

‘Religion’ is:

Random House Dictionary—

“... a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency or agencies, usually involving devotional and ritual observances and often having a moral code for the conduct of human affairs.”

William James--

“... the feelings, acts, and experiences of individuals in their solitude, so far as they apprehend themselves to stand in relation to whatever they may consider the divine.”

“...belief that there is an unseen order, and that our supreme good lies in harmoniously adjusting ourselves thereto.”

Paul Tillich--

“... the aspect of depth in the totality of the human spirit. ... the religious aspect points to that which is ultimate, infinite, unconditional in one’s spiritual life. Religion, in the largest and most basic sense of the word, is ultimate concern.”

Rudolf Otto—

“... [the essential element of religion is] ‘creature consciousness’ or creature feeling. It is the emotions of a creature, abased and overwhelmed by its nothingness in contrast to that which is supreme above all creatures.”

Brian Hebblethwaite--

“... religion consists in a set of attitudes, practices, institutions, and beliefs invoked by and appropriate to some alleged transcendent source and goal of the world and of life.”

Edgar Sheffield Brightman—

“... concern about experiences which are regarded as of supreme value; devotion toward a power or powers believed to originate, increase, and conserve these values; and some suitable expression of this concern and devotion, whether through symbolic rites or through other individual and social conduct. Religion is a total experience which includes this concern, this devotion, and this expression.”

Keith Ward

“Religion is primarily concerned with the transformation of the self, by appropriate response to that which is most truly real.”

Gordon Allport--

“... the audacious bid one makes to bind oneself to creation and to the Creator. It is the ultimate attempt to enlarge and to complete one’s own personality by finding the supreme context in which one rightly belongs.”

WRITE DOWN KEY STATEMENTS AND YOUR INSIGHTS /
OBSERVATIONS:

***How does 'V-ger' in the Star Trek movie illustrate
'the religious quest'?***

(Keep in mind the definitions of 'religion' provided – particularly the last one by Gordon Allport.

Take special note of the comments by Mr. Spock and Commander Decker on 'meaning of life / existence' and 'God.')

V-ger' is separated from / ignorant of its 'creator' =
its origin and the source of meaning and purpose of its existence

. . . has "knowledge that spans the universe" – but is "cold, barren, no mystery . . .
[possesses] no meaning, no hope, no answers."

(there are things beyond logic that cannot be known by logic ex. friendship-love)

. . . is asking questions: "Is this all that I am? Is there nothing more?"

. . . seeks its creator for answers to these questions – for meaning of its existence

(McCoy) "V-ger thinks its creator is a machine! . . .

(Decker) "Of Course, we all create God in our own image."

(Spock) V-ger is "learning, searching, needing . . . It knows only that it needs, but like so many of us, it does not know what (it needs)."

"As I was, v-ger is now – empty, incomplete, searching. . . . Logic and knowledge are not enough. . . .

[V-ger is asking the questions:] "Why am I here? What was I meant to be? Is this all that I am? Is there nothing more? (Answers to these questions are what V-ger needs, what it would take to fulfill itself, what it seeks from its creator.)

"[V-ger] seeks to touch / to join / to unite with its creator."

"What is there more than the universe?" — Other levels of being that logic cannot prove that V-ger is incapable of believing in. V-ger needs human capacity to leap beyond logic (faith)

V-ger experiences transformation / transcendence = "an enlargement and completion of its personality by finding the supreme context in which it rightly belongs." (Allport)

In the end, V-ger, Spock, Decker, and Kirk all find 'completion / connection'

'God' is that which is / makes possible 'completion'