

TO: Miissing Socrates  
FROM: Hal Baillie  
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RE: Jung, Chapter 7

## The Meaning of Self-Knowledge

“[The instincts] are potentialities of the greatest dynamism, and it depends entirely on the preparedness and attitude of the conscious mind whether the irruption of these forces and the images and ideas associated with them with tend toward construction or catastrophe”(p.75).

“One knows that well enough that nothing has happened at all unless the individual changes...What does lie within our reach, however, is the change in individuals who have, or create, to influence others of like mind in their circle of acquaintance. I am thinking, rather, of the well-known fact that anyone who has insight into his own actions, and has thus found access to the unconscious, involuntarily exercises an influence on his environment....It is an unintentional influence on the unconscious of others, a sort of unconscious prestige, ...”(p.76).

[The role of an unconscious Zeitgeist might be found in] “compensates the attitude of the conscious mind and anticipates changes to come. An excellent example of this is modern art: though seeming to deal with aesthetic problems, it is really performing the a work of psychological education on the public by breaking down and destroying their previous aesthetic views of what is beautiful in form and meaningful in content...This tells us, in plain and universal language, that the prophetic spirit of art has turned away from the old object relationship and towards – for the time being – dark chaos of subjectivism” 9p.77).

“Certainly art, so far as we can judge of it, has not yet discovered in this darkness what it is that holds all men together and could give expression to this psychic wholeness. Since reflection seems to be needed for this purpose, it may be that such discoveries are reserved for other fields of endeavor. Great art till now has always derived its fruitfulness from the myth, from the unconscious process of symbolization which continues through the ages and which, as the principle manifestation of the human spirit, will continue to be the root of all creation in the future. The development of modern art with its seemingly nihilistic trend toward disintegration must be understood as the symptom and symbol of a mood of world destruction and world renewal that has set its mark on our age.” (p.77).

“We are living ...in the right time for a “metamorphosis of the gods”,i.e., of the fundamental principles and symbols. Thia peculiarity of our time, which is certainly not of our conscious choosing , is the expression of the unconscious man within us who is changing.”(p.77-78).