

P-1129 - IS C.G. JUNG'S LEGACY OF UNDERSTANDING SCHIZOPHRENIA STILL RELEVANT IN THE "ERA OF THE BRAIN"

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Not many are familiar with Jung's insights in the field of understanding and treating psychosis. We face today his works beginning in 1919 and till 1958, showing us how important and dear this field was for him.

The current "state of the art" in modern psychiatry attributes the psychotic process to alteration in brain's anatomy, biochemistry and electrophysiology exempting thus the subject, from responsibility to his sanity.

In contrast to many others debilitating diseases (cancer for example) where one is encouraged to fight for his life, when one is diagnosed with Schizophrenia, he would be looked upon as a passive victim to his brain's pathology.

In this light it is more refreshing than ever to return to Jung's teachings.

Jung understood Schizophrenia as an "Abaissement du Niveau Mental" a similar phenomenon to the one encountered in dreams, and caused by a peculiar "Faiblesse de la Volonte" meaning a weakening of willpower. He added that complexes in Schizophrenia are disconnected and that one has to fight for the supremacy of his ego-consciousness and for the subjugation of unconscious forces. A person who allows to be swayed by the intrusion of alien contents arising from the unconscious (or even is fascinated by regression) exposes himself to the danger of Schizophrenia. Following this line of thought responsibility returns to the subject and therapy regains its central role.

In our talk we will elaborate on these notions and on the structure and meaning of the "Schizophrenic Complex". Amplification from clinical cases will be added.