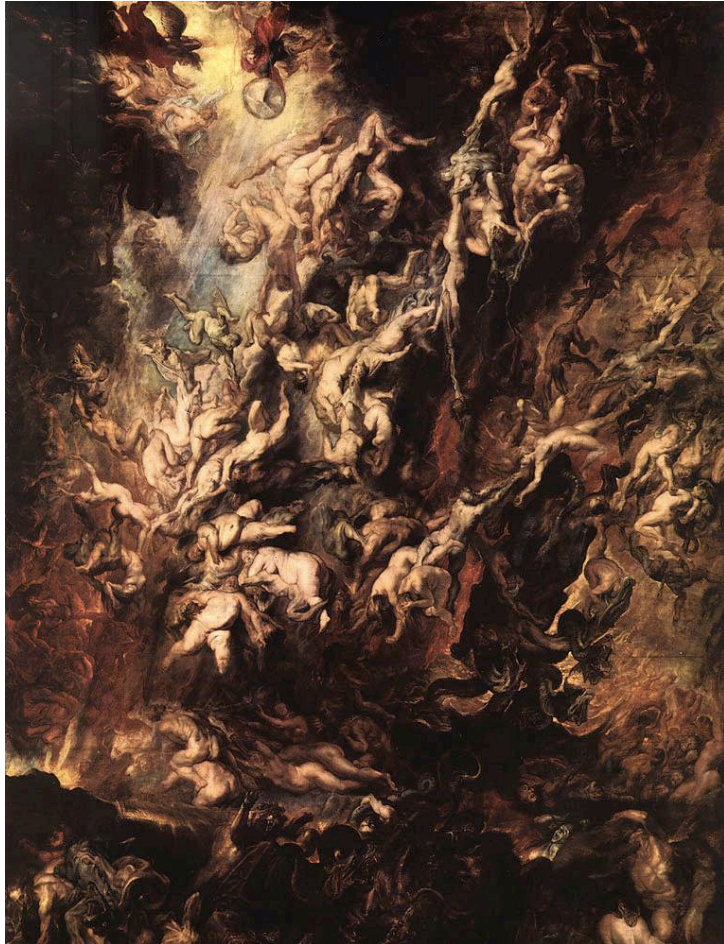
Non-theistic

Polytheistic

Agnostic

Secularism

NATURE OF EVIL?



Fall of the Rebel Angels -- Rubens, 1620

The problem of evil...Why does God permit it?
Or, if God is omnipotent, in which case
permission and creation are the same, why did
God create it?

---Sir William Temple

An insincere and evil friend is more to be feared
than a wild beast; a wild beast may wound your
body, but an evil friend will wound your mind. -

---Buddha

People aren't evil and people aren't good. They
live how they can one day at a time. They come
out of dust they go back to dust, dusty feet, no
wings, and whose fault is that?

---CARYL CHURCHILL, *A Dream Play*

Of all the things that oppress me, this sense of
the evil working of nature herself - my disgust at
her barbarity - clumsiness - darkness - bitter
mockery of herself - is the most desolating.

---John Ruskin

What does the existence of evil imply about the existence of God?

What are the implications of the existence of God on the existence of evil?

More On Sin:

"We are mixed bags, capable of great nobility and horrendous evil. Our besetting sin is to put ourselves ahead of others; egoism or self-centeredness is built into us. We cannot get rid of that handicap, but we can and must work at restraining it."

HOW DO WE DEAL WITH OUR OWN "DARK NATURE?"

MORALITY

Are there universal moral concepts?

How do we define morality? Moral law? Where does it come from?

Cardinal virtues

Deadly sins

Commandments



Why do human societies have consistent rules about conduct?

