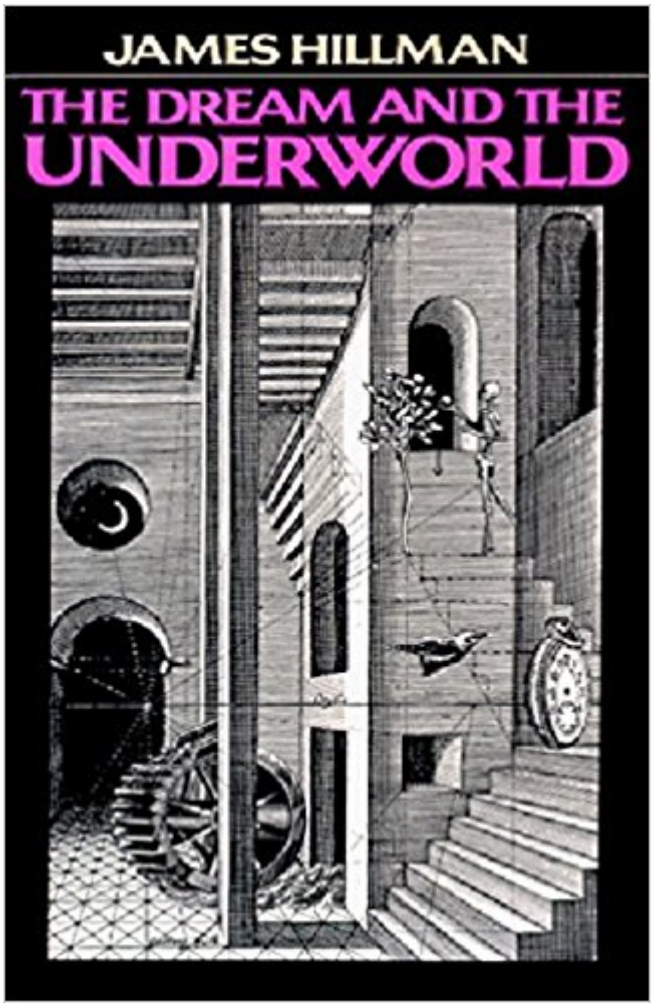
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The Dream And The Underworld



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Synopsis

In a deepening of the thinking begun in The Myth of Analysis and Re-Visioning Psychology, James Hillman develops the first new view of dreams since Freud and Jung.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An eminently intelligent book by an eminently intelligent man."--J.P. DonleavyA

Best book about the psyche I have ever read.

Hillman wrote this book in the mid-seventies, and it is surprising to me how little effect it seems to have had on the various schools of dream interpretation. Perhaps this is because Hillman’s "underworld" is an ambiguous, sometimes frightening place, a place where each psyche is rooted into the Beyond, and where daytime morality has no dominion. According to the author, the underworld and its dreams contribute to the making of Soul, and are not to be used as helps to fix up our daytime life. To do so is an act of exploitation. This clearly is at odds with our culture’s fixation on mining one’s dreams for images, ideas, and information that can help us be more productive and functional players in the status quo world we inhabit during waking hours.Hillman carefully develops his ideas through looking at the work of Freud, Jung, and other twentieth century dream workers. He winnows out the wheat from the chaff, and uses the wheat to thrust dream interpretation forward, and farther away from the safe, cozy realm the ego would so much like to stay wrapped up in. One gets the feeling reading this book that safety does not a strong soul

make.Being an inveterate "miner" of dreams myself, I was at first rather resistant to Hillman's thesis. Eventually, though, I came around to his point of view (with reservations), mainly because I realized that dreams and soulwork are very much like art. Just as art should not always be made for any practical "daytime" use, so with our souls and dream images.However, this opens a question. For thousands of years, shamans have traveled into the underworld to bring back energy for healing individuals and their communities. They act as conduits for energies traveling up from the Otherworld so that this world can be "seeded" and keep evolving. Is this, too, an act of exploitation? I don't think so. But I do think, after reading this book, that we should be aware of, and careful about, how we use the images and teachings that come to us, unbidden, as we sleep.

This is an interesting one. Very complex and in depth.

Purchased to add to my J. Hillman collection. I haven't read it, yet, but whatever I think about it, I'm keeping it in my personal library collection.

If your into psychoanalysis, and you want something that is more about the soul and less about sex, here you go

Incredibly insightful and imaginative glimpse into the hidden depths of the psyche.

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I have read and and re-read this book for over twenty years. At first I was looking for interpretive technique or ways to make sense of dreams. But gradually I became convinced that in Hillman's 'universe' this is not the road to go. So then I began to observe. I made a dream journal and even an index to recurring subject matter. Often I ask myself "To what use is all this?" And then I return to observing and not trying to find a "use" for it. Many years ago I stopped trying to apply dreams to waking life. What I do, instead, is to try and keep an image in my minds eye as my day plays out. This is what Mr. Hillman recommends in the book.

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