

The Birth Of The Living God A Psychoanalytic Study

The Birth Of The Living God A Psychoanalytic Study The birth of the living god a psychoanalytic study Understanding the origins and implications of the concept of a "living god" has intrigued scholars, psychologists, and theologians alike for centuries. When approached through a psychoanalytic lens, this phenomenon reveals layers of unconscious desires, developmental processes, and societal influences that shape human perception of divinity. This article delves into the psychoanalytic study of the "birth of the living god," exploring how individual psychology and collective consciousness contribute to the formation and reverence of divine figures. We will examine the symbolic significance, developmental stages, and the unconscious mechanisms that underpin this profound aspect of human experience.

The Concept of the Living God in Psychoanalytic Terms

Defining the Living God

The term "living god" often connotes a divine entity that embodies vitality, immediacy, and ongoing presence. Unlike distant deities of antiquity, the living god is perceived as actively involved in human affairs, inspiring awe and devotion. Psychoanalytically, this figure can be viewed as a projection of the human psyche—an externalization of internal needs, fears, and ideals.

The Projection of Inner Divinity

Projection is a fundamental defense mechanism in psychoanalysis, where individuals attribute their internal qualities to external objects. The concept of a living god can be seen as an ultimate projection of:

- The human desire for omnipotence
- The need for unconditional love and protection
- The aspiration for transcendence and immortality

This projection serves to bridge the gap between human limitations and the idealized attributes attributed to divine figures.

Developmental Perspectives on the Birth of the Living God

Infantile Origins and Parental Imagines

Psychoanalytic theory suggests that early childhood experiences with caregivers influence the formation of divine imagery. Key points include:

- The attachment to a protective, omniscient caregiver mirrors the qualities attributed to the living god.
- The child's internalization of parental figures forms the basis for later religious representations.
- The transition from dependence to independence involves sublimation of these early images into transcendent divine concepts.

Neuroscientific and Psychodynamic Interplay

Modern psychoanalysis integrates neuroscientific insights to understand how:

- The brain's attachment systems are wired to seek security, which is symbolically fulfilled by the divine.
- The development of religious ideas correlates with neural pathways involved in social bonding and emotional regulation.

The Unconscious Mechanics Behind Reverence for the Living God

Wish Fulfillment and the Need for Control

The reverence for a living god can be understood as a form of wish fulfillment, satisfying unconscious needs such as:

- The desire for omnipotent protection
- The longing for eternal life and significance
- The craving for moral order and justice

These wishes are projected onto the divine figure, providing psychological comfort.

Transference and Religious Experience

Transference, a cornerstone concept in psychoanalysis, involves redirecting feelings for significant figures onto others or symbols. In religious contexts:

- Individuals transfer childhood feelings of safety or fear onto the divine.
- Rituals and prayers serve as reenactments of earlier relational dynamics.
- The experience of divine intervention reinforces the internalized images of the living god.

The Symbolism of the Living God in Cultural and Personal Narratives

Mythological and Cultural Archetypes

Carl Jung's archetypes provide a framework for understanding the symbolic function of