Seven Cardinal Virtues

- Prudence
- Temperance
- Justice
- Fortitude
- Faith
- Hope Charity



Seven Deadly Sins

- Sloth
- Gluttony
- Wrath
- Lust
- Pride
- Envy
- Avarice



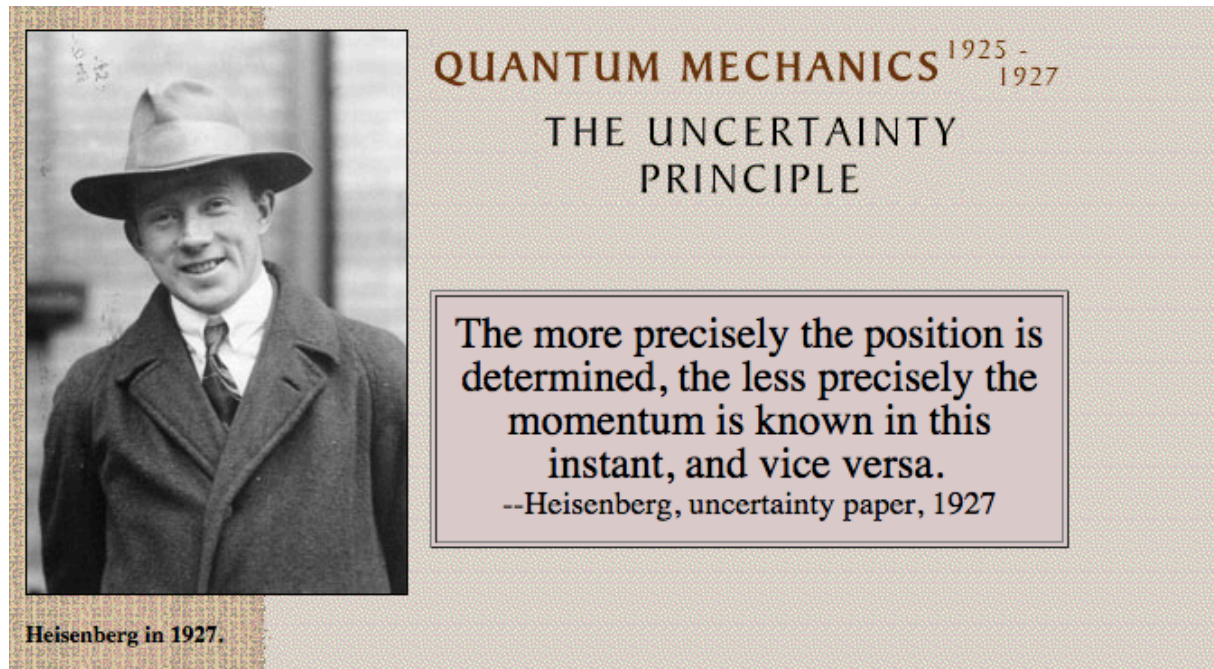
Range of Beliefs:

**Language of God and
Anthropic principle
(Cosmology)**



Can all beliefs be correct? Are some right and are some wrong?

"HEISENBERG: THE UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE



QUANTUM MECHANICS ^{1925 -}
1927

THE UNCERTAINTY
PRINCIPLE

The more precisely the position is determined, the less precisely the momentum is known in this instant, and vice versa.
--Heisenberg, uncertainty paper, 1927

Heisenberg in 1927.

Heisenberg- light can be seen as waves and particles

-when you see the wave, you can't see the particle (and vice versa)

-observation is in part depends on physical nature of reality. Mean? =
nonstability of the material world

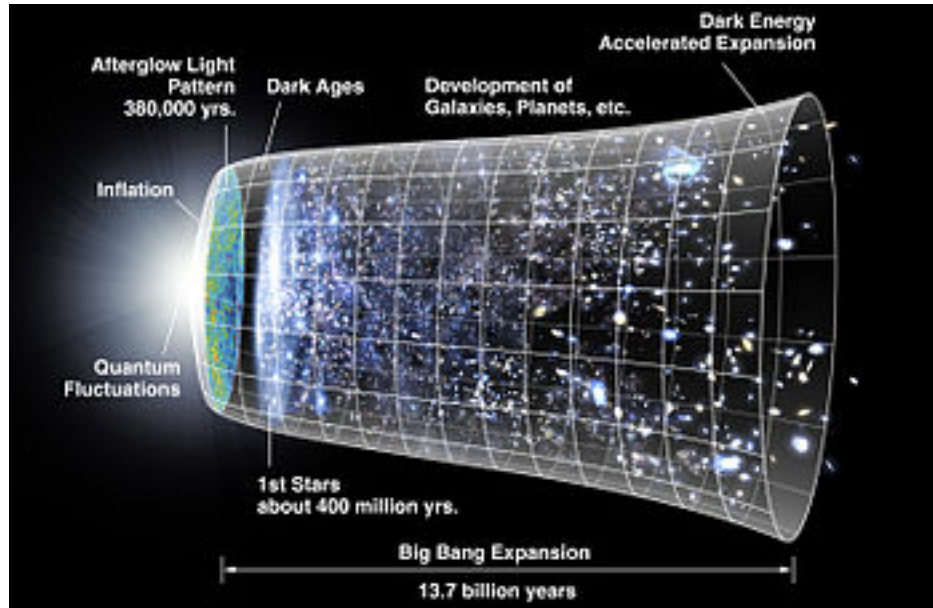
-When you look at the little things (subatomic levels) you become disoriented and spiritually more in tune

-When you look at the big things (supernovas and overview effect), you become disoriented and.... spiritually more in tune.

