

SOUTHERN ARIZONA FRIENDS OF JUNG

The God Complex

A Presentation by Glen Slater, Ph.D.

Saturday, March 6, 2021 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm (via Zoom)

Members \$40; Non-Members \$50

2.5 CEUs available for \$20

Registration deadline is 6:00 pm on the day before the event

Zoom link will be emailed to registrants by 10:00 pm the day before the event

The role of religion in today's secular world is distressing to some and comforting to others. Whether one is a believer, an atheist, an agnostic or a spiritual seeker, notions of divinity are psychoactive.

In this presentation I will explore both conscious and unconscious expressions of what Jung termed the "religious instinct" and discuss contemporary responses to the God theme. I will describe how Jung's archetypal basis of mind and his understanding of the "God-image" in the psyche provides a perspective that may help us negotiate the conundrums and controversies. From the "death of God," to the dynamics of fundamentalism, to the widespread penchant to be "spiritual but not religious," we will contemplate how personal and cultural complexes derive from these themes and where the divine and the sacred can be rediscovered in our time.

The first half of this presentation will focus on the lived experience and theory relating to a Jungian understanding of this God complex. The second half will utilize film clips and personal reflection to discuss the shifting God image and benefits of Jung's symbolic-imagistic approach. Our goal will be to generate insights into how a sense of the sacred may even be essential for the spirit of the times.

Presenter Biography:

Glen Slater, PhD, is trained in both religious studies and clinical psychology. He has been member of the core faculty at Pacifica Graduate Institute for over two decades, where he is currently the co-chair of the Jungian and Archetypal Studies program. He edited and introduced the third volume of James Hillman's Uniform Edition, *Senex and Puer*, as well as a volume of essays by Pacifica faculty, *Varieties of Mythic Experience*, and has contributed to various depth psychological journals and essay collections.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Convey by means of theoretical and experiential description a basic understanding of the Jungian approach to religion, focusing on what Jung meant by the "God-image" in the psyche.
- 2) Through images and cultural portraits, apply this understanding to contemporary religious phenomena.
- 3) Set out a series of attitudinal stances and psychological insights that aid both personal and collective engagement of the human-divine relationship.