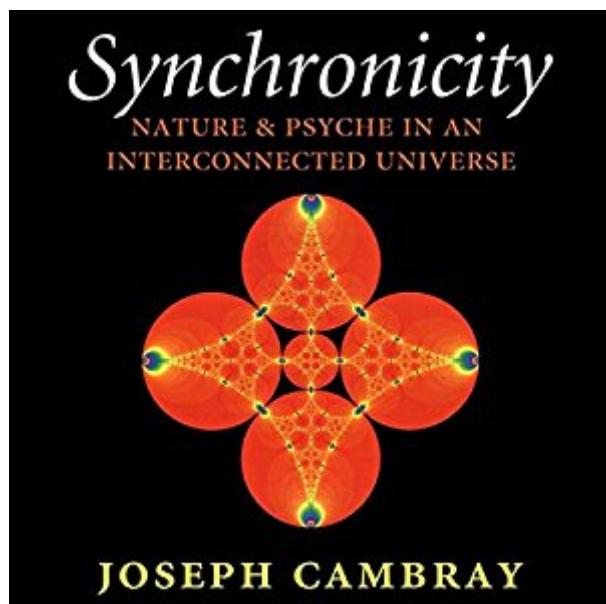


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Synchronicity: Nature And Psyche In An Interconnected Universe: Carolyn And Ernest Fay Series In Analytical Psychology



Synopsis

In 1952 C. G. Jung published a paradoxical hypothesis on synchronicity that marked an attempt to expand the western world's conception of the relationship between nature and the psyche. Jung's hypothesis sought to break down the polarizing cause-effect assessment of the world and psyche, suggesting that everything is interconnected. Thus, synchronicity is both "a meaningful event" and "an acausal connecting principle." Evaluating the world in this manner opened the door to "exploring the possibility of meaning in chance or random events, deciphering if and when meaning might be present even if outside conscious awareness." Now, after contextualizing Jung's work in relation to contemporary scientific advancements such as relativity and quantum theories, Joseph Cambray explores in this book how Jung's theories, practices, and clinical methods influenced the current field of complexity theory, which works with a paradox similar to Jung's synchronicity: the importance of symmetry as well as the need to break that symmetry for "emergence" to occur. Finally, Cambray provides his unique contribution to the field by attempting to trace "cultural synchronicities," a reconsideration of historical events in terms of their synchronistic aspects. For example, he examines the emergence of democracy in ancient Greece in order "to find a model of group decision making based on emergentist principles with a synchronistic core."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Throughout his writings, Jung was always asking, there is the three, so where is the fourth? While often referring to the Trinitarian Archetype, Jung seemed at times to eschew it for the Quaternity,

where a static state was realized in the symmetrical symbolism of the Four...as realized in the Circle/Square Mandala being a representation of the Self. Beginning with Erdinger, perhaps, the Three was first illuminated as being asymmetrical and dynamic. This author perhaps grasps the same conclusion, realizing the importance of breaking symmetry in order for emergence to occur. And emergence into the field is what the subject matter, Synchronicity, is all about. The argument goes, classical deductive Physics ala Newton, where cause and effect are the two necessary factors against the backdrop of Absolute Space and Absolute Time, was incomplete and more, too fragmentary. The sciences were resolute each in their expression, yet seldom explained or even empathized with one another. The binary aspect of Cause/Effect, Light/Dark, Space/Time carried over into Descartes' radical dualism of the soul and body. The time was right for a more unitary, inductive worldview to break the now age old deductive reasoning of the previous centuries. Thus the discovery Light was neither particle or wave, but both, there was not Time, or Space, but Spacetime. In Faraday's lab there was the electric, then the magnetic, then the electromagnetic. Once again, the new physics effected the picture one had of the human soul. Rather than there being a radical difference between Mind and Body, there was found to be a unitary bond between the two...where each were found to be operating differently metaphysically. Synchronistically, one could say.

I read the book (and purchased extra copies as gifts. Its wonderfully well written so I give it 4 stars. However Jung's The Psychology of the Unconscious Mind presents basically the same idea: i.e., that there is meaning behind every action in a person's life, that nothing a person does is without meaning, context and purpose; nothing that happens is 'chance'. The idea of synchronicity as a natural aspect of a life process was difficult to introduce in Jung's lifetime because he was a scientist, but this may be a better time to re-introduce Jung's theory that a process of individuation exists. Many non-professionals (like myself) do not know enough about the origination of depth psychology in Jung's life as a trip he took into his own mind; a journey he took while he lived and wrote his Collected Work. The whole life of his mind was different, which is evidenced in the final chapters of Memories, Dreams and Reflections; The Red Book and his Seven Sermons to the Dead. He was two minds in one body, imo. Joseph Cambray has the expertise to bind both of Jung's lives into one life. Books such as this one illuminate the individualized path but do not explain it in depth. But the book will perhaps save other persons from feeling the kind of isolation that I felt in the beginning when I began to experience the change of life, in a surprising real world situation. I felt painfully depersonalized at first. I didn't know anything about Jung or psychology. The history of

psychology is older than what Freud and Jung wrote down. What exactly is a 'synchronicity' in real life? Here's an example of a simple event; it happened to me not too long ago: I'm in a hurry to get home, because I want to watch Dr. Phil but I'm stuck in traffic. I look at my clock which says 3:14.

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