

Spiritual, Critical Race Theorist and Activist

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“UNTETHERED” AND “TETHERED” SPIRITUALITY

“Untethered” Spirituality	“Tethered” Spirituality
<p><i>The Search for Meaning and Significance of Life</i> The search can proceed from little more than an apprehension that there is something more to life than is apparent on its surface, and can be radically unstructured and open-ended.</p>	<p><i>The Search for Meaning and Significance of Life</i> The quest is conducted from a particular framework of belief, practice, and value and search for “truth” is conceived in a specific way (as in the search for what is “sacred”).</p>
<p><i>The Cultivation of “Inner Space” (i.e., notions of awareness, centeredness, and stillness)</i> This cultivation may be seen in much less specific and more diffuse ways, including under a merely therapeutic aspect.</p>	<p><i>The Cultivation of “Inner Space” (i.e., notions of awareness, centeredness, and stillness)</i> This cultivation is conducted in the light of specific beliefs and ideals expressed, for example, in forms of prayer, meditation, and ritual as part of an ordered pursuit of an articulated notion of “spiritual development”</p>
<p><i>Manifestations of Spirituality in Life</i> Such manifestations may be seen in a more piecemeal way, and may be disconnected from a wider, determinate, view of their meaning, significance, and structural relationship to each other.</p>	<p><i>Manifestations of Spirituality in Life</i> Such manifestations are related to, and articulated in terms of, the vision of the person, the “good life,” and “spiritual development” that the religion in question embodies. This vision will typically include an account of how the various personal qualities should be properly balanced and prioritized in relation to each other to create the over “shape” of a human life.</p>
<p><i>Distinctive Responses to Aspects of the Natural and Human World (prominent among such wide-ranging responses are awe, wonder, and reverence)</i> These phenomena evoke responses of this kind are more open.</p>	<p><i>Distinctive Responses to Aspects of the Natural and Human World (prominent among such wide-ranging responses are awe, wonder, and reverence)</i> These phenomena are informed by religious faith.</p>
<p><i>Collective or Communal</i> Whether “religiously untethered or “religiously tethered,” forms of spirituality often have a collective or communal dimension relating to the significance of shared memory and meaning, a sense of belonging, and a commitment to common behaviors. These communities of whatever form vary in many respects (for example, the extent to which they are open to outsiders).</p>	<p><i>Collective or Communal</i> Whether “religiously untethered or “religiously tethered,” forms of spirituality often have a collective or communal dimension relating to the significance of shared memory and meaning, a sense of belonging, and a commitment to common behaviors. These communities of whatever form vary in many respects (for example, the extent to which they are open to outsiders).</p>

Manifestations of spirituality in life relate to the basic orientations, motivations, and dispositions of individuals with respect to themselves, others, the world, and to life. They include widely recognized personal qualities such as self-possession, self-control, self-knowledge, humility, calmness, serenity, openness, trust, hope, gratitude, love, generosity, self-transcendence, and wisdom. Often such

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“manifestations” may be accompanied by, or involve, “vitality” and “dynamism,” which are particularly related to the notion of “spirit.” *A Companion to the Victorian Novel*, Edited by Patrick Brantlinger, William B. Thesing, 2002 Blackwell Publishers, “Education in Religion and Spirituality,” Hanan Alexander and Terence H. McLaughlin, in Blackwell Education in Religion and Spirituality.

PRAXIS

“Untethered” Spirituality	“Tethered” Spirituality
Prose writing of secular texts such as novels and essays	Prose writing of theological texts such as journal articles, church bulletins
Contemplation	Prayer/Meditation
Community Social, Business, and other Organizations	Community Church, Synagogue, Temple
Repetition – bike riding, jogging	Repetition - Rosary, Novenas, holidays