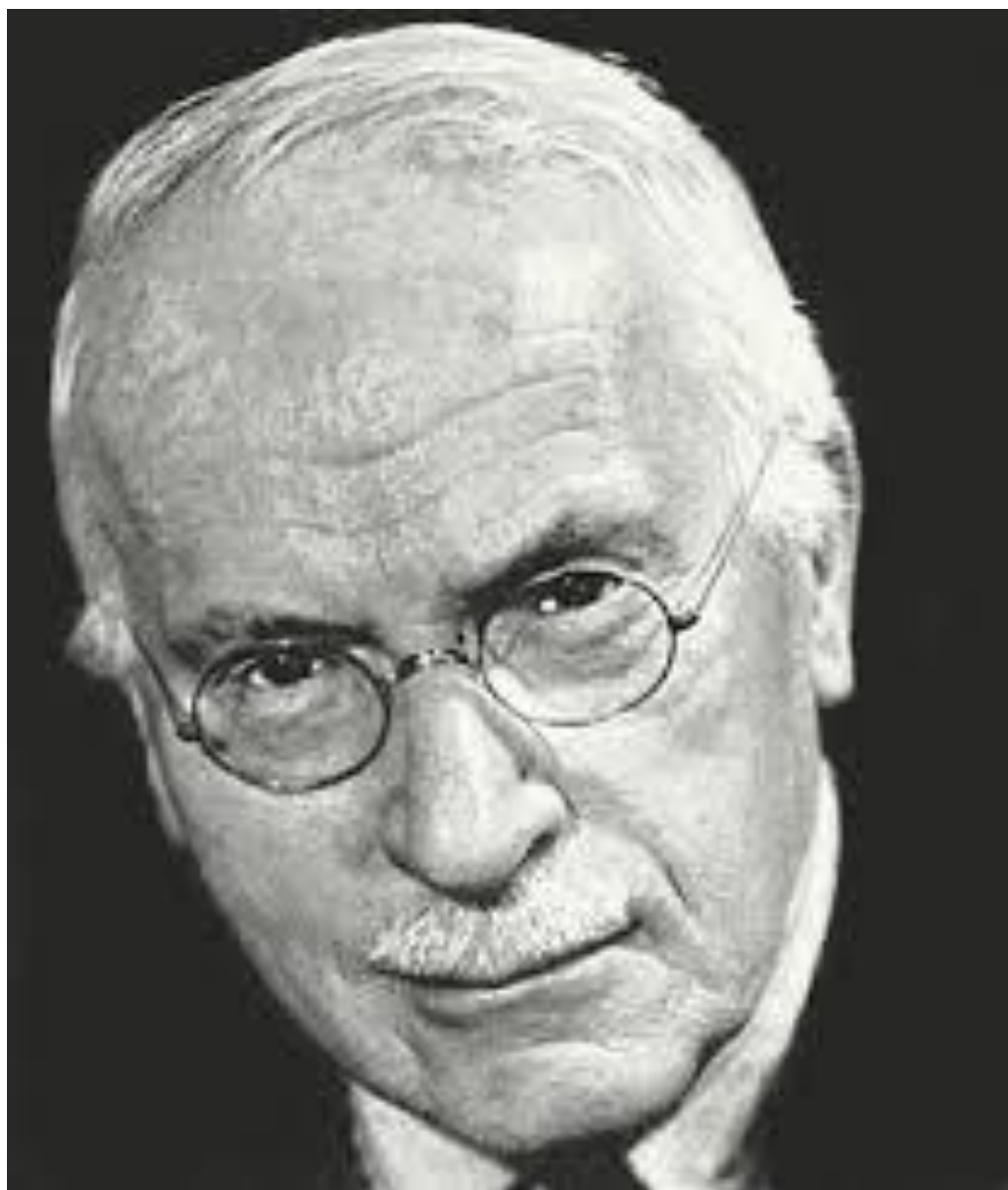


C. G. Jung and the Composition of Synchronicity



“...a certain curious principle... [which] takes the coincidence of events in space and time as meaning something more than mere chance...”

C. G. Jung, 1949

F. David Peat

SYNCHRONICITY

THE MARRIAGE OF MATTER AND PSYCHE



C G J U N G

Synchronicity
*An Acausal
Connecting Principle*

TRANSLATION BY R.F.C. HULL



For Jung synchronicity was much more than simply a synonym for meaningful coincidences.

