

The Wisdom of Hypatia

The Third Degree of Wisdom Ch. 9: The Microcosm and the Archetypes

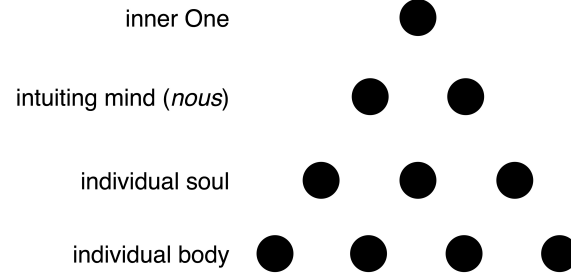
Learning Outcomes:

- You will understand the structure of the *microcosm*: the inner, psychological universe
- You will understand how gods and daimons intervene in our lives
- You will understand how monotheistic Platonists understand The One as God, and the gods and daimons as angels
- You will have clearer ideas about the Problem of Evil
- You will understand how Jungian psychology interprets the Platonic cosmos
- You will understand the relation between the archetypal gods and human evolution
- You will understand the practical importance of knowing and engaging with gods and daimons
- You will be able to recognize when gods and daimons are intervening in your life
- You will be able to recognize your Shadow
- You will understand that there is a path toward greater psychological integration and union with The One

Key Ideas:

- Each person is a microcosm, an image of the Macrocosm, with (1) an inner One, (2) a mind (*nous*), (3) a soul, and (4) a body
- Your *nous* is your intuiting mind, which grasps the Ideas in their timeless connections
- Your inner One is your *highest* or *true self*, the God image within
- The *gods*, which are Beings in the Cosmic Nous, are timeless and impassive governors of the human psyche
- Each god engenders *daimons* in the Cosmic Soul, who are mediators between the gods and us
- All things exist in *lineages* from The One, including us
- Reality is a *timeless emanation* of The One, not a creation in time
- Monotheistic Platonists identify The Inexpressible One with God
- Monotheistic Platonists understand the individual gods and daimons as angels residing in the mind of God
- The *Problem of Evil* is the difficulty of reconciling the existence of evil with a god who is omniscient, omnipotent, and good
- The One is *The Good* in the sense that it is the source and goal of all existence
- Evil is not a positive force, but merely the absence of The Good
- From the perspective of Jungian psychology, the gods are *archetypes*, the unconscious psychological structures common to all humans, resulting from our evolution; they reside in the *collective unconscious*, the Cosmic Nous
- Archetypes normally produce psychological *complexes*, which behave as autonomous subpersonalities, i.e., daimons
- For good or ill we can suffer *possession* by complexes / daimons
- Your *Shadow* is born of everything you reject or disown
- It is essential to become acquainted with your Shadow, which causes many problems if neglected, but can be a source of great power
- Evolutionary Jungian psychology suggests that the archetypes change slowly
- In Jungian psychology the *Self* is one's true self or inner spark of divinity
- *Individuation* is the lifelong process of becoming psychologically whole, consciously integrating all aspects of the unconscious

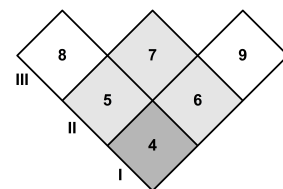
Tetractys:



Exercises:

- The Problem of Evil (p. 185)
- Archetypal Events (p. 189)
- Your Complexes (p. 193)
- Seeing Your Shadow (p. 196)

Your Notes:



© 2014, Bruce MacLennan