Science & Religion

Big Bang/Creation

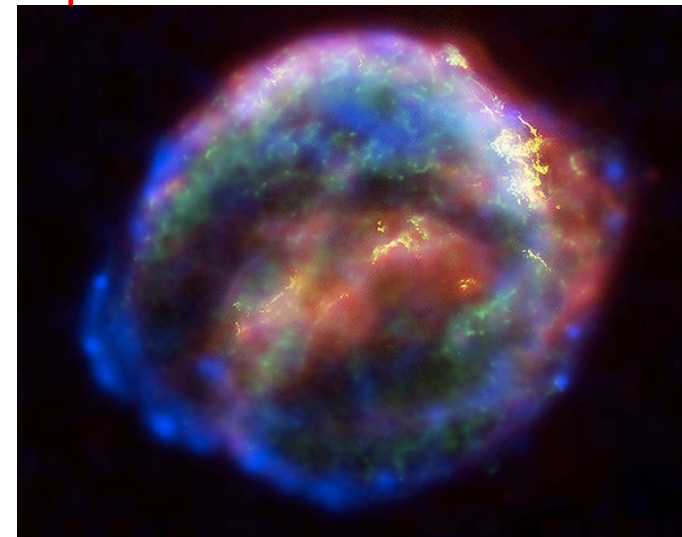
Multiverse Theory



Supernova – Cosmic Death

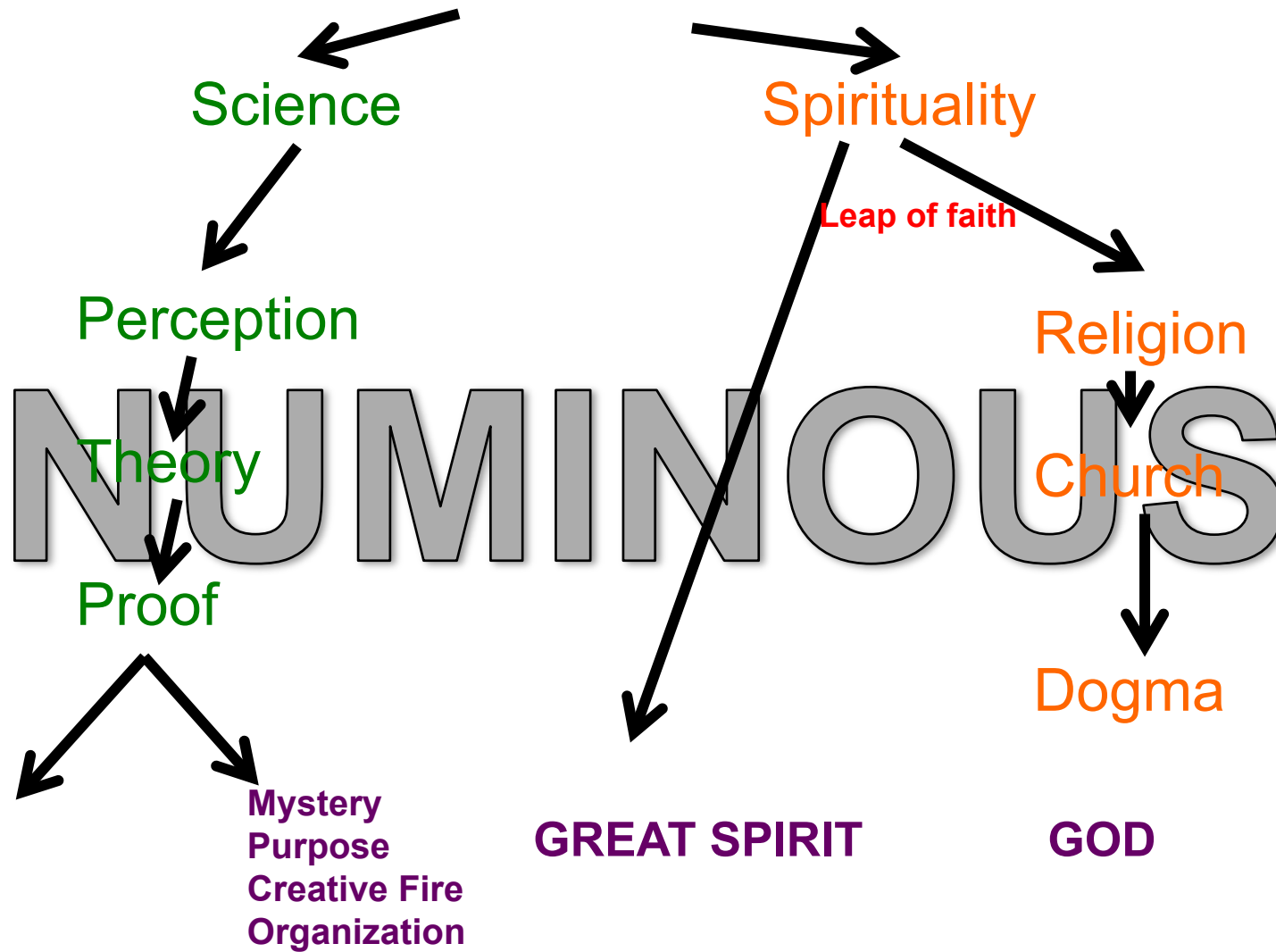


Star Formation – collapsing gas cloud



And creation

NEED TO KNOW!



ULTIMATE REALITY