

The Zurich Lectures:

C. G. Jung and the Tradition of Gnosis

C. G. Jung repeatedly stated that the ancient tradition of Gnosis was the historical root of his psychology. The depth of Jung's personal affiliation with the tradition of Gnosis has, however, been a subject of on-going controversy. Publication in 2009 of *The Red Book* has opened entirely new perspectives on Jung's life-long association with, and affinity to, Gnostic tradition. In this series of three lectures presented at the C. G. Jung Institute Zurich in February of 2013, Dr. Lance Owens provides the first detailed analysis of Jung's encounter with Gnostic vision during the years he was composing *Liber Novus*.

In 1957, Jung summarized the importance of Gnostic tradition to his psychology:

When I began to understand alchemy I realized that it represented the historical link with Gnosticism, and that a continuity therefore existed between past and present. Grounded in the natural philosophy of the Middle Ages, alchemy formed the bridge on the one hand into the past, to Gnosticism, and on the other into the future, to the modern psychology of the unconscious. ... The possibility of a comparison with alchemy, and the uninterrupted intellectual chain back to Gnosticism, gave substance to my psychology.

Based on a new reading of primary source documents, Dr. Owens illustrates how Jung embedded the ancient motifs of Gnostic mythology in *Liber Novus*, and then traces the ways in which Gnostic mythology permeated Jung's subsequent life work. By carefully evaluating Jung's many associations with the Gnosis, these lectures open transformative insights into the nature, the history, and the future of Jung's psychology and vision.

[Click here to listen to the lectures.](#)