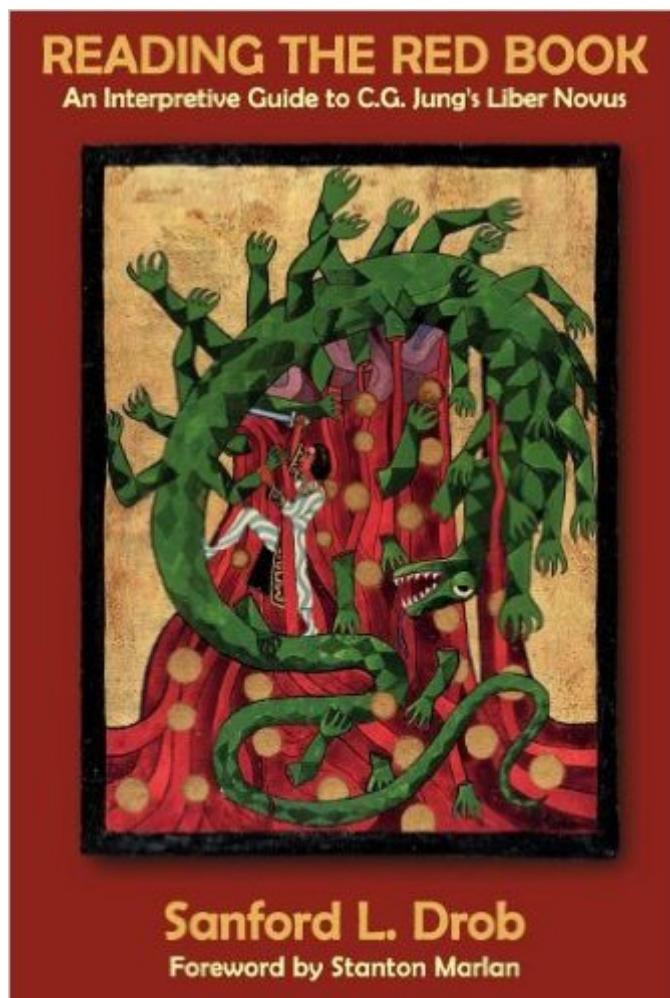


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Reading The Red Book: An Interpretive Guide To C.G. Jung's Liber Novus



Synopsis

The long-awaited publication of C.G. Jung's Red Book in October, 2009 was a signal event in the history of analytical psychology. Hailed as the most important work in Jung's entire corpus, it is as enigmatic as it is profound. Reading The Red Book by Sanford L. Drob provides a clear and comprehensive guide to The Red Book's narrative and thematic content, and details The Red Book's significance, not only for psychology but for the history of ideas.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm really enjoying this new book from my colleague at Fielding Graduate University. In the past, I've thumbed through the pages of Jung's Red Book and been both puzzled and amused by the tangled and oddly beautiful work that I found. Although I've dabbled a bit in Jung's work over the years, I don't think I understood much about the Red Book, from my perspectives as a clinical and cognitive-perceptual-developmental-neuro-scientist (puzzled), or as an integrative psychologist (amused). Drob's book provides a schema for understanding and interpreting the Red Book, or at least the written part of the book. And while this schema links the Red Book to other works of Jung, Drob has shown that The Red Book may have considerable relevance for contemporary psychology. The book, according to the author, is psychology's "compensatory dream," ripe with important messages for contemporary psychologists. Our current field, with its focus not just on science but scientism, often ignores and even dismisses its philosophical, literary, spiritual origin. (Note: For other compelling challenges scientism, see the recent work of John Smythies, another

author I recommend highly. See, e.g., Smythies' short essay The Fight For Truth.) After reading the preface and introduction, I skipped to the last chapter, titled "The Red Book and Contemporary Psychology," and found gold. Now I'm gradually going through the Red Book again, with Drob's insightful Interpretive Guide in hand. Here are a few essential quotes from the last chapter, which have helped motivate me to take a deeper look at Jung's Red Book, and Drob's Interpretive Guide: "...Jung often spoke of dreams as compensating for a one-sided conscious standpoint..."

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