

PHIL 502

World Religions

Seminar 1

The Academic Study of Religion

Jung, Otto, James and Durkheim

Carl Jung (1875-1961)

- Swiss psychiatrist; early disciple of Freud.
- Disagreed with Freud's interpretation of religion.

Carl Jung (1875-1961)

- Texts
 - *Modern Man in Search of a Soul*
 - *Four archetypes: mother, rebirth, spirit, trickster*
 - *Psychology and religion*
 - *Psychological types*
 - and a gazillion other titles!

Jung

- Religion is something that grows out of the individual's need for fulfillment, i.e., personal fulfillment or "individuation"
- Healthy use of religion: to understand our place in the universe and to prepare for death

Jung

Religion is a normal human response
to “reality” and its complexity

Jung

- Religious insignia (mandala) can be seen as symbols of personal integration and human wholeness.
- The mandala symbolizes the “path to the center, to individuation.”



Jung – Key Concepts

- nature of symbolism
 - The stages of individuation evident in dreams and symbols corresponded with those of old mystery cults.
 - Baptism is a reflection of the dangerous journey of analysis itself - baptism being a symbolic drowning to inaugurate a new life

Otto

Definition of religion

Religions emerge from a mysterious encounter with the sacred.

The “sacred” is:

Otto

Definition of religion

“mysterium tremendum et fascinans”

**“a mystery that causes
trembling and fascination”**

Otto



Otto

