



The Ultimate Right-Brainer

How To Read Jung

David Tacey

Granta Books London 2006

In the experience of this reviewer, there are only three available attitudes towards Carl Jung: you love him, you hate him, or you have never heard of him. Indifference is not an option.

I mostly agree with the first attitude — but that does not mean that I understand Jung. I think that my attitude comes from thinking, or better, feeling that I sort of align with what he is saying.

David Tacey was a keynote speaker at the 2006 New Zealand Conference and is the author of eight books and eighty published essays on Jungian studies, spirituality, and culture. Books in press include *The Idea of the Numinous* (London: Routledge 2006). David is Associate Professor in the School of Arts and Critical Enquiry, La Trobe University, Melbourne. He teaches courses on spirituality, Jungian psychology, and literature. He is on the international faculty of the C. G. Jung Institute in Zurich, where he presents short courses on his current research.

We need this book — *How To Read Jung* — to launch into what is a complex subject and Tacey writes lucidly. He tackles Jung's big themes head-on taking us through symbols and dreams, then on to the 'second self' which is crushed by dogma but set free by artistic creativity. Myth, the 'dark side' (to give George Lucas' rendering of The Shadow), Anima/Animus, Archetypes and Individuation are all there.

At barely 100 pages of text this is a first class way into to Jungian thought and is highly recommended.

I was brought up with a shock of recognition at the end of the first chapter with a quote from the poet A.D. Hope:

Yet the myths will not fit us ready made.
It is the meaning of the poet's trade
To re-create the fables and revive
In men the energies by which they live.

Noel Cheer