X can be credibly (or truly) said to be the *ontic* pole of a decisive revelation or re-presentation of the meaning of ultimate reality for us if, and only if, the following two conditions are fulfilled:

- 1. X is taken by Y, functioning as the *noetic* pole of the revelation or representation, as making explicit a certain possibility of self-understanding; and
- 2. the possibility of self-understanding that Y takes X as making explicit is, in truth, our authentic possibility as human beings (as determined by properly metaphysical and moral arguments respectively).

23 February 2000