

Model for Comparing Different Religious Traditions: Part II

Hot

Structured	<u>Hot Structured</u>	<u>Hot Unstructured</u>	Unstructured
	<p><u>The Teaching:</u> The teaching is never given all at once, but only when necessary and then only in cryptic form. This is typical of all forms of esotericism. The teacher as magician or the one who knows the secret.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> Hindu tantra, gnosticism, Gurdjieff.</p> <p><u>Spiritual Practice:</u> Series of leaps or initiations.</p> <p><u>Transmission:</u> By ordeal.</p> <p><u>Images:</u> Magician, gambler.</p> <p><u>The message:</u> Jump!</p>	<p><u>The Teaching:</u> There is no teaching – only love and submission. The teacher as a servant of God or embodiment of God.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> Meher Baba – "I have come not to teach, but to awaken" Subud.</p> <p><u>Spiritual Practice:</u> Submission</p> <p><u>Transmission:</u> Gift</p> <p><u>Images:</u> Lover, martyr.</p> <p><u>The message:</u> Submit!</p>	
	<u>Cool Structured</u>	<u>Cool Unstructured</u>	
	<p><u>The Teaching:</u> The teaching is open and complete, but there is no point in reading p. 100 before you read p. 1. The teacher as clear discriminator or guide.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> Patañjali's <i>Yoga Sūtras</i>.</p> <p><u>Spiritual Practice:</u> Graduated and gentle.</p> <p><u>Transmission:</u> Learning how to use the map.</p> <p><u>Images:</u> Yogi, craftsmen.</p> <p><u>The message:</u> Work!</p>	<p><u>The Teaching:</u> The teaching is constantly given (the same truth over and over again) but no one understands it. The teacher as one embodying truth.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> Taoism, Zen, Ramana Mahrashi.</p> <p><u>Spiritual Practice:</u> Just realise.</p> <p><u>Transmission:</u> None – truth already exists.</p> <p><u>Images:</u> Sage, hermit.</p> <p><u>The message:</u> Let go!</p>	

Cool

Explanations

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.

Hot 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'.

Cool is the very essence of oneself; one need not go to another to find it. Hence one *does* have access to it as of right. It is quiet and still, and is associated with self-realization.

Structured 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.

Unstructured 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.)

Source: Rawlinson, A. (1997) *The book of enlightened masters: western teachers in eastern traditions*. Chicago, Illinois: Open Court. (pp. 96-131.)