

Simulacra, gods and the dead

Post by “Susan Hill” of November 15, 2020 at 11:14 AM

What does "spiritual" mean..... Well, I don't think we are going to get a clear definition on that one, and yet we do all have an idea of what it means...

From Wikipedia: "There is no single, widely agreed-upon definition of spirituality. Surveys of the definition of the term, as used in scholarly research, show a broad range of definitions with limited overlap. A survey of reviews by McCarroll each dealing with the topic of spirituality gave twenty-seven explicit definitions, among which "there was little agreement." This impedes the systematic study of spirituality and the capacity to communicate findings meaningfully..... In modern times the emphasis is on subjective experience and the "deepest values and meanings by which people live," incorporating personal growth or transformation, usually in a context separate from organized religious institutions."

I was thinking along the lines of "spiritual" meaning relating to the numinous or divine, but that turns out to be circular since "numinous" is defined as relating to the spiritual! "Spiritual," "divine", "God".... I'm afraid there really is a point at which language breaks down. There are a few extra words to describe it in Greek, and quite a few more in Sanskrit, but often it is described in terms of what it is NOT - it is the ineffable. And yet we do manage to talk about it, even without a dictionary definition.