

Sky and Psyche – Week 4

Review of Ficino and Introduction to the Astrology and Cosmology of Carl Gustav Jung

Purpose of the Week

This week we begin with a class discussion on Marsilio Ficino based on the material from last week and the paper by Bullard (details on Moodle). Students are encouraged to prepare for the discussion in advance in order to be able to contribute.

In the second half of the seminar we introduce Jung's key ideas, including consideration of Jung's work on alchemy, which represents a strand of his thinking relevant to a conception of 'Sky and Psyche' wider than his interest in astrology.

Tasks this Week

- Do the required reading including the paper to be discussed in class
- Check some of the recommended reading
- Attend the seminar and/or listen to the recording
- Consider your choice of topic for Assignment 1

Class Description

This week we start with a discussion on Ficino and then introduce Jung's cosmology. We start the second half of the class by looking at the background from which he emerged, his relationship with Sigmund Freud and the circumstances around their split, which preceded his 'confrontation with the unconscious' that resulted in the *Red Book*, which we will discuss in Week 5.

We will look at Jung's model of the psyche, including the Collective Unconscious and Individuation, synchronicity and alchemy, in light of the theories of soul and psyche we discussed in previous weeks.

Thought for the week: How does Gnostic thought feature in Jung's cosmology?