He also conceived of it as an *acausal connecting principle* for all types of phenomena that could not be fully explained by standard notions of causality, including quantum randomness and the results of ESP experiments.

C. G. JUNG

AND

W. PAULI

THE INTERPRETATION
OF NATURE AND
THE PSYCHE

1. SYNCHRONICITY:
AN ACAUSAL CONNECTING PRINCIPLE

2. THE INFLUENCE OF ARCHETYPAL IDEAS
ON THE SCIENTIFIC THEORIES OF KEPLER

TRANSLATED BY R. F. C. HULL

“It would be most satisfactory of all if psyche and physis could be seen as complementary aspects of the same reality.”

Wolfgang Pauli, 1952



© Archiv Max-Planck-Gesellschaft

An essential element of Jung's theory of synchronicity is the distinction he made between:

- the *wider* **principle of synchronicity**, the 'acausal connecting principle' of the subtitle of his treatise,
- and the *narrower* category of **synchronistic events**, which he described as “a special instance of general acausal orderedness.”

(Jung, *Synchronicity: an acausal
connecting principle*)

Coming under the *wider* conception of synchronicity as acausal orderedness:

- properties of natural numbers
- discontinuities of quantum physics
- measurement of radioactive decay
- ESP experiments

Coming under the *narrower* conception of synchronicity as a special instance of acausal orderedness:

- synchronistic events (meaningful coincidences)

Contemporary influences on Jung in the conceptualisation of synchronicity:

- Paul Kammerer, 1880-1926
- Richard Wilhelm, 1873-1930
- J. B. Rhine, 1895-1980
- Wolfgang Pauli, 1900-1958



Paul Kammerer (1880 - 1926)

Paul Kammerer was an Austrian biologist who for 20 years kept a log book of coincidences, published in 1919 as *Das Gesetz der Serie*.

For Kammerer, each coincidence we perceive is a fleeting glimpse or tip of the iceberg of the underlying activity of *seriality*, which he held to be “ubiquitous and continuous in life, nature and cosmos. It is the umbilical cord that connects thought, feeling, science and art with the womb of the universe which gave birth to them.”

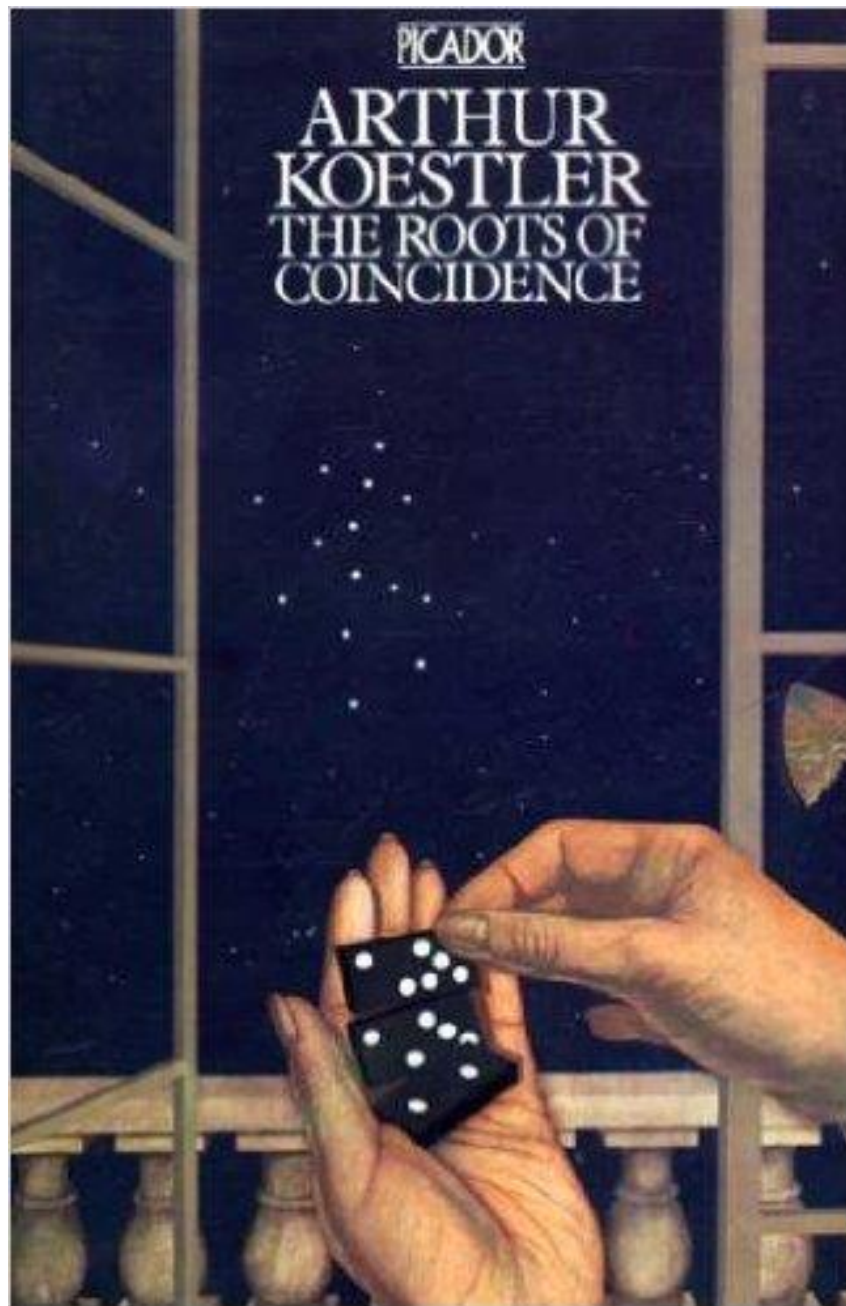
(Koestler, *The Roots of Coincidence*)

