

Review of: "The Active Door – Transformation Symbolism in Nietzsche and Suhrawardi"

Susan Schwartz¹

¹ International Association of Analytical Psychology

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

It is always interesting to see where the vastness of Jung's psychological explorations is taken up in comparison with other influential figures. The comparisons from the various commentators range through figures of all ages, professions, and cultures. Each of these adds another dimension to the psyche, and this demonstrates its ability to expand and develop.

This author presents an interesting comparison as I was unfamiliar with Suhrawardi. This psychological and philosophical take, as interpreted also by Henri Corbin, evolves and draws us in. What counts is the perspective, opening our world from West to Middle East, now to Middle Ages. This author brought his observation and thoughtfulness about someone I had no previous knowledge of. This is of such value as we trace psychological lineage, influence, and how the psyche changes and morphs per era and culture.

The author presented an intriguing commentary and slant on the material of these thinkers. The author is obviously knowledgeable on these intricate viewpoints and esoteric perspectives, backed up with poetic and moving renditions from their works to support his points. I know him to be a thorough researcher. Outlining his approach from the beginning, he followed through by including quite moving and apt quotes. It made me want to know more about Suhrawardi. In fact, if it were a longer paper, this would also be interesting. I wanted more on Corbin and his take on the symbolic and imaginal.

The author clearly lays out his premise and follows it up. His commentary, including Jung, Nietzsche, Corbin, and Shuvravardi, is no small feat. Each one is a wide-ranging and respected thinker, and although the author disagrees with interpretations by Jung and Corbin, the reader feels enriched by his and their ideas and perceptions. The author's take on it all creates the plurality and challenge to critically think and evaluate the material. Their viewpoints included the symbolic, the illumination from the unconscious, and how this enhanced the richness put forth in the material. We need such thoughtful reflection in our era of quickness, lacking depth and emphasizing the superficial and easy without the struggle so necessary to be illuminated with knowledge of self and world. The author and the thinkers referenced modeled a way forward into the layers and mystique of the psyche.

This article reads well, smoothly, and although the material is complex, the author elaborates in a clear and distinct manner, leaving the reader with abundant knowledge to the point of also desiring more. I appreciated being able to review this fascinating article. It opens the mind and heart and tugs at both to want to expand and learn.

Susan E. Schwartz, Jungian analyst