the living god. These archetypes include: - The Self: representing wholeness and integration - The Hero: embodying the struggle against chaos - The Creator: symbolizing renewal and transcendence The living god often embodies these archetypes in collective consciousness. Personal Narratives and Identity Formation On an individual level, the concept of a living god influences identity and life choices: - Provides a sense of purpose and direction - Acts as a moral compass - Functions as an inner authority that guides behavior The internalization of divine qualities shapes 3 personality and life trajectories. Pathologies and Distortions in the Concept of the Living God Idolatry and Obsession Excessive reverence or obsession with divine figures can lead to psychological distortions such as: - Rigid dogmatism - Fanaticism - Loss of individual autonomy These phenomena often reflect unresolved internal conflicts or unmet psychological needs. Delusions and Psychosis In some cases, the idealization of the living god can culminate in psychotic episodes characterized by: - Fixed beliefs in divine possession or intervention - Hallucinations involving divine voices or visions - Disconnection from reality due to over-identification with divine imagery Understanding these pathologies through a psychoanalytic lens aids in treatment and integration. The Role of Religious Rituals and Symbols in Psychoanalytic Context Rituals as Reenactments of Inner Dynamics Religious rituals serve as external expressions of internal processes, such as: - Reaffirming the bond with the divine - Managing unconscious fears and hopes - Facilitating psychological transformation Examples include prayer, fasting, or pilgrimage. Symbols as Mediators of the Unconscious Symbols act as bridges to the unconscious mind, representing complex psychological states: - The cross symbolizes sacrifice and redemption - The altar signifies a sacred space for inner transformation - Sacred objects function as focal points for divine energy Understanding these symbols enhances psychoanalytic interpretations of religious devotion. Integrating Psychoanalytic Insights into Modern Spirituality Therapeutic Applications Psychoanalytic understanding of the living god can inform therapeutic practices by: - Exploring clients' spiritual beliefs as expressions of inner conflicts - Using religious imagery as part of the healing process - Addressing spiritual crises as opportunities for growth 4 Promoting Healthy Religious Engagement Encouraging awareness of unconscious motivations can help individuals: - Cultivate authentic spirituality - Avoid dogmatic rigidity - Balance reverence with personal autonomy Conclusion: The Living God as a Psychoanalytic Manifestation The psychoanalytic study of the birth of the living god reveals a complex interplay between individual psychology, collective archetypes, and cultural narratives. It highlights how divine figures are internalized projections of human wishes, fears, and ideals, serving as both sources of inspiration and potential pathology. Recognizing these underlying mechanisms allows for a deeper understanding of religious phenomena and offers pathways for psychological growth and integration. Ultimately, the living god embodies the eternal human quest for meaning, transcendence, and connection—an endeavor that continues to evolve within the depths of the human unconscious. QuestionAnswer What is the central thesis of 'The Birth of the Living God: A Psychoanalytic Study'? The book explores how the concept of the divine is formed through unconscious psychological processes, examining the birth of religious belief as a psychoanalytic phenomenon rooted in individual and collective psyche. How does the author incorporate psychoanalytic theories into the study of religion? The author applies psychoanalytic concepts such as repression, projection, and the unconscious to analyze religious symbols, rituals, and beliefs, suggesting that religious experience reflects inner psychological conflicts and developmental stages. What role does the concept of the 'living God' play in the psychoanalytic framework presented? The 'living God' is seen as a projection of the human psyche—an internalized representation of idealized aspects of the self or the unconscious—that becomes 'living' through psychological processes of identification and transcendence. How does the book address the relationship between religion and individual psychological development? It posits that

religious beliefs and experiences are deeply intertwined with personal developmental stages, serving as mechanisms for coping with existential anxieties and facilitating psychological growth. In what ways does the study examine the universality of religious experience? The study argues that the emergence of the 'living God' is a universal psychoanalytic phenomenon, reflecting common patterns of human development, unconscious desires, and collective archetypes across cultures. What are some of the key psychoanalytic figures or theories referenced in the study? The study draws heavily on Freudian psychoanalysis, especially concepts like the unconscious, repression, and the Oedipus complex, as well as Jungian ideas about archetypes and collective unconscious. 5 Does the book propose any implications for understanding modern spirituality or religious practice? Yes, it suggests that contemporary spirituality can be viewed as an evolution of traditional religious structures, serving similar psychoanalytic functions like individuation, healing, and the integration of unconscious aspects. How has 'The Birth of the Living God' influenced subsequent psychoanalytic or religious studies? The book has contributed to a deeper understanding of religion as a psychological phenomenon, inspiring further interdisciplinary research that combines psychoanalysis and theology to explore the origins and functions of religious belief.

The Birth of the Living God: A Psychoanalytic Study

In the realm of human consciousness and spirituality, the concept of divinity has long been intertwined with psychological processes. The idea of a "living god"—an active, personal divine presence—resonates deeply within individual psyche structures, shaping beliefs, behaviors, and identity. Psychoanalytic study offers a compelling lens through which to explore this phenomenon, revealing how internalized images of the divine emerge, evolve, and influence the human experience. This article delves into the intricate relationship between psychoanalysis and the birth of the living god, providing a comprehensive analysis of how divine figures are constructed within the mind, their developmental pathways, and their significance in spiritual and psychological development.

Foundations of Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Divinity

The Roots of Divine Imagery in Early Childhood

Psychoanalysis posits that much of our spiritual symbolism originates in early childhood experiences. During this formative period, children develop internal representations of authority figures—parents, caregivers, or other significant persons—that serve as prototypes for divine figures later in life.

