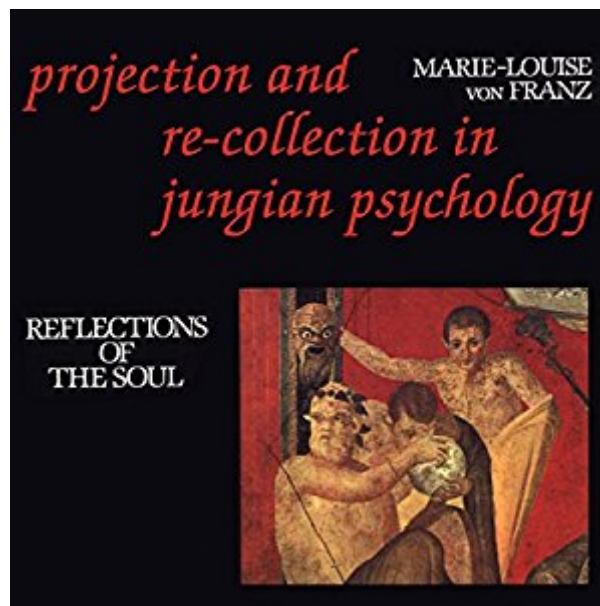


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Projection And Re-Collection In Jungian Psychology: Reflections Of The Soul: Reality Of The Psyche Series



Synopsis

A classic in the Jungian literature, written by one of Jung's most distinguished collaborators. The book is published by Open Court.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book explores psychological projection of internal contents onto the external world & its inhabitants & the growth process of withdrawing such projections (re-collection). Von Franz seeks to be scientific & uses analogies from physics & principles of the Philosophy of Science: p. 38: "A general psychological law: The statement of the new truth reveals the previous conceptions as 'projections' & tries to draw them into the psychic inner world, & at the same time it announces a new myth, which now passes for the finally discovered 'absolute' truth." As one of Jung's primary direct disciples, she explains many of his theories: Self, Collective Unconscious, synchronicity, etc. She discusses evil: demons vs. daimons & notes parallels with Christian mysticism & related mythology. She interestingly analyzes mirroring & reflection among ego, Self, perceived world, & synchronicity. IMHO, her description of ego maps into Buddhism: p. 170: "The field of ego-consciousness is a loose structure of originally separate single islands of consciousness that have gradually grown together. The seams are therefore still perceptible in many people." She notes parallels with other ancient beliefs: "in Stoic philosophy there is the theory that single human souls are sparks of the cosmic fiery ether, that is, of the world-soul...When a human being really tries to lead a spiritual life, these 'sparks' gradually grow together into one inner light of reason...This idea of sparks of the psyche...is also to be found in the systems of various Gnostics."

And, p. 176: "Individuation is not an egocentric affair but demands & even rigorously necessitates human relatedness," paralleling Buddhist emphasis on compassion accompanying enlightenment. She explains the mutual dependence of ego & Self: p.

Steven B. Herrmann, PhD, MFT Author of "Walt Whitman: Shamanism, Spiritual Democracy, and the World Soul" To be sure, this is one of Marie Louise von Franz' most brilliant books: a depth-analysis into the nature of projection and re-collection in Jungian psychology. Von Franz defines projection clearly in chapter one, where she points out that the phenomenon under clinical investigation leads to psychological problems when the archaic identity of a subject doing the projecting leads to disturbances in adaptation, at which point integration of the projected content into the subject is desirable (7). As she points out the archaic identity between subject and object still lives at the very bottom of the psyche and this lower and more "primitive" level contains the real secret of all life-intensity and cultural creativity (8). Her aim is to get to the bottom of the projection-making process, to show through her erudition how the goal of Jungian analysis is to help the patient and presumably the reader not to project anymore. This is also the aim, she says, of Zen Buddhist meditation and although she sees such detached consciousness, at least at times, through an idealizing lens, she says we average human beings will, for the most part, have to continue for the rest of our lives to recognize our projections for what they are: as mistaken judgments about people, situations, and events (199). She posits for analytical psychology five stages in the process of withdrawing projections. This leads her to the following discussion. "One of the oldest ways of symbolizing projection," she says, "is by means of projectiles, especially the magic arrow or shot that harms other people" (20).

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