

Some Reflections on the “Spiritual”: Focusing on “Healing”

Hirofumi TSUSHIRO, Ph.D. (Religious Studies)

Professor at University of TSUKUBA, Japan

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of Philosophy

Abstract:

The “spiritual” or “spirituality”, popular in so many fields today, has several meanings. We already have some attempts to arrange them.

In contemporary Japan, most conspicuous confusion of usages and meanings of “spiritual / spirituality” are observed at the crossroad of religion and medicine, and the latter seems to be more perplexed. That is the reason why the paper focuses on the “spiritual healing” which is exactly the intersection of religion and medicine.

By superposing some clear visions, I have gotten five semantic centers of the “spiritual”; existential meanings of living (and dying) (A), ultimate Ground for all beings which is called God, Buddha, Brahman and so on (B), the core of human beings which connects to the ultimate Ground (C), energetic influences from beyond the material (D), individual spirits which survive of bodily death (E).

Transactions between these five centers develop horizontally and vertically, which are vaguely called “spiritual” also.