A golfer watched his perfect drive collide mid-flight with another ball – a recovery shot by another player in the opposite direction. Astounded by the coincidence, O'Brien and the other player ran to the collision point to introduce themselves. They were both called Kevin O'Brien.

(Plimmer & King, *Beyond Coincidence*)

PICADOR

ARTHUR
KOESTLER
THE ROOTS OF
COINCIDENCE









I GING
DAS BUCH DER
WANDLUNGEN
ERSTES UND ZWEITES BUCH



AUS DEM CHINESISCHEN
VERDEUTSCHT UND
ERLÄUTERT VON
RICHARD WILHELM
JENA 1924 / VERLEGT
BEI EUGEN DIEDERICH'S

“Anyone who, like myself, has had the rare good fortune to experience in a spiritual exchange with Wilhelm the divinatory power of the / *Ching*, cannot for long remain ignorant of the fact that we have touched here an Archimedean point from which our Western attitude of mind could be shaken to its foundations.”

C. G. Jung, 1930

THE I CHING

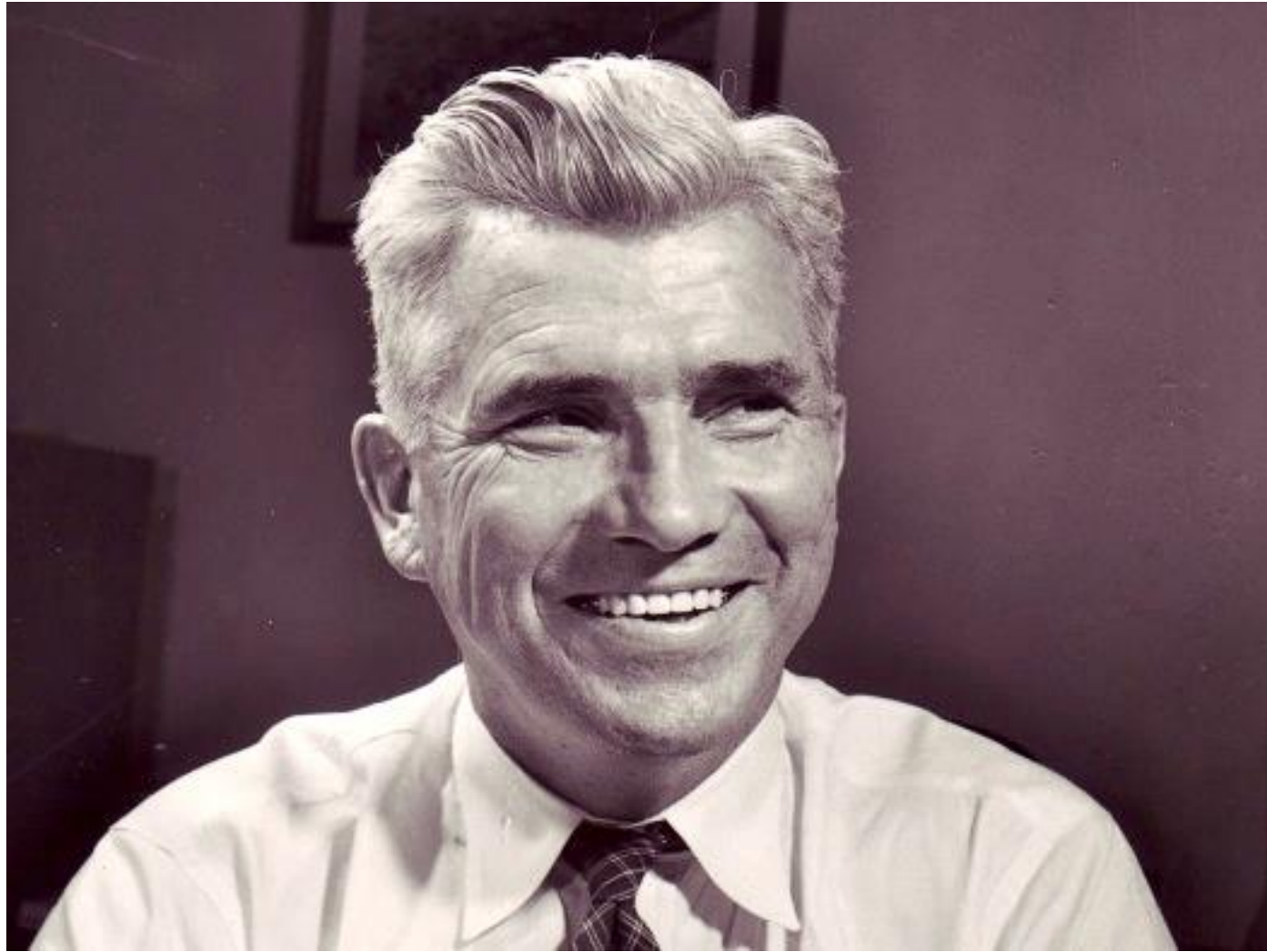
OR BOOK OF CHANGES

WILHELM/BAYNES



BOLLINGEN SERIES XIX

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS



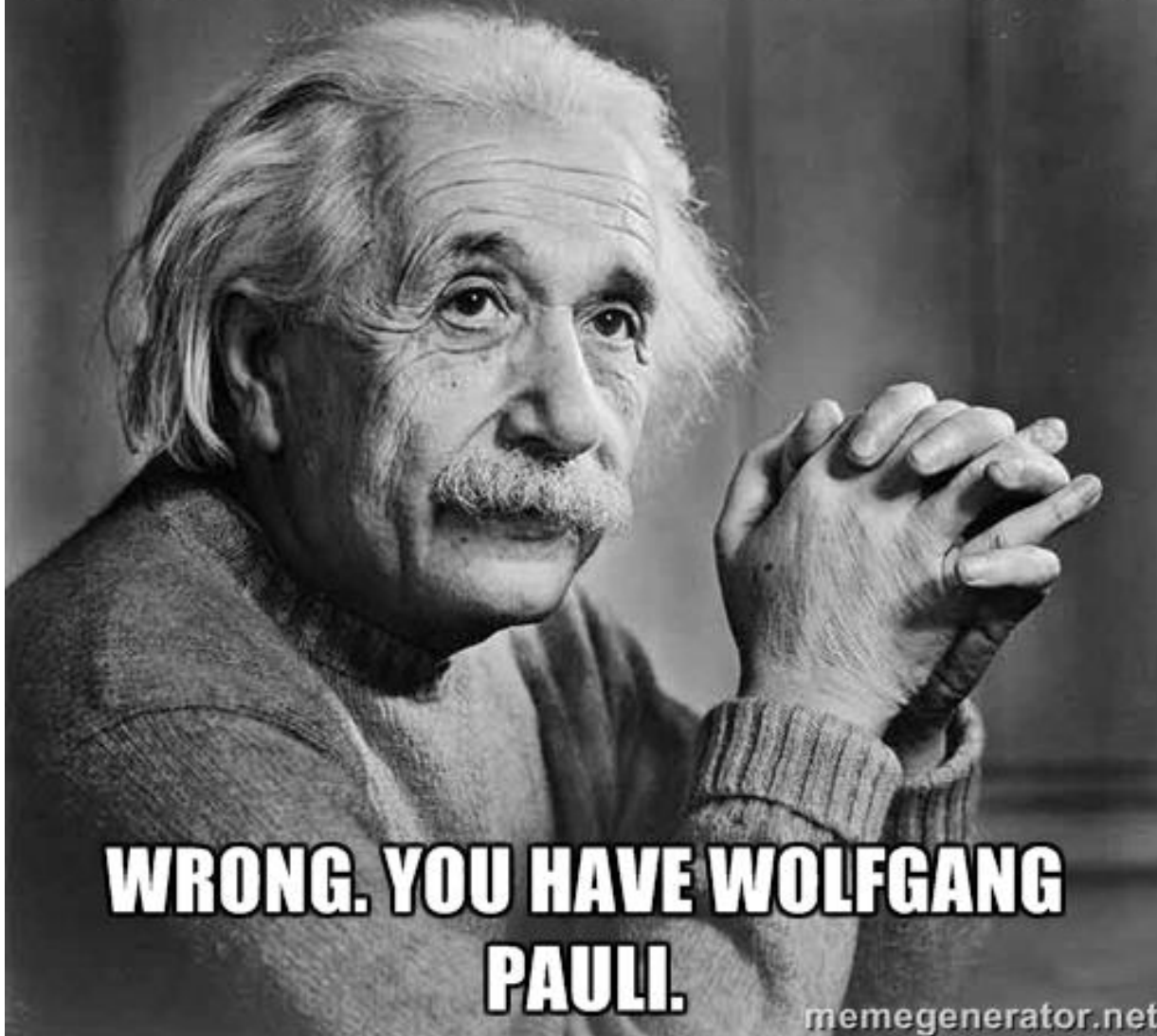
