

Definition of Terms in The Sacred Canopy

(This list is for handy reference; not for memorization.  
Terms are listed in their order of appearance in the book.)

CHAPTER 1

- Sui generis: of its own kind; unique  
Heuristic: for purposes of interpretation or analysis  
Hypostases: processes or relationship treated as if they were independent objects  
Solipsism: the belief that nothing really exists except oneself  
Apotheosis: a manifestation of a god or god-like power  
Ontological: pertaining to the structure or nature of Being  
Qua: as  
Nomos: the pattern or structure of life as a unified orderly whole;  
the pattern of rules governing life in a society  
Nomizing: creating or imposing a nomos  
Anomy: the state of being without a nomos  
Epistemology: the study of knowledge and how we know what is true  
Cosmos: the sum total of all reality as a unified orderly whole

CHAPTER 2

- Weltanschauung: world view  
Realissimum: the most real reality  
Ex nihilo: out of nothing  
Ipsa facto: consequently; necessarily  
Microcosm: cosmos in miniature, especially as mirrored in the structure of the individual human being  
Macrocosm: the "large cosmos"; i.e., the cosmos itself  
Nomoi: plural of nomos  
Mimetic: imitational (mimesis = imitation)  
Tao, Rta, Ma'at: terms for the concept of a divine order inherent in the cosmos, used in Chinese, Hindu, and ancient Egyptian religion, respectively  
An-rta: lacking Rta or opposed to Rta  
Shaman: a religious healer, usually employing ecstatic states  
A priori: necessarily; without regard to any particular facts  
Pizarro: Spanish general who conquered the Incas in the 16th century  
Atahualpa: the last ruler of the Inca empire  
Koinonia, 'Umma, Sangha: terms for the religious community -- the approved forms of relationships among believers -- in Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism, respectively  
Ecclesiology: an interpretation of the proper nature of the church  
Salus: salvation  
Extra ecclesiam nulla salus: "there is no salvation outside the church"  
Yahweh: the personal name of the God of ancient Israel (=biblical "LORD")  
Diaspora: dispersion; those living outside the original homeland  
Endogamy: marriage restricted to those within one's own group

CHAPTER 4

- Pasha: a Turkish ruler with a harem  
Odaliskues: the women in the pasha's harem  
Alienation: separation from or ignorance of the true nature of one's self; therefore, being a "stranger to yourself"  
Reified: "thingified"; a process treated as if it were a substantial object  
Phylogenetic: pertaining to the development of a phylum or the human race  
Ontogenetic: pertaining to the development of an individual  
Opus alienum: an alien or foreign work  
Opus proprium: one's own work

Totaliter aliter: totally other

Numinous: the sacred in its mysterious, terrifying, yet beneficent quality

Bhagavad Gita: classic sacred scripture of Hinduism, describing the encounter of Prince Arjuna with the God Krishna

Moiety exogamy: marriage only with those in the other half of one's tribe (when the tribe is split into two clans)

Hieros gamos: sacred marriage (usually between two deities)

Le roi le veult: "the king desires it"

Mutatis mutandis: "the necessary changes being made"

Tout court: entirely, simply

Dramatis personae: cast of characters

Introjection: pushing inward (opposite of projection)

Sub specie eternitatis: from the viewpoint of eternity

Soteriology: an interpretation of the nature of salvation

Brahman-Atman: the essential nature of reality and of the individual self understood as identical and eternal, in Hinduism

Maya: all that is not Brahman-Atman, and thus not fully real

Epiphenomenon: something that does not exist independently in its own right but only as a by-product of something else

#### CHAPTER 5

Prolegomena: preliminary or introductory remarks

Epidemiology: the study of the spread of diseases

Pleroma: fullness; the cosmos conceived as filled with supernatural beings

Sola gratia: salvation by God's grace alone, rather than by one's own deeds

Novum: a new thing

Mesopotamia: ancient name of the area that is now Iraq and Kuwait

Heilsgeschichte: history interpreted as a divine plan leading to salvation

Cosmogonic: pertaining to the creation of the cosmos

Analogia entis: analogy of being

Canon: a collection of books considered sacred

Chiliasm: the expectation that Christ will soon return to reign on earth

#### CHAPTER 6

Praxis: practical activity based on theory, as opposed to pure theory

Hic et nunc: here and now

Laic: pertaining to lay people (as opposed to the clergy)

Laicisme: increasing control of the church by lay people

Cuius regio eius religio: "the ruler of the region determines its religion"; each region has only one religion

Pays de mission: a country where (Catholic) missionary efforts are pursued

Leibilder: dominant forms or images

Ecumenicity: cooperative dialogue among different religious groups

Cartelization: creating a few large companies that cooperate to control a particular business or trade

Oligopoly: rule by a small number of individuals or groups

De-mythologize: to remove the mythology from a religious doctrine

Post hoc: after the fact

Entre nous: between us

Existenz: personal existence; reality as experienced by the individual