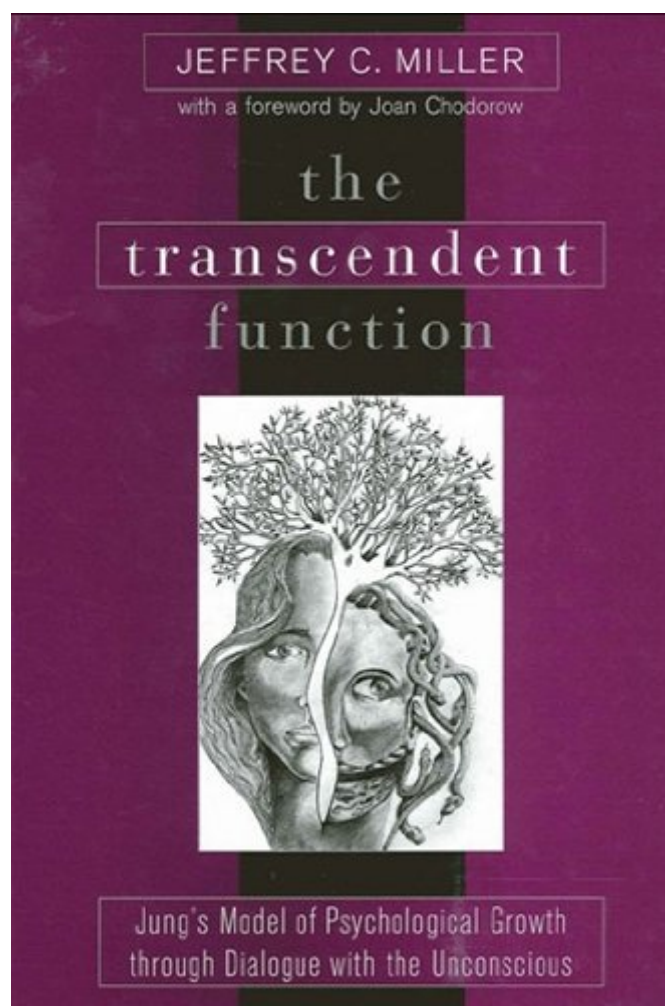




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The Transcendent Function: Jung's Model Of Psychological Growth Through Dialogue With The Unconscious



Synopsis

The transcendent function is the core of Carl Jung's theory of psychological growth and the heart of what he called individuation, the process by which one is guided in a teleological way toward the person one is meant to be. This book thoroughly reviews the transcendent function, analyzing both the 1958 version of the seminal essay that bears its name and the original version written in 1916. It also provides a word-by-word comparison of the two, along with every reference Jung made to the transcendent function in his written works, his letters, and his public seminars." --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

I heard about this book because I was doing some digging into recent books about Carl Jung and his ideas. I found it amazingly helpful. Though it engages in a very thorough and detailed review of the transcendent function, one of Jung's central ideas, it does so in a very understandable fashion. It not only describes the theory but also shows how it applies to the life of the reader. In addition, the author ties the theory into other key parts of Jungian psychology and, in so doing, provides a really

handy primer on some of Jung's major ideas such as individuation, the archetypes, the Self, the anima, the opposites, and the constructive view of the psyche. Having read quite a bit in this area, I found this book very enjoyable and incredibly informative. I highly recommend it both to those well-read in Jung and those just wanting to get started.

This is an excellent analysis of Jung's essay on the transcendent function. It covers the historical redactions of the essay from 1916 through its final form as it appears in the Collected Works. I am a Jungian analyst with over 20 years experience, and have always considered the transcendent function to be a key element in analytic work. With this book, Dr. Miller has done a great service to the analytic profession and to Jungian scholarship. His writing is smooth and easy to read, and he is adept at presenting complex concepts clearly in a way that respects their integrity.

This marvellously accessible book not only elucidate's Jung's 'transcendent function' so that even someone with only a basic knowledge of psychology can grasp it (although thesis(conscious)-antithesis(unconscious)-synthesis pretty much sums it up), it also gives the reader a gentle and utterly engaging open-door introduction to psychology clearly explaining concepts and schools of thought in a manner which lends a fuller understanding of psychoanalytical theory as a whole. Also included in the Appendices is a full translation of Jung's 1916 essay 'The Transcendent Function', showing emendations made to the essay for its publication in the Collected Works some forty years later. PS. Although this book seems hard to come by at the moment it is still available from France under English language books.

I learned a lot about the nature of the transcendent function in Jung's work and how his concept developed throughout the course of his long career. Miller does a fine job of clarifying terms, identifying inconsistencies, and suggesting resolutions. The work is at times pedantic in comparing the exact language of Jung's original and revised essays about the transcendent function. That is the nature of academic writing, however. Overall, I found Miller's language clear and instructive.

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