“I regretted very much not seeing you when you were in Europe. Soon after you left I recovered from my illness and I have been able to finish a paper that is largely based on your ESP experiment which, by the way, is intensely discussed over here by psychologists as well as physicists.”

Jung, 1951 (writing to Rhine)

Coincidence Categories

- Random chance explanations
- Natural causal explanations
- Supernatural causal explanations
- Synchronicity explanations

NOBODY IS SMARTER THAN EINSTEIN?



**WRONG. YOU HAVE WOLFGANG
PAULI.**

memegenerator.net



ATOM AND

*The Pauli/Jung Letters
1932–1958*



Edited by C. A. Meier
with a preface by Beverley Zabriskie

ARCHETYPE

“...although microphysics allows for an acausal form of observation, it actually has no use for the concept of ‘meaning’. So I have grave misgivings about placing physical discontinuities and synchronicity on the same level, which is what you do on p. 58. If you do not share my misgivings, I shall be most interested to hear what your arguments are.”

Pauli to Jung, Nov 1950

“Despite my express warning I see that this concept has already been confused with *synchronism*. By synchronicity I mean the occurrence of a *meaningful coincidence in time*.”

The psychic and physical aspects of a meaningful coincidence may be simultaneous, or they may be chronologically separate.

(Jung, *Synchronicity: an acausal connecting principle*)

The Dance of Chance





“Chance and synchronicity will look the same in their display of an event but they are worlds apart... Chance happens to us, synchronicity happens in us.”

David Richo, *The Power of Coincidence*

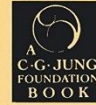
Three key elements in a synchronistic event:

- 1) an *equivalence of meaning* between an external event and deep psychological processes in the individual involved;
- 2) an accompanying feeling of *numinosity* experienced as an emotional charge;
- 3) a *flash of total insight* or, as Jung called it, 'absolute knowledge'.

“The *meaning* of a synchronistic phenomenon visibly participates in the nature of this ‘absolute knowledge’ of the unconscious, which is nevertheless only a ‘cloud of cognition’ for our conscious intelligence.

