

Review of: "Jung on the Meaning of Life"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Comments on “Jung on the Meaning of Life”

The article discusses an interesting topic from an academic perspective. It integrates Jung’s psychoanalysis with the meaning of life and presents an illuminating interpretation.

The logic of the essay is well-organized. It starts with Jung’s doubt about The Freudian concept of self as “a store of unsatisfied libido,” then moves on to the existential and archetypal levels, and finally the transcendent realm. The four approaches are interconnected with each other and each becomes more profound than the previous one. Together, they provide an in-depth understanding of the meaning of life within the psychological frame of Jung.

If the following points are further strengthened, the quality of the article will be enhanced.

First, the thesis should be clearly established at the beginning of the article. The article only analyzes the four different approaches or levels of the meaning of life in Jung, then What is the argument? That is, what is the dialogue with other intellectuals in what general background? How does the article expand the reader’s horizon in the field? The author can benefit from streamlining key points from the section of “Final Reflections.”

The second point is about the transcendent perspective. The after-death life, as presented by the author, “is largely made up of wishful thinking and prejudices” and this could hardly be regarded as “objective.” In fact, transcendence could be discussed from the perspective of transcending individual boundaries and connecting with the surroundings. For example, Sigmund Freud, from whom Jung descends and later disagrees, contends that “oceanic feeling” is the starting point for an infant to develop his sense of self. Similarly, Jacques Lacan, another Freudian psychoanalyst, has a similar argument: the infantile self resembles “l’hommelette.” Does this sense of transcendence of overcoming individual boundaries emerge in Jung? Does transcendence imply a return to the beginning (infant self), the chaos?

I hope these suggestions could be useful for your article.