

Rudolf Otto Study Questions

1. Otto begins his discussion of religious experience by exploring the concept of “the Holy.” How and why does Otto think this concept illuminates religious experience?
2. How can we understand the numinous according to Otto?
3. What was Otto’s criticism of Friedrich Schleiermacher’s understanding of religion as the “feeling of absolute dependence”?
4. What are the three features of *tremendum* in Otto’s understanding of the *mysterium tremendum*?
5. In his account of *mysterium tremendum*, what does Otto mean by “mysterium”?
6. What does Otto mean by *fascinans*? What role does it play in religious experience?
7. How does Otto relate his understanding of the features of religious experience to mystical experiences in particular? For example, what parts of *mysterium tremendum* are present in mystical experience? Which, if any, dissolved or minimized?