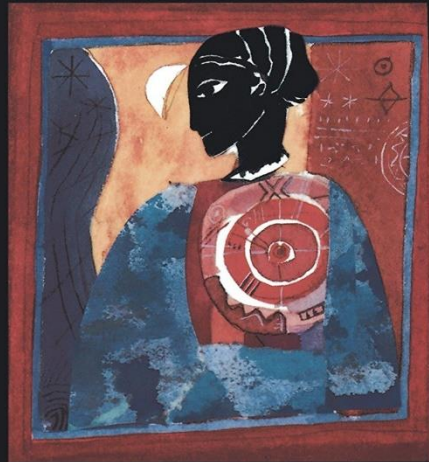
“The realisation of *meaning* is therefore not a simple acquisition of information or of knowledge, but a *living experience* that touches the heart just as much as the mind. It seems to us to be an illumination characterised by great clarity as well as something ineffable – a lightning flash... a ‘quantum leap’ in the psyche.”

M-L. von Franz, *Psyche and Matter*



MARIE·LOUISE
VON FRANZ

PSYCHE
&
MATTER

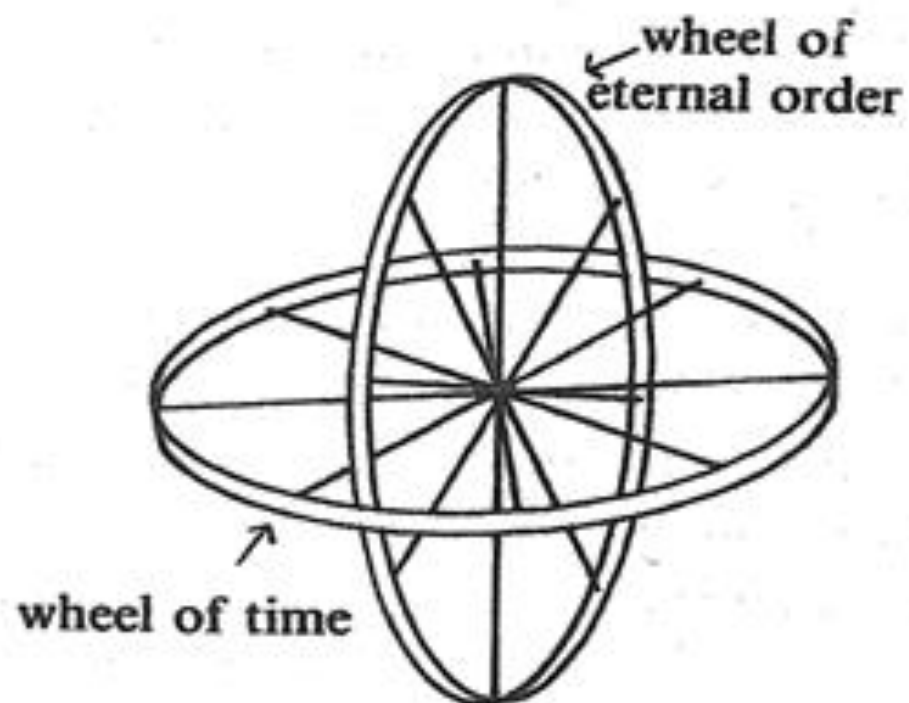


“The most essential and certainly the most impressive thing about synchronistic occurrences, the thing which really constitutes their numinosity, is the fact that in them the duality of soul and matter seems to be eliminated.

“They are therefore an *empirical* indication of an ultimate unity of all existence, which Jung, using the terminology of medieval natural philosophy, called the *unus mundus*.”

M-L. von Franz,
C. G. Jung: His Myth in Our Time





Double mandalas — two
sorts of time.

“The mysterious point of contact between the two systems appears to be the centre or a sort of pivot where psyche and matter meet.