- Parent-Object Internalizations:** Children internalize their caregivers' behaviors, attitudes, and emotional responses, creating mental "objects" that influence their perceptions of authority and goodness.
- Projection and Transference:** These internal objects can be projected outward onto external figures or ideals, fostering the development of divine images that embody perfect authority, omnipotence, or benevolence.
- Imaginary Father and Mother Figures:** The child's internalized parental images often evolve into archetypes of the "Father God" or "Mother God," serving as internal moral regulators or sources of comfort. This developmental process underscores the importance of early attachment patterns and emotional experiences in shaping one's conception of the divine as a living, active presence.

The Birth Of The Living God A Psychoanalytic Study

6 The Role of the Unconscious in Religious Experience

The unconscious mind, a central concept in psychoanalysis, plays a pivotal role in the genesis of the living god. Religious experiences often involve spontaneous phenomena—visions, feelings of awe, or moments of transcendence—that originate from unconscious processes.

- Repression and Sublimation:** Unacceptable impulses or fears may be repressed and subsequently expressed through religious imagery, leading to the perception of a divine presence that embodies and transforms these unconscious contents.
- Archetypal Symbols:** Carl Jung, a prominent figure in psychoanalytic thought, emphasized archetypes—universal symbols residing in the collective unconscious—that manifest as divine figures, saints, or mythic beings.
- Transcendence of the Ego:** Encounters with the living god often involve a dissolution or transcendence of the ego, allowing the individual to experience unity with a greater whole, which is rooted in unconscious psychic structures.

Understanding these unconscious dynamics illuminates how divine figures are not merely external entities but are deeply embedded within our psyche. The Birth of the Living God: Psychoanalytic Theories Freudian Perspectives: The Internalization of Authority and the Oedipus Complex Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic framework offers foundational insights into the development of divine imagery. - The Father as a Proto-Divine Figure: Freud viewed the father figure as central to the child's development of authority and morality. This figure, internalized during the Oedipus complex, becomes a template for the supreme divine authority. - God as an Idealized Parent: The concept of God often mirrors the idealized, omnipotent father, representing an internalized authority that guides moral judgment and provides security. - Death Drive and the Need for Transcendence: Freud also linked religious ideas to fundamental human drives, proposing that the birth of the living god fulfills unconscious needs for protection against death anxiety and chaos. Freud's analysis underscores the psychological necessity of internalized divine figures as part of the human struggle to manage primal fears and conflicts. Jungian Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious Carl Jung expanded psychoanalytic thought by emphasizing universal symbols and archetypes. - The Self and the Divine: Jung considered the divine as the archetype of the Self, representing wholeness and unity within the psyche. - Mythic Images of the Living God: Jung identified recurring divine motifs across cultures—such as the hero, the savior, or the wise old man—that symbolize internal processes of individuation. - Integration of The Birth Of The Living God A Psychoanalytic Study 7 the Shadow and the Divine: Encountering the living god often involves integrating unconscious aspects (the shadow) into conscious awareness, leading to spiritual growth. Jungian theory sees the birth of the living god as a vital step in psychological development—an internal acknowledgment of divine potential that fosters self-realization. Developmental Pathways to the Living God Stages of Divine Internalization The psychoanalytic view suggests a series of developmental stages through which the individual constructs and internalizes the divine: 1. Initial Projection: External authority figures are projected onto the universe or a deity, providing a sense of order and security. 2. Internalization: Over time, these projections are internalized, forming an internal "living god" that guides moral decisions and offers solace. 3. Encounter and Recognition: Spiritual experiences or crises can lead to a conscious recognition of this internal divine presence, fostering a sense of authenticity and personal connection. 4. Integration and Transformation: The divine figure becomes integrated into the individual's self-concept, facilitating psychological healing and growth. This process underscores the dynamic, evolving nature of the divine within the psyche. Factors Influencing the Birth of the Living God Several elements influence whether and how this internal divine manifests: - Early Attachment and Caregiving: Secure attachments foster positive internal divine images, while neglect or trauma may produce conflicted or fragmented divine representations. - Cultural and Religious Contexts: Societal beliefs and rituals shape the content and form of the divine images individuals internalize. - Personal Crisis and Transcendence: Life crises, such as illness, loss, or spiritual awakening, can catalyze the emergence of a conscious divine presence. - Psychic Integration: The capacity for self-reflection and integration determines the depth and authenticity of the divine experience. These factors highlight the complex interplay between individual psychology and cultural influences in the birth of the living god. The Significance of the Living God in Psychoanalytic and Spiritual Development Healing and Transcendence The internalized living god often serves as a source of comfort, guidance, and strength, especially during times of hardship. Psychoanalytic therapy can facilitate the recognition and integration of these divine images, promoting healing. - Symbolic Reconciliation: Therapeutic processes may involve reconciling conflicting divine images—such as an authoritarian god with a nurturing one—leading to greater internal harmony. - Spiritual Transcendence: Recognizing the divine within fosters a sense of

