



Suicide and the Soul

James Hillman, Thomas Szasz (Foreword by)

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With this book Hillman initiated the soul movement in psychotherapy forty years ago.

Suicide and the Soul Details

Date : Published April 2nd 1998 by Spring Publications (first published 1964)

ISBN : 9780882142272

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Format : Paperback 208 pages

Genre : Psychology, Philosophy

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Sara-Maria Sorentino says

magnificent. my highest recommendation.

Mark Bennett says

Phenomenal. Hillman's so on to it, so clear headed and lucid. It's in the same class as two of his best, We've Had a Hundred Years of Psychotherapy & the World's Getting Worse and Healing Fiction. Stirring, compelling and revealing.

That the thought of suicide comes when there's need for transformation and change so humanizes and paints a different portrait of the individual who's suffering and looking for solutions. The kind of psychotherapy Hillman practices must be emulated and a template for the profession.

Anders says

I read this book years ago and was not too impressed. sadly, I no longer really remember details.

Shelley says

Part One of this book is excellent. Part Two is just repetitive filler.

Part One should be required reading for students of psychology, medicine, and the law.

However, I disagree with one of Hillman's assertions: that an analyst can be the only one who truly understands the reasons for a suicide. He believes that the suicidal person is not objective enough to be fully conscious of all the motivations and factors involved.

The suicidal person may not be objective enough, true, but an objective person cannot be aware of and cannot grasp certain unspoken nuances that will never be known by someone else. That is, there will always be mysteries that the suicidal person understands about themselves but others will never comprehend, and there will always be mysteries that the suicidal person does not understand about themselves and others do not comprehend either.

Barbaraw says

Cito soltanto:

"(Jung) ha scoperto che la morte ha molte sembianze e che nella psiche non si presenta in quanto tale, come

estinzione, negazione, fine di tutto. Nei sogni e nelle fantasie, le immagini e le idee della morte hanno tutt'altri significati. L'anima attraversa molte esperienze di morte, eppure la vita fisica continua; e quando la vita fisica si avvicina al suo termine, spesso l'anima produce immagini ed esperienze che indicano continuità. Si direbbe che il processo di costruzione della coscienza sia senza fine. Per la psiche, né l'immortalità è un dato di fatto né la morte è una fine. "

Il testo di Hillman rovescia i punti vista. Vale la pena leggerlo.

Jon says

Whilst the target audience for this seems to be aspiring analysts, Hillman placed enough in this work for the layman to find both insightful and intriguing.

I did initially balk at his use of absolutes within a purely theoretical realm but these slowly started to make sense within the confines of his argument and I was utterly absorbed and inspired by the final ten 'secretive' pages.

Erik Graff says

Impressed by his Suicide and the Soul, I went to hear Hillman speak at The International House in the Morningside Heights neighborhood in Manhattan. As a speaker, he wasn't memorable, but his refusal to see the suicide option as necessarily pathological or morally wrong was refreshing. As Nietzsche put it: "The thought of suicide has seen me through many a hard night."--or something like that.

Nick K says

I appreciated his point of view on an extremely sensitive subject. I thought he made valid strong points about how society turns depression into a sort of villain and how structures of society (medical, law, etc) work against any sort of discussion about suicide and how it is a widespread common feeling at some points of our life. I think his language appeals more towards individuals with an understanding of academic psychology study, which closes out a population of people who could benefit from the views of the book. I also worry that some people might take the book the wrong way and see it as validating the action of suicide, when what he is trying to do is promote a healthy discussion and view of it. Which will help us to better understand it and erase any negative stigma placed upon individuals who feel like it's their only way out. Ultimately leading to better treatment of suicidal feelings and lessening isolation.

Homayoun Saeid says

It's been quite some time since Dr. Hillman's notion of depathologizing the suicide instinct went into print, yet, there are few, if any clinical settings into which his ideas have managed to change the standard of practice.

Suzanne Rodriguez says

" Who are any of us to determine whether a person's pain is or is not too much for the individual to handle. if its too much then its the courageous thing to exterminate yourself. Why live when your dying on the inside. But I haven't finished the book yet, but my opinion remains the same.
