

Mid-Term Examination

Note: The mid-term exam, scheduled for Monday, July 16, during class time, will consist of a selection of questions taken from the following list. In preparing answers, keep in mind that you will be asked to write on three questions; consequently each answer should not require more than fifteen-minutes writing time. There will be some choice.

- 1) From a methodological perspective, what strategies are implicit in approaching religious studies by focusing upon personal documents and concentrating on life stories? Discuss.
- 2) Why did the Proteus-model suggest itself to Robert Jay Lifton, author of Boundaries, when he was searching for a way to interpret a current typical psychological posture? Explain.
- 3) In Freudian terms, what sense does it make to say that Protean Man is without a super-ego? What are some of the consequences?
- 4) Illustrating your answer with reference to a specific autobiographical account, identify one prime characteristic of "the resigned self" and indicate how it registers in a human life.
- 5) In your opinion, would John Wesley have been "authentic" had he chosen to marry Sophy Hopkey? How do you explain his action?
- 6) How do you explain what St. Augustine was talking about when he said "And how Thou didst deliver me out of the bonds of desire, wherewith I was bound most straitly to carnal concupiscence, and out of the drudgery of worldly things, I will now declare and confess unto Thy name, O Lord, my helper and my redeemer..."?
- 7) Identify one large characteristic of "the chastised self" with illustrations from the autobiographical statement by Peter Abelard.
- 8) In light of his autobiographical novel, Night, what do you think Elie Wiesel meant when he wrote, "To be a Jew is often to wait for someone who doesn't come, and, if need be, to become that very person"?
- 9) How do you account for the prevalence of sexual references in a wide variety of attempts to locate psychological wholeness and in interpretations of what it is to be religious? Are matters religious and sexual integrally interwoven?
- 10) At this mid-point in the course, what is the first thing one must say about "the religious personality"? In other words, who is he or she, and how is he or she known?

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