Philosophy of Religion: Religious Experience

**Task for Tomorrow**

Flying Disc Discussion of "Religious Experience: Is it a genuine religious experience? Is it a personal God? Is it a manner of new consciousness, or even possibly madness?"

**Key Terms**
- Religious Experience: An event that involves a direct encounter with a spiritual reality.
- Personal God: A concept of God that is perceived as an individual being.
- New Consciousness: A state of heightened awareness or altered perception.

**Didactic Model**

- Involves a direct encounter with a spiritual reality.
- Often characterized by a sense of wonder or awe.
- Can lead to a transformation of one's worldview.

**Reflections**

- How do you understand religious experience?
- Can religious experience be verified by others?
- How does religious experience compare to other transformative experiences?

**Conclusion**

- Religious experience is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that eludes easy explanation.
- Further exploration and discussion are encouraged.

**Further Reading**

- "Religious Experience: A Phenomenological Approach" by Richard Niebuhr
- "Religion, Spirituality, and Optimal Human Experience" by Daniel G.格尔纳尔
1) Relax and stare at the 3 little dots in the middle of the picture for 30 seconds.

2) Now look at a white wall. Blink a few times if you need to.

3) What do you see?
Introduction to Religious Experience

Key Question Task (Remember, think differently)
1) What IS a Religious Experience?
2) What place does EXPERIENCE have with Religion?
3) See it/Hear it/Taste it/Feel it/Smell it = Believe it?
   >>>> Why or Why not?
4) HOW do you see it, hear it, etc?
**Key Terms**

**Religious Experience:** Anything ranging from a rare supernatural event that has no scientific explanation, to a direct encounter with God (i.e. a vision), or even moments of common occurrences such as feelings of peace or the wonder of nature's beauty.

**Revelation:** Knowledge that is gained through the agency of God, an infallible source. As opposed to reason or empiricism/sensory experience. It is also direct and unconditioned by the usual human limitation (misunderstanding, bias).

**Monist:** "Mono" meaning "one." The belief that everything has ONE essential unity. For example, that we are in union with the divine.

**Numinous:** Coined by Rudolph Otto meaning wholly other. In this case, God is a completely separate entity, only known in mind, not through the senses.
Objectivist vs. Subjectivist

**Objectivist View:** The view that if a religious experience truly happens, it demonstrates the existence of a God.

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"It is because it is"

**Subjectivist View:** The view that religious experience can be true for the believer.

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"It is because I personally sensed it"

**Veridical:** A description of an experience that did (or did not happen) and is genuinely true.

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"Mr. D DID teach a philosophy class today"
Task for Tomorrow

Bring ONE instance of a "Religious Experience" to class tomorrow. It could be personal, but I'd prefer if it was researched or documented, or even media related.
Philosophy of Religion: Religious Experience

Key Terms:
- Religious Experience: the inner metaphor for religious experience is that it is an encounter with a transcendent reality.
- Personalism: the view that religious experience is a personal encounter with a personal God.
- Process Theology: the view that religious experience is a process of becoming more deeply connected with a God that is actively engaged in the world.
- Skepticism: the view that religious experience is a mere illusion or a product of our imagination.

Task for Tomorrow:
- Reflect on the different theories of religious experience. Which one do you find most compelling? Why?

Reflection Questions:
- How do you think religious experience can change our understanding of the world?
- Is it possible to have a religious experience but not believe in God? Why or why not?

Observations & Reflection:
- Observation: Since the dawn of humanity, religious experience has been a defining aspect of human life. It is a profound aspect of human existence.
- Reflection: The role of religious experience in shaping human behavior and culture cannot be overstated. It is a fundamental part of our shared history.

Video:
A short video exploring the concept of religious experience and its impact on society. It presents a unique perspective on how religious experience can shape our understanding of the world.