

80th Birthday of Professor Charles Gustave Jung

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80th BIRTHDAY OF PROFESSOR CHARLES GUSTAVE JUNG.

Our compatriot, Professor Jung has celebrated on July 25th, his 80th birthday. He is considered by many people to be the greatest psychologist.

The son of a Swiss pastor, he began working as a psychiatrist in 1900 in Zurich. Later he studied under Janet in Paris and under Bleuler.

He became interested in Freud's work and there was some fruitful understanding and collaboration between them. Later, however, Jung's thought diverged from Freud's and the differences between them led to a break in 1913.

Jung was one of the first group of workers who gathered around Freud, who disagreed with him and broke away to found an independent school of thought. Among the others who broke away were Adler and Rank.

It is generally considered that the essential basis of the difference between all these and Freud lay in their unwillingness to carry through to its limits the scientific implications of Freud's concept of sexuality. Freud found his main supporters in his second group of disciples.

Adler, who was well known in Britain, developed a psychology and psychotherapy mainly on the basis of the individual's sense of inferiority and compensating will to power. Rank, who was better known in America, had great influence in the development of psychological guidance and counselling methods.

Jung evolved a psychology and methods of psychotherapy of a frequently mystical kind, influenced by Hegel and dialectical philosophy, in contrast to Freud's rigidly scientific and more materialistic system.

Jung has always been a prolific writer, and has found numerous followers and supporters. Some of his books are very famous and have been translated into many languages. A complete edition of his works is now appearing in English.

Jung, who was founder and first president of the International Psychoanalytic Society, began researches which led him to study "primitive" peoples, in North Africa, Arizona, and Kenya, and he gained many ideas from the Far East. He visited the United States, India, and many European countries, including Britain.

He was awarded an honorary degree by Harvard in 1936, and in 1938 was the first psychologist to receive the honorary D.Sc. degree at Oxford.

There are Jungian training centres in Zurich, London, and San Francisco, and Jungian analysts practice successfully all over the world. In many places, particularly in Scotland, there are strong movements towards eclectic psychologies in which the values of Jungian and Freudian methods and ideas are combined.

This combination presents many difficulties, which would be great enough if depth psychologies depended purely on intellectual scholarship. But they also depend on the insight to be gained by experiencing the influence of the unconscious for oneself, and tend to be tied to highly specialised techniques due to particular masters and their disciples — ultimately to Jung and Freud.

Both systems are therefore considered more like faiths than sciences by the majority of experimental and social psychologists and by many psychiatrists.

In his old age Jung has not become narrow or self-centered, but has retained his humanity and kindness, and his many and varied interests. He is still, as always, a unique personality in the psychological world.

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