Living Religions of the World

Experiential Journal Prompt: The Sacred and the Profane

Do not answer the following questions. Reflect on these questions in order to help you think about the topic of “sacred space.” Then, write a 1-2 page reflection in which you answer one of these questions or some other question related to the topic:

What is sacredness? What is the opposite of sacredness? What makes something sacred? Do our rituals make a space sacred? Do our beliefs make it sacred? Do events make it sacred? Or, is a space sacred because of something other-worldly or supernatural? Do spaces have their own “energy” that transcends human activity and thought? In other words, do we visit a space because of its sacredness, or do we make a space sacred because we visit it? What makes us gravitate to a sacred space? What are the ramifications of having a sacred space? What does this do to the surrounding, “profane” space? Could there be a religion without a sacred space? What would such a religion be like?

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