transcendence, connecting individuals to a larger meaning beyond themselves. Challenges and Pathologies While the divine can be a source of solace, distortions or unresolved conflicts may lead to psychological difficulties: - Religious Fanaticism: Overidentification with a rigid divine image can produce fundamentalism or intolerance. - Inner Conflicts: Conflicting internal divine representations may generate anxiety, guilt, or dissociation. - Pathological Manifestations: Hallucinations or delusional beliefs about a living god can be symptoms of underlying mental health issues. Understanding these challenges underscores the importance of a nuanced psychoanalytic approach to spiritual experiences. Contemporary Perspectives and Critical Reflections Modern psychoanalytic thinkers continue to explore the birth of the living god, integrating insights from neuroscience, cultural studies, and spiritual psychology. - Neurotheology: Brain imaging studies reveal neural correlates of religious experiences, suggesting biological underpinnings for divine encounters. - Cultural Variability: Cross-cultural analyses show diverse representations of the divine, emphasizing the role of social constructs in shaping internal divine images. - Integration with Other Disciplines: Psychoanalysis now increasingly collaborates with theology, anthropology, and neuroscience to deepen understanding of the divine within the human psyche. Critical reflections also question the universality of divine imagery, considering how power dynamics, cultural hegemony, and individual differences influence the "birth" of the living god. Conclusion: The Inner Sanctuary of Divinity The psychoanalytic study of the birth of the living god reveals a profound truth: divinity is not solely an external truth but also an internal reality shaped by complex psychological processes. From early childhood internalizations to transcendent spiritual encounters, the divine emerges as a vital component of human consciousness—an internal sanctuary that The Birth Of The Living God A Psychoanalytic Study 9 offers meaning, comfort, and a sense of wholeness. Recognizing the psychoanalytic roots of divine imagery enhances our understanding of religious experience, spiritual development, and mental health. It underscores the importance of exploring the inner worlds where the living god is born, nurtured, and continually re-created—a testament to the enduring human quest for connection with the sacred within. --- References - Freud, S. (1927). *The Future of an Illusion*. - Jung, C. G. (1964). *Man and His Symbols*. - Hillman, J. (1975). *Re-Visioning Psychology*. - Campbell, J. (1949). *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. - Van der Kolk, B. (2014). *The Body Keeps the Score*. Note: psychoanalysis, religion, spirituality, divine consciousness, myth, Carl Jung, Freud, religious symbolism, spiritual development, divine identity

The Birth of the Living GodAna-María Rizzuto and the Psychoanalysis of ReligionIn the Image of GodAna-María Rizzuto and the Psychoanalysis of ReligionThe Origin of the GodsRelating to GodDoes God Help?God Is UnconsciousGod, Freud and ReligionA Psychoanalytic Biography of YeWhy Did Freud Reject God?God, Biblical Stories and Psychoanalytic UnderstandingThe Hands of the Living God: an Account of a Psycho-analytic TreatmentThe Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and PsychoanalysisSeeing God in Our Birth ExperiencesThe Psychoanalytic CraftKristeva, Psychoanalysis and CultureThe Psychoanalytic ReviewThe Theory of Christian PsychologyThe Symmetry of God Ana-Marie Rizzuto Martha J. Reineke Stanley Leavy Martha J. Reineke Richard S. Caldwell , Dan Merkur Salman Akhtar Tad DeLay Dianna T. Kenny Robert K. Beshara Ana-Maria Rizzuto Rainer Kessler Marion Milner Richard Gipps Helen Holmes Laurence Spurling Sylvie Gambaudo Eva Klostreich Rodney Bomford