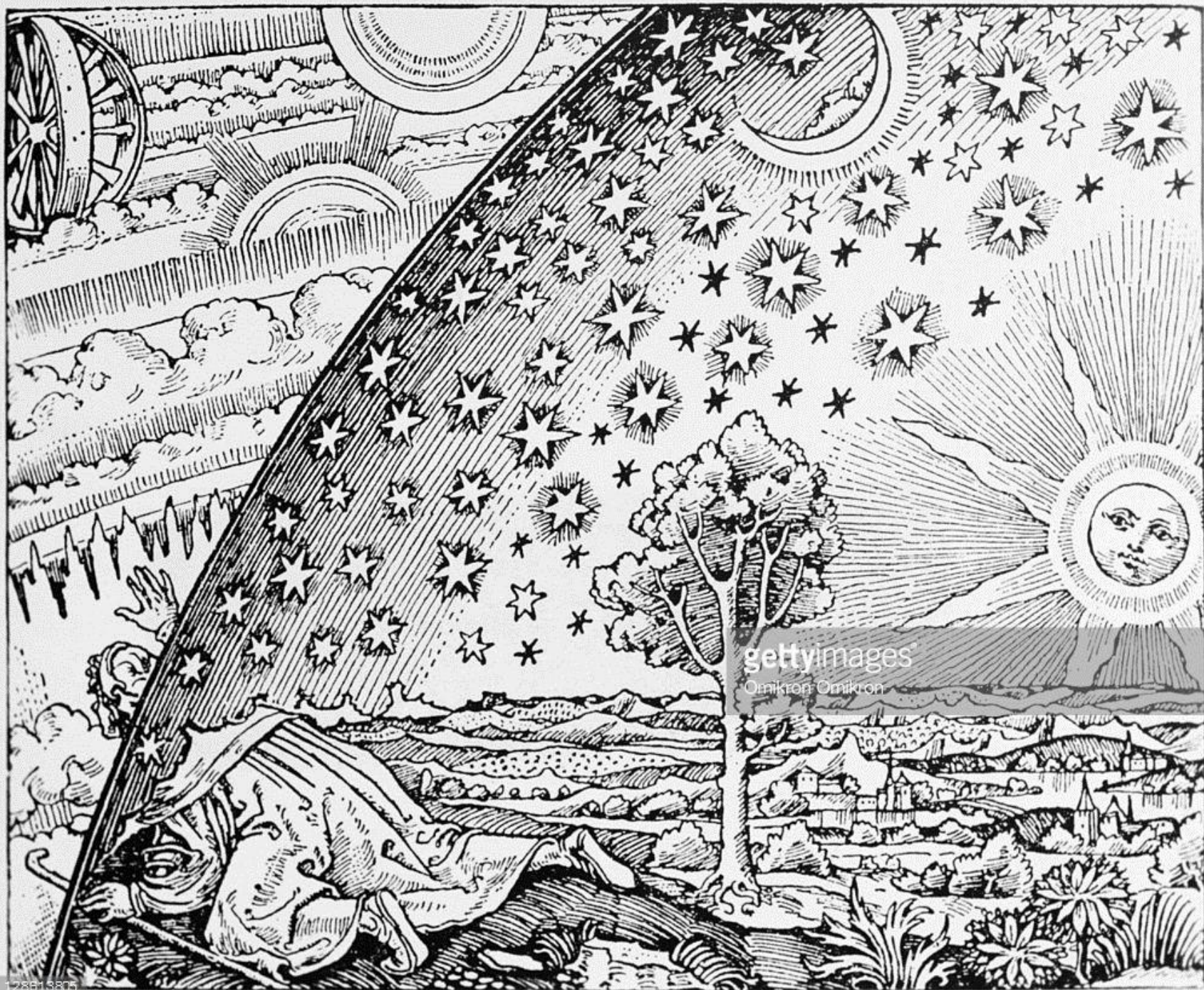
“When an individual enters into relation with the forces of the pivot, he finds himself close to the source of ‘miracles’ which seemingly could not occur without a corresponding attitude on his part.

“When such a constellation exists and eternity breaks through momentarily into our temporal system, the primal unity actively manifests itself and temporarily unites the double structures into one...


“This is how the *unus mundus* becomes revealed in the phenomenon of synchronicity.

“But immediately afterward the flow of events resumes its course on the track of the ordinary temporal pattern, and the timeless order falls back into the latent condition once more.”

