

Jungian Terms

Active imagination. Method of assimilation of unconscious contents through their experimentation as fantasies in the wakeful state.

Alchemy. The chemistry from prehistory until the 17th century, in which laboratory experiments were combined with intuitive, pictorial, partly religious experiences about nature and man. Many symbols which we recognize today as contents of the unconscious were project onto matter, onto the prima materia. The alchemist sought the “secret of God” in the primary material and, in doing so, developed methods and process which resemble those of modern depth psychology.

Alter ego. (Latin) The other aspect of oneself, a second ego; also, one’s doppelgänger.

Amplification. Method of association in the interpretation of dreams based on comparative studies of mythology, religion, fairy tales, alchemy, astrology etc.

Anima. The archetype of female in man.

Animus. The archetype of male in woman.

Anthropos. Primordial man, archetypal image of wholeness in alchemy, religion, and Gnostic philosophy.

Archetype. Primary structural element of human psyche. The archetype equals biologist’s pattern of behavior as it rules the functioning of the psychical processes.

Archetypal image. The form or representation taken by the archetype in dreams, fantasies, cultural and religious (mythical) products.

Assimilation. The process of conscious integration of the contents of the personal and collective unconscious. The assimilation is the result of conscious elaboration (insight) in the psychotherapeutic process.

Behaviorism. School of psychology that limits itself to the objectively observable and to measurable behavior, dispensing with any description of the contents of consciousness which emerge only by way of introspection.

Canon. Scriptural texts officially accepted by a church as authentic and immutable.

Collective unconscious. Distinctive from the personal unconscious, the collective unconscious is made of archetypes or primordial images.

Compensation. A natural process of reestablishing a certain balance in the psyche.

Complementarity. Completion; psychologically, the assimilation of an element which has previously been lacking and through which wholeness is attained.

Complex. An emotionally charged group of ideas or images.

Coniunctio. Or “conjunction”, term used in alchemy to define the union of opposites. From the psychological point of view, it means the union of the conscious with the unconscious, process that is also called individuation.

Constellation. Activation of a psychic personal complex or an archetypal content.

Daimon. Originally, a value-free, driving force, a spiritual energy which leads to the creative formation of individuality; for Socrates, an inspiring and guiding spirit.

Dream. Spontaneous and natural manifestation of the psychic.

Enantiodromia. According to Jung the path to individuation leads one through opposing attitudes. See also Compensation.

Extroversion, extroverted. Directed outwardly. A psychic attitude, characterized by a concentration of interest on objects; easily susceptible to outer influences.

Individuation. Complex process of synthesis of the Self which consists mainly of the union of the unconscious with the conscious.

Inferior function. In Jung's topology, that function of the four functions of behavior (thinking, feeling, sensation, intuition) which has not been developed and hence has remained inferior. It is the opposite of the strongest or superior function (for instance, with a thinking personality feeling is usually less developed).

Inflation. Following the identification with an archetypal image, the effect of this identification is to exaggerate the proportions of the Ego.

Introversion, introverted. Directed inwardly; a concentration of energy on inner-psychic processes, oriented to an inner evaluation of experience.

Katoche. (Greek) Confinement, imprisonment; also, to be in the power of a god, or possession.

Libido. Tendency towards, lust, psychic energy that can be transmitted to other drives as well. For Jung the libido is not only sexual, while Freud considers it is only sexual.

Logos. (Greek-Latin) Meaningful word, logical decision or judgment, human intellect; divine reason, world reason, God's Word as the force which created the world; revelation.

Lysis. (Greek) In dream theory, the resolution or ending events of the dream.

Mandala. (Sanskrit) Literally "circle". An image inserted in a circle or polygon which facilitates meditation and is intended to represent certain spiritual dynamics. Mandalas are widespread in most religious traditions. In Jung's psychology they are recognized as unconscious contents which emerge into consciousness spontaneously and serve as symbols of the totality of the personality or of the Self.

Mystical participation. Term taken from anthropology – it defines the process of identification of the human subject with external phenomena, objects and beings with the aim of taking over or determining specific effects.

Numinous. It defines the quality of archetypal images to inspire powerful feelings of awe, devotion etc.

Participation mystique. A psychological condition in which various inanimate objects and people participate with each other in a mystical manner, are connected with each other beneath the surface of consciousness.

Persona. Mask of the Ego, its social expression, the way the others see us.

Personal unconscious. The Freudian unconscious, made of repressed wishes, distinctive from the collective (archetypal) unconscious.

Philosophical stone. Alchemist term identified by Jung with the process of individuation and accomplishment of the Self.

Pneuma. (Greek) Breath. An air-like substance believed to be a dynamic principle.

Prima materia. In alchemy the primary matter which has not yet been transformed.

Privatio boni. (Latin) Literally, “absence of good.” A doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church (Basil).

Projection. Autonomous process by which features (usually repressed) of the Ego are assigned to other people (external objects).

Psychoid. Psyche-like, quasi-psychic. For Jung, characteristic of the unobservable deep layer of the collective unconscious and its contents.

Psychopomp. (Greek, pompos, companion, escort, messenger) In mythology, a guide who conducts departed souls to the underworld; in psychology, the “soul guide”.

Quaternity. A visual representation of the psychic totality through square images.

Self. The archetype of psychic Totality, according to Jung.

Shadow. Containing repressed parts of the human personality, the shadow is the counterpart of the Freudian unconscious. The shadow is an archetypal content.

Symbol. Unlike the Freudian definition, the symbol for Jung is the representation of something unfamiliar in the psychic, usually an instance of the Self (or the central archetype).

Synchronicity. A non-causal connection between two or more various phenomena (psychic and/or physical).

Tao. (Chinese) Usually translated as “way,” “universal meaning,” “World Ground.” That which keeps the world meaningfully together in its innermost parts.

Typology. A model of classification based on the predominance of psychic activity of certain distinct ways of understanding and perceiving; for Jung, it is connected with the two attitudes, namely extroversion and introversion, and the four functions: thinking, feeling, sensation, intuition. For example, a thinking type experiences the world and attempts to understand it through his thinking function which is more highly developed than his other function. Cf. C. G. Jung, Psychological Types.

Wholeness. Psychic stage in which the union of the unconscious with the conscious has been achieved. It is the aim of Jung’s psychotherapy.