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God, Biblical Stories and Psychoanalytic Understanding The Hands of the Living God: an Account of a Psycho-analytic Treatment The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Psychoanalysis Seeing God in Our Birth Experiences The Psychoanalytic Craft Kristeva, Psychoanalysis and Culture The Psychoanalytic Review The Theory of Christian Psychology The Symmetry of God *Ana-Marie Rizzuto Martha J. Reineke Stanley Leavy Martha J. Reineke Richard S. Caldwell, Dan Merkur Salman Akhtar Tad DeLay Dianna T. Kenny Robert K. Beshara Ana-Maria Rizzuto Rainer Kessler Marion Milner Richard Gipps Helen Holmes Laurence Spurling Sylvie Gambaudo Eva Klostreich Rodney Bomford*

utilizing both clinical material based on the life histories of twenty patients and theoretical insights from the works of freud erikson fairbairn and winnicott ana maria rizzuto examines the origin development and use of our god images whereas freud postulated that belief in god is based on a child s idea of his father rizzuto argues that the god representation draws from a variety of sources and is a major element in the fabric of one s view of self others and the world

ana maría rizzuto s groundbreaking explorations of the formation of god representations in early childhood and their elaboration throughout the life cycle have made their mark enriching the practice of psychoanalysis and psychotherapy as well as scholarship within the psychoanalytic study of religion accompanied by illuminating commentaries by rizzuto the authors of this edited collectione essays in this volume underscore rizzuto s most important contribution to clinical practice rather than assert that psychoanalysis is incompatible with religious beliefs and practices or with spiritual concerns that patients may bring to a therapeutic context rizzuto makes room for the coexistence of psychoanalysis and religion in the therapeutic setting demonstrating how rizzuto s work has enhanced connections within and among psychoanalytic theories of religion established pathways for new developments in psychotherapy and facilitated interdisciplinary conversations this volume showcases the compelling power of rizzuto s work and its ongoing influence

in the image of god is a compilation of lectures by stanley leavy a psychoanalyst approaching retirement reflecting on his experience as a follower of freud and his method and also as a lifelong faithful episcopalian the overarching idea linking the individual lectures is leavy s belief that the deliberate study of the operations of the mind must yield results that are not just compatible with religious faith but amplify it eschewing the faith versus science argument for a more inclusive worldview

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this innovative study posits that myths in general and greek theogonic myth in particular have a latent meaning that is responsible both for the emotional energy inherent in myths and for the special attraction they have even to those who no longer believe in their literal meaning caldwell describes in clear and comprehensible language aspects of psychoanalytic theory relevant to the understanding of greek myth implementing a psychoanalytic methodology to interpret the greek myth of origin and succession particularly as stated in hesiod s theogony in reassessing this work which tells the story of the world s beginning from unbounded chaos to the defeat of the titans caldwell addresses several unexplained problems why does the world begin with the spontaneous emergence of four uncaused entities and why in this particular order why does ouranos prevent his children from being born by confining them in their mother s body why is ouranos castrated by his son and why is aphrodite born from the severed genitals why is it always the youngest son who overthrows his father the sky god and what is the logic of the steps taken by zeus to prevent the same thing happening to him presenting a new definition and analyses of the psychological functions in myth this new study should appeal to a wide range of classicists teachers and students of mythology and those interested in the application of psychoanalytic methods to literature

in relating to god clinical psychoanalysis spirituality and theism dan merkur conceptualizes religious discourse within psychoanalysis he proposes that god be treated as a transferential figure whose analysis leads to a reduction of the parental content that is projected onto god merkur notes that religious conversion experiences regularly involve theological intuitions that are either rational or owing to morbid complications have undergone displacement into irrational symbolism analysis renders the religiosity more wholesome traditionally psychoanalytic thought has been dismissive of religion freud is on record however as having called psychoanalysis a neutral procedure he argued that religion with its dependency on a providential god who punishes disobedience imagines spirituality on the model of human parents and fails to approach spirituality in an appropriately scientific manner he wrote little of spiritual phenomena but mentioned both the rationality of the universe and the parapsychological occurrence of thought transference occasionally later psychoanalysts used different language in order to contrast wholesome and morbid forms of religion erich fromm distinguished authoritarian and humanistic religions while d w winnicott condemned fetishistic behavior while approving of playful illusions that require belief in these formulations constructed a middle position for clinicians neither categorically opposed to religion as classical psychoanalysis was nor do they embrace cultural relativity as spiritually oriented psychotherapists are currently advocating what sorts of spiritual practices does psychoanalysis find unobjectionable as examples of humanistic religion fromm named zen buddhism buddhist mindfulness meditation and the via negativa or way of negating that some christian and jewish mystics have followed because the bible based approaches are little known merkur discusses their histories procedures and psychoanalytic understanding