M-L. von Franz, *Number and Time*

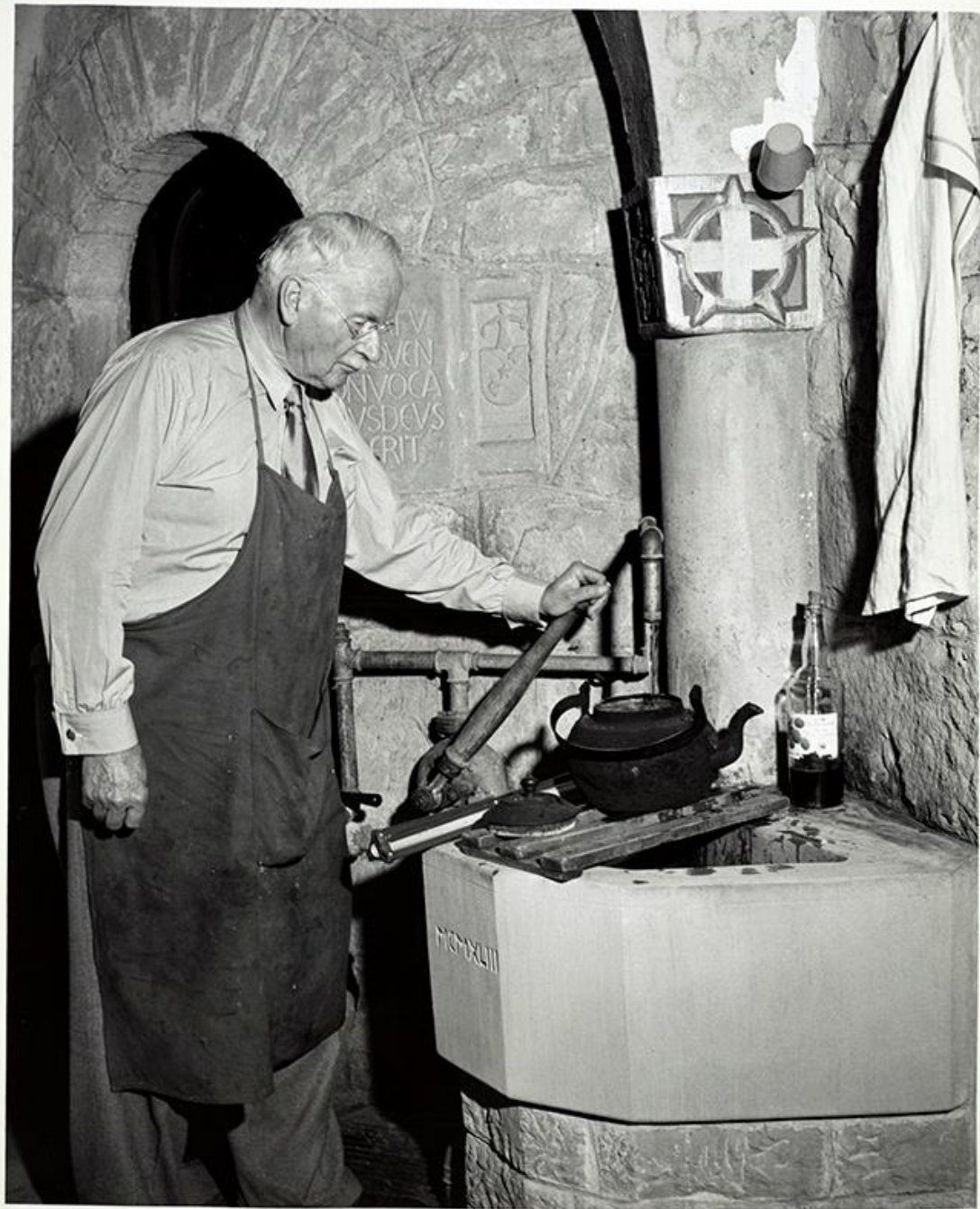


gettyimages
Omikron Omikron

A black and white photograph of C.G. Jung sitting on a stone wall. He is wearing a light-colored shirt, a dark tie, and a straw boater hat. He is looking down at his hands, which are resting on his lap. The background shows a stone building with a small arched window and some foliage.

The difference between
most people and myself
is that for me the "dividing
walls" are transparent..

C.G. Jung



A black and white portrait of Marie-Louise von Franz, an elderly woman with short, curly hair and glasses, looking slightly to the left. The portrait is partially obscured by a dark grey diagonal overlay that contains the text.

MARIE- LOUISE VON FRANZ

“It’s easy to be a naive idealist. It’s easy to be a cynical realist. It’s quite another thing to have no illusions and still hold the inner flame.”

www.ClassicalGuitarShed.com

