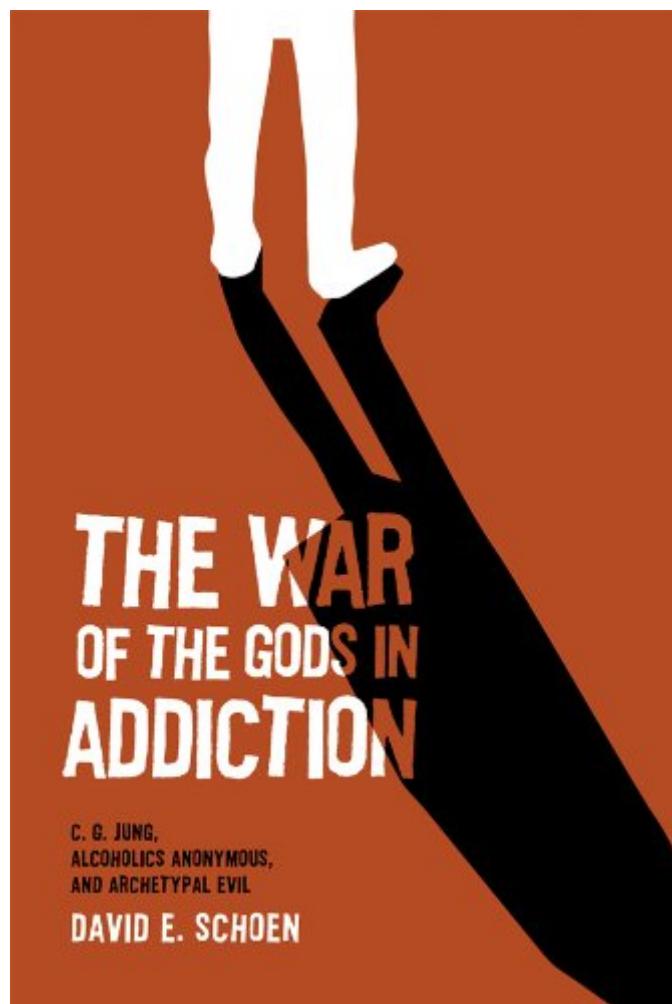


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The War Of The Gods In Addiction



Synopsis

The War of the Gods in Addiction, based on the correspondence between Bill W., one of the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous and C.G. Jung, proposes an original, groundbreaking, psychodynamic view of addiction which explains both the creation and successful treatment of alcoholism and other addictions. Using insights from Jungian psychology, it demonstrates why the 12 steps of AA really work. It emphasizes the crucial process of neutralizing the Archetypal Shadow / Archetypal Evil, an aspect of all true addictions, and explores this concept extensively through theoretical and clinical material, modern and ancient myths, and fairy tales. The significance of using dreams for diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of addiction is also explained. This book bridges the longstanding gap between the mental health community and 12-step recovering communities and translates concepts necessary to understanding the addictive process in ways that encourage mutual understanding and benefit.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author writes this book as a Jungian analyst. Had he written it simply as an unabashed advocate of AA (which he obviously is), it would not trouble me nearly as much. Although I do not

consider myself a Jungian scholar, I have been a student of Jungian thought for 25+ years. I have read a smattering of Jung and many volumes by other Jungian analysts and authors. After years of seeking a spiritual alternative to the fundamentalist Christian framework of my upbringing, Jungian thought finally gave me a spiritual language that I could relate to beyond a purely materialistic and intellectually abstract world view -- that could provide some avenue into the unknown that exists beyond fact, materialism, and science. Jungian thought allowed me to move beyond a "hard choice" between physics and metaphysics, as well as (to use Nietzsche's words) beyond "good and evil." That conceptual dualism -- of pristine "good and evil" -- and an unrelenting battle between them, lies at the core of this book. Without that concept, the foundation for this book evaporates. So, I speak from the perspective confessed above and say that I have NEVER read a book by a Jungian that was so grounded in the sort of medieval, metaphysical dualism from which I labored so long to escape. I think I am being fair; I believe I am reading accurately both the lines and between the lines. Putting all of the author's disclaimers and weak assertions of an ecumenical world view aside, this book presents a fundamentalist Christian (really Catholic) world view of eternal, transpersonal cosmic forces of pure good and pure evil, between which mortal man is buffeted and, if "addicted," must choose to surrender (yes, surrender) to the "pure good" cosmic force. Otherwise, that mortal is lost.

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