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the unconscious eternal antonyms or long lost twins

sailing into new york harbor sigmund freud stood on the deck and gazed upon a statue that was meant to symbolize someone else's vague notion of freedom the embryonic field of psychology so very interested to hear this theory which excavated the depths of the psyche anticipated his arrival in america with lamentably eager fanfare whether out of hubris or prescience freud could only whisper they don't realize we are bringing them the plague it was a theory that undercut our creative justifications for every action and belief and it suggested our anxious identities are charted by a big other one we cannot begin to comprehend as psychoanalysis undergoes a resurgence of interest within religious studies political theory and cultural criticism its innovative and peculiar claims remain difficult to grasp without any guide for the perplexed in god is unconscious psychoanalysis and theology tad delay explores the provocative teaching of psychoanalyst jacques lacan and its implications for christianity partly an introductory exposition of freud Žižek and lacan and partly an application of psychoanalysis to religion and politics this book is organized as a theological meditation on an incendiary theory

choice essential read did god create man or did man create god in this book dianna kenny examines religious belief through a variety of perspectives psychoanalytic cognitive neuropsychological sociological historical and psychiatric to provide a coherent account of why people might believe in god she argues that psychoanalytic theory provides a fertile and creative approach to the study of religion that attempts to integrate religious belief with our innate human nature and developmental histories that have unfolded in the context of our socialization and cultural experiences freud argued that religion is so compelling because it solves the problems of our existence it explains the origin of the universe offers solace and protection from evil and provides a blueprint about how we should live our lives with just rewards for the righteous and due punishments for sinners and transgressors science on the other hand offers no such explanations about the universe or the meaning of our lives and no comfort for the unanswered longings of the human race is religion a form of wish fulfilment a collective delusion to which we cling as we try to fathom our place and purpose in the drama of cosmology can there be morality without faith are science and religion radically incompatible what are the roots of fundamentalism and terror theology these are some of the questions addressed in god freud and religion a book that will be of interest to psychoanalysts psychologists and psychotherapists students of psychology psychoanalysis philosophy and theology and all those with an interest in religion and human behaviour dianna kenny is professor of psychology at the university of sydney australia she is the author of over 200 publications including six books

this book which includes a foreword by tommy curry is a theoretical biography of ye it particularly focuses on the 5 year period from 2016 to 2021 the shaky ass years in an effort to think psychoanalytically about his complex subjectivity his struggle with manic depression the thin line between the personal and the political when it comes to celebrity culture and of course his aesthetic productions be they in the form of music video or fashion which the author regards as also being ethical and political projects objects the book takes what ye says seriously as opposed to dismissing him through the use of stigmatizing terms the author specifically aligned his desire with donda's in an attempt to see him from her point of view that is through the legacy of unconditional love

in this study the author reviews and reorganizes data about freud s development and life circumstances to provide a psychodynamic interpretation of his rejection of god she contends that freud s early life made it impossible for him to believe in a provident and caring divine being

in every process of reading there is interaction between text and reader religious texts speak about god readers of religious texts have their images of god thus in the process of reading religious texts we have a triangle with text reader and god at the extreme points but how are these points connected the articles in the book discuss this question they focus on biblical texts and they make use of different psychoanalytic approaches the book deals with the biblical subjects of the bloody bridegroom in ex 4 the oedipus complex in the book of esther the saul david story from a kleinian perspective and the creation of woman this work also examines the question of interiorization and the images of god the contributors are scholars from several european countries and from widely differing scholarly and denominational backgrounds who discussed their papers in the course of a european socrates intensive program

at once autobiographical and psychoanalytic the hands of the living god first published in 1969 provides a detailed case study of susan who during a 20 year long treatment spontaneously discovers the capacity to do doodle drawings an important focus of the book is the drawings themselves 150 of which are reproduced in the text and their deep unconscious perception of the battle between sanity and madness it is these drawings linked with milner s sensitive and lucid record of the therapeutic encounter that give the book its unique and compelling interest with a new introduction by adam phillips the hands of the living god is essential reading for all those with an interest in the fields of psychoanalysis and psychotherapy and more widely to those involved in therapy and the arts

