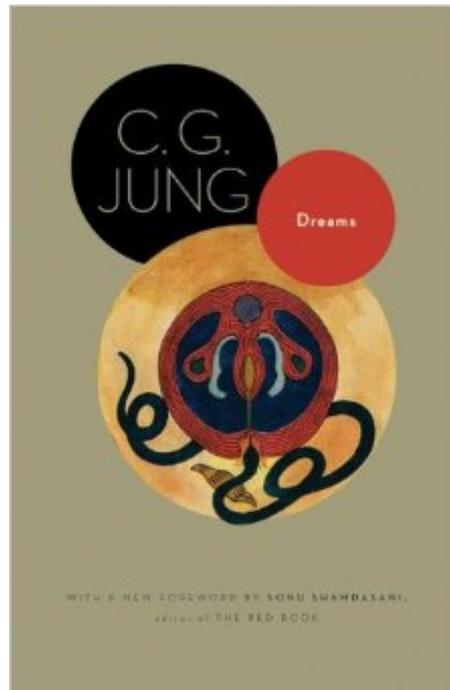


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Dreams: (From Volumes 4, 8, 12, And 16 Of The Collected Works Of C. G. Jung) (Jung Extracts)



Synopsis

Dream analysis is a distinctive and foundational part of analytical psychology, the school of psychology founded by C. G. Jung and his successors. This volume collects Jung's most insightful contributions to the study of dreams and their meaning. The essays in this volume, written by Jung between 1909 and 1945, reveal Jung's most essential views about dreaming--especially regarding the relationship between language and dream. Through these studies, Jung grew to understand that dreams are themselves a language, a language through which the soul communicates with the body. The essays included are "The Analysis of Dreams," "On the Significance of Number Dreams," "General Aspects of Dream Psychology," "On the Nature of Dreams," "The Practical Use of Dream Analysis," and "Individual Dream Symbolism in Relation to Alchemy" (complete with illustrations). New to this edition is a foreword by Sonu Shamdasani, Philemon Professor of Jung History at University College London.

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Customer Reviews

This is an amazing text and I will not ruin the surprises inside its cover but its ability to bring to light the most prevalent of the West's archetypes in the subconscious is astounding. This is for the avid dreamer who wishes to begin to understand what all of your dreams represent. Do not expect a kind of glossary for dream symbolism such text is worthless in our Global Village. Expect however a firm footing in the patterns prevalent in dream. If new to Jung read *Man and His Symbols* first.

About God, Jung said, I don't believe, I know. As soon as you read 'Dreams', you will have a complete sense of his amazing insights, not only on the subject matter, but on the complete human psyche. And this includes, as I tried to hint at from the very beginning, the very meaning of our existence. Perhaps there would not be a Jung today, if there had not been a Freud preceding him. But a completely ignorant educated man here says, having read them both, that Jung's proposal is far more clever, elaborate, comprehensive and convincing. Jung was a unique scholar, he had a very distinctive ability to blend a lot of knowledge from seemingly unrelated areas of science into psychology. His biography is an essential starting point to understand how he managed to develop this quality, which I think was key to his original thinking. 'Dreams' is a book of rare brilliance. Thanks to Jung, for providing a 'basis' for all things.

I'm fairly new to Jung but also quite hooked. This was my first read after working my way through the Viking Portable Jung (which has overlapping material), and I will continue, without question, working my way through his writings (his Collected Works, volumes 6 and 9a will be my next forays). Don't be mistaken into thinking this is any sort of manual of dream interpretation --in fact Jung seems to think that you couldn't do it on your own without at least some training by someone more experienced like an analyst, and a decent knowledge of world mythology. That said, it will be a worthwhile read for any one who is dedicated to thinking about dreams in relation to the self --with the humility of an open mind. Jung's work, or what little I've read, seems to have the capacity to pry one's mind wide open (assuming one is ready --I know I wouldn't have been 5 or 10 years ago, as a graduate student in philosophy at a very analytic program). Do keep in mind that Jung is not an easy read --especially the wandering and discursive character of his work in alchemical symbols, but it has been, without question, rewarding for me, at least. The more I read of this guy, the more I want to.

Carl Jung says he has analysed more than 2,000 dreams per year, a very impressive number by anyone's standards. In his Dreams book, which is a very good collection of many of his dream experiments, he is after demolishing some Freudian's dream concepts, mainly the one which asserts that the purpose of dreams is to fulfill infantile sexual wishes repressed in the unconscious, which don't find adequate outlet through conscious activities. To add content to this dispute, one has only to have in mind that Jung was a very ardent disciple of Freud in the beginning of his career, but the relationship turned sour after 1914 in the fighting for prestige at the foundation of the

Psychoanalysis in the beginning of the 20th century. In Jung's view, dreams are not only wish fulfillers, but they are also compensatory vis-a-vis our daily conscious life. So, the purpose of them is to balance our conscious and unconscious life. So, if life is good, dreams are bad and vice-versa. At the end of his life, Jung said in one of his testimonials that by means of a very representative dream he closed a circle, which meant he got a balanced mental life between unconscious and consciousness. Also, dreams should be taken not as isolated entities, but rather as a series of concatenated manifestations of the unconscious, something which could be represented by the ancient mandalas (Sanskrit for circle) of many peoples from the ancient world (Mayas, Hindus, Polynesians, etc...), where the ultimate end is to attain a balanced mind. Jung's theory of the unconscious is, in my opinion, pretty much more attractive than Freud's, specially in what it regards the timelessness of the unconscious and the unconscious collective. Reading "Dreams" after reading Freud's "Interpretation of Dreams" is a magnificent experience and the winner is surely the reader, who gets the most of two of the most prominent and polemical psychoanalysts of all times.

This is a fantastic book for anyone interested in Jungian psychology, dream interpretation, the nature of the unconscious, alchemy, symbolism in dreams and all that fascinating stuff. I didn't know anything about Jung or his theories until I found his memoirs *Memories, Dreams, Reflections* while trying to find books that discussed dreaming, and from there I was led to this book. I will admit that some concepts are difficult to understand at times, but if you're open to thinking in new ways it will definitely be an enlightening read for you, and it is set out in manageable chapters and sections so you can put it down to have a think (which you will definitely need to do!) and return to it knowing exactly where you left off.

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