

EDITORIAL NOTE

C. G. Jung first published this work in book form as *Die Psychologie der Uebertragung* (Zurich: Rascher, 1946), and the present translation first appeared in Volume 16 of the *Collected Works* in 1954, together with eleven shorter papers on general and specific problems of psychotherapy. For the second edition, in 1966, the translation was extensively reworked and the footnotes and bibliography were corrected and brought up to date, taking into account the subsequent publication of nearly all of Jung's writings in the English edition.

In 1958 Volume 16, with the title *Praxis der Psychotherapie*, was the first volume to appear in the Swiss collected edition. In a foreword that Jung specially wrote for that volume he described *The Psychology of the Transference* as "an historical study of a phenomenon that may be regarded as the crux, or at any rate the crucial experience, in any thorough-going analysis—the problem of the transference, whose central importance was recognized long ago by Freud. This question is of such scope, and so difficult to elucidate in all its aspects, that a deeper investigation of its historical antecedents could not be avoided.

"Naturally, if an historical study like this is seen in isolation from my later writings, the unprepared reader will have some difficulty in recognizing its connection with his conception of what psychotherapy should be. Psychotherapeutic practice and the historical approach will seem to him to be two incommensurable things. In psychological reality, however, this is not the case at all, for we are constantly coming upon phenomena that reveal their historical character as soon as their causality is examined a little more closely. Psychic modes of behaviour are, indeed, of an eminently historical nature. The psychotherapist has to acquaint himself not only with the personal biography of his patient, but also with the mental and spiritual assumptions prevalent in his milieu, both present and past, where traditional and cultural influences play a part and often a decisive one.

“For example, no psychotherapist who seriously endeavours to understand the whole man is spared the task of learning the language of dreams and their symbolism. As with every language, historical knowledge is needed in order to understand it properly. This is particularly so since it is not an everyday language, but a symbolic language that makes frequent use of age-old forms of expression. A knowledge of these enables the analyst to extricate his patient from the oppressive constriction of a purely personalistic understanding of himself, and to release him from the egocentric prison that cuts him off from the wide horizon of his further social, moral, and spiritual development.”

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The paragraph numbers of the collected edition have been retained to facilitate reference, and some essential corrections have been made. The bibliography of Volume 16 is reproduced in full, inasmuch as only a few of its entries do not apply to *The Psychology of the Transference*, and a new index has been prepared.