psychoanalysis is often equated with sigmund freud but this comparison ignores the wide range of clinical practices observational methods general theories and cross pollinations with other disciplines that characterise contemporary psychoanalytic work central psychoanalytic concepts to do with unconscious motivation primitive forms of thought defence mechanisms and transference form a mainstay of today s richly textured contemporary clinical psychological practice in this landmark collection on philosophy and psychoanalysis leading researchers provide an evaluative overview of current thinking written at the interface between these two disciplines the oxford handbook of philosophy and psychoanalysis contains original contributions that will shape the future of debate with 34 chapters divided into eight sections covering history clinical theory phenomenology science aesthetics religion ethics and political and social theory this oxford handbook displays the enduring depth breadth and promise of integrating philosophical and psychoanalytic thought anyone interested in the philosophical implications of psychoanalysis as well as philosophical challenges to and re statements of psychoanalysis will want to consult this book it will be a vital resource for academic researchers psychoanalysts and other mental health professionals graduates and trainees

there has been a recent surge in the examination of the evolutionary roots of religious belief all trying to identify where the human desire to seek the supernatural and the divine comes from this book adds a new and innovative perspective to this line of thought by being the first to link prenatal and perinatal experiences to the origins of these unconscious underpinnings of our shared images of god the book poses a ground breaking paradigm by thinking about our

earliest images of god whether theist or atheist within a psychoanalytic framework comparing and contrasting the thought of freud and rizzuto it looks at the issue of images of god from a diversity of psychological perspectives including attachment theory developmental theory and bio psychosocial perspectives this analysis leads to the conclusion that in parallel to postnatal findings uterine and birth experiences can predispose individuals to form god representations later in life through underpinning affective and environmental factors this is a bold study of the development of one of humanity s most fundamental aspects as such it will be of great interest to scholars of the psychology of religion psychology psychoanalysis religious studies and early infant development

this book identifies and explores what is missing in therapy practice namely the craft aspects of skilled psychoanalytic work how theories and models are actually used in practice what kind of reasoning is employed in conducting a session and how interventions are composed and evaluated the text shows how these features of clinical thinking which normally operate below the level of awareness can be identified and explored in clinical practice in supervision and in teaching this clear and vividly written book addresses the needs of practitioners and trainees moving beyond beginner level to more skilled and attuned practice

with the introduction of the euro much recent attention has been focused on the role of currencies and their national and international significance covering a time span of some two and a half millennia the contributions within this volume consider aspects of the european experience from classical antiquity until the beginning of the twenty first century

contemporary theory and practice of psychoanalysis

the theory of christian psychology comes from the worldview that sees humanity as the object of a love relationship with jesus christ parallel to buddhist forms of psychology the theory of christian psychology meets the worldwide christian population need for its own psychology the theory of christian psychology presents a flexible foundation addressing personality with full humanity dimension integrating principles of clinical psychology found in psychoanalytic psychodynamic psychology soundly biblical and non denominational it focuses on key precepts that bind christianity together the theory of christian psychology bridges clinical psychology and theology in an intersection of power accessibility psychology has been culture alien to christianity i have been asked to leave churches who only need god when they discovered i was a psychologist and criticized by others who only need psychology sound psychological principles are inherent throughout the bible there is no dichotomy necessary we just need to speak the same language to clearly see the intersection issues addressed in the theory of christian psychology carry relevancy for law and education her first book dr klosterich plans to continue to write and speak she is initiating the institute for christian psychology to offer seminars training certification and ongoing research

why does the age long quest for the eternal express itself always in paradox eternity is both an attribute of god and a characteristic of the freudian unconscious recent developments in psychoanalytic theory have discovered an irrational logic at work in the unconscious process this symmetric logic in the mathematical

sense of symmetry produces paradoxes incomprehensible to asymmetric classic logic the path of the mystic is an approach to an aspect of god analogous to the human unconscious and is expressed through paradoxes of symmetric logic whereas the god who reveals himself in history is a god who by the same analogy also exercises consciousness and is at least partially subject to classical logic christian faith holds to both the concept of an eternal god beyond time and of a god who acts in time this involves both logics and explains the paradoxical symbolic and mythical nature of theological propositions it also throws light on the conflict between realist and non realist views of god and allows an understanding of orthodox christianity which transcends both this book will be of interest to theologians psychoanalysts philosophers and their students

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