

# Review of: "Jung on the Meaning of Life"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

## JUNG ON THE MEANING OF LIFE – REVIEW

This was one of the most enjoyable papers I have been asked to review! The author took a very important and complex topic and made it extremely clear, organized, and comprehensible with extensive and detailed knowledge and wonderful quotations to illustrate his points.

The beginning Abstract was a great, precise summary and invitation to a fulfilling discussion of the “meaning of life.”

The author quickly drew the extreme limits of Jung’s writings and then identified a wonderful and concise framework of approaches to begin comprehension including (1) radical doubt, (2) existential, (3) archetypal and (4) transcendental, to understand varied and often contradictory perspectives. This was expanded with even greater depth in identifying a lucid breakdown of specific existential themes of (1) individuation, (2) life in this world, (3) death, and (4) embrace of the opposites.

In an often poetic and lyrical journey, there was a weaving of clear reductionistic, categorical distinctions with contradictions along with often global paradoxical resolutions. This method captured the very essence of Jung’s “Being,” with the recognition of one of Jung’s great gifts to the world of expanding a core of human experience “*coincidentia oppositorum*” – coincidence of opposites. Jung’s life’s work itself was the exploration and personal life expression of his human experience of *coincidentia oppositorum* which was reflected precisely in this paper.

This paper was a pleasure to review!

Minor revisions:

-In the Abstract, last line should be “we are able to attach ourselves to archetypal/objective values...”

- In Life After Death section – the duplication of a quote appeared disruptive of the flow and could be integrated better – “What happens after death is so unspeakably glorious that our imagination and our feelings do not suffice to form even an approximate conception of it.” 22 It is not quite clear as to what was being elaborated in the paragraph that contains the second of the quotations.

-In Final Reflections, Walt Whitman poem is “Song of Myself”

- In the following mid-paragraph, quotations/parenthesis, should be “and the condition (and ever “being”) of all

metaphysical reality, including God...”