

Narratives can be fairly comprehensive answering ultimate questions

Myths

Stories

**Narratives & Myths
(Often regarded as Revelation)**

**Social & Institutional:
Belief system is shared & attitudes practiced by group.**

- Belief System Shared with Group
- Often Rules for Identifying Membership
- There is a Concept of Participation
- Non-Tangible Aspect

Forms

Ceremonies

Order

Private & Public

Revealed

**Ritual:
Forms & Orders of Ceremonies**

Functional Model for Identifying "Religion" by Ninian Smart (1927-2001):
Seven Dimensions of Religions:

Material:

- Ordinary Objects
- Ordinary Places
- Manifest Sacred or Supernatural

Emotional & Experiential:

- Guilt
- Dread
- Awe
- Mystery
- Devotion
- Liberation
- Ecstasy
- Inner Peace
- Bliss (private)

**Doctrinal & Philosophical
(Systematic formulation):**

- Also Philosophical
- Formulation of Religious Teachings
- Intellectually Coherent Form

Ethical & Legal:

Also Philosophical Intellectually Coherent Form

Ninian Smart believed that "religion" should be studied (a) historically, (b) phenomenologically, (c) anthropologically, (d) psychologically, & (e) philosophically. Smart also believed that the study of world religions should (f) engage atheistic thought & (g) other religious traditions. Smart's model of evaluating the seven dimensions of religion is anti-reductionistic, functional, & open to alternatives & new insights as cultures continue to change, interesting relations find expression, & new technologies (e.g., mediums) are created & used.