

## Model for Comparing Different Religious Traditions: Part I

<i>Hot</i>		
<i>Structured</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Hot Structured</i></u></p> <p><u>Ontology</u>: many powers/beings</p> <p><u>Cosmology</u>: a vast labyrinth</p> <p><u>Anthropology</u>: man contains all powers [the microcosm/macrocosm homology]</p> <p><u>Soteriology</u>: the great journey; the initiatic adventure [i.e. of the initiate]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Hot Unstructured</i></u></p> <p><u>Ontology</u>: only God is real; he is unknowable</p> <p><u>Cosmology</u>: the universe is God's creation/projection and is entirely dependent upon him</p> <p><u>Anthropology</u>: man is nothing before God</p> <p><u>Soteriology</u>: acceptance of God's will</p>
<i>Unstructured</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Cool Structured</i></u></p> <p><u>Ontology</u>: everything has its place; everything comes and goes</p> <p><u>Cosmology</u>: a harmonious whole</p> <p><u>Anthropology</u>: man is at the centre of the universe</p> <p><u>Soteriology</u>: clear awareness; non-entanglement</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Cool Unstructured</i></u></p> <p><u>Ontology</u>: only the Self is real; or reality is empty (<i>śūnya</i>)</p> <p><u>Cosmology</u>: illusion</p> <p><u>Anthropology</u>: man is identical with reality</p> <p><u>Soteriology</u>: know yourself</p>
<i>Cool</i>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Explanations</u></p> <p>The following four statements concerning the human condition are all related. However, they are based on quite different axioms. Nevertheless, they are all true. One can give examples from the great traditions.</p> <p><b>Hot</b> is that which is other than oneself; that which has its own life. It is not something that one has access to as of right. It is powerful and breath-taking, and is associated with revelation and grace. It is very similar to Otto's 'numinous'.</p> <p><b>Cool</b> is the very essence of oneself; one need not go to another to find it. Hence one <i>does</i> have access to it as of right. It is quiet and still, and is associated with self-realization.</p> <p><b>Structured</b> is that there is an inherent order in the cosmos, and therefore in the human condition. There is something to be discovered and there is a way of discovering it. A map is required to find the destination.</p> <p><b>Unstructured</b> teachings say that there is no gap between the starting point and the finishing point. Method and goal are identical. We are not separate from reality/truth/God, and so no map is required. Everything is available now and has always been. (Rawlinson, 1997, pp.98-9.)</p> <p><b>Ontology</b>: the nature of reality  <b>Cosmology</b>: the nature of the universe  <b>Anthropology</b>: the nature of humankind  <b>Soteriology</b>: the nature of liberation</p>		
<p>Source: Rawlinson, A. (1997) <i>The book of enlightened masters: western teachers in eastern traditions</i>. Chicago, Illinois: Open Court. (pp. 96-131.)</p>		