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The Sophia Centre

What is Spirituality?

A review of Nick Campion's video, along with some thoughts of my own...

Dawn H. Collins

Nick Champion's Talk – a summary

- Personal Spirituality
- (2) Greek Philosophy
- (3) Green Spirituality
- (4) Disenchantment
- (5) Faërie



Personal Spirituality

e.g. 'A patterned and alive world' as reflected in the 'murmuration of starlings'



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Greek Philosophy

For Plato, soul pervades the universe.



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**For all good and evil, whether
in the body or in human nature,
originates... in the soul, and
overflows from thence, as from
the head into the eyes.**

Dialogues of Plato

Green Spirituality

► Charlene Spretnak... a call to reverse the cultural process of the coming of age as 'passing into emptiness'...



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“The boundary between ourselves and other people and between ourselves and Nature, is illusion. Oneness is reality.”

Charlene Spretnak

Disenchantment

- ▶ Max Weber – again the need to reconnect with the spirit, the enchantment, of childhood
- ▶ Patrick Currey says this reconnection can happen spontaneously or by design, through ritual.

“Thus his music has gone, as he says, ‘from being about place to becoming place.’⁵⁵ In doing so, it has fulfilled his wish in the semantic meaning of enchantment, ‘to be in a song’: ‘I no longer want to be outside the music, listening to it as an object apart. I want to inhabit the music, to be fully present and listening ...’⁵⁶”

► Patrick Currey

► **Art and Enchantment: How Wonder Works**



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Faërie

- ▶ Faërie – J.R.R.Tolkein suggests this is not just related to mythological or fantastical beings but can be an attitude of being enchanted, a way of looking at the world; a worldview.



“The realm of fairy-story is wide and deep and high and filled with many things: all manner of beasts and birds are found there; shoreless seas and stars uncounted; beauty that is an enchantment, and an ever-present peril; both joy and sorrow as sharp as swords.”

- J. R. R. Tolkien
- ‘On Fairy Stories’

Summary

- ▶ The word 'spirituality' has many different connotations.
- ▶ If we think of it as an orientation to the world, what does 'spirituality' mean for you?



Thank you

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