

Are Epicurean Gods Compatible with Carl Jung's Collective Unconscious and Archetypes?

Post by “Kalosyni” of September 4, 2024 at 1:54 PM

According to the extant texts, Epicurus believed that gods existed and that they are blessed and incorruptable, do not interfere with humans, and did not create the universe. And we are given Epicurus' theoretical understanding of why: "images" of gods are received by humans.

Lately I just can't shake the correlation that I see with this idea of Epicurus and Carl Jung's idea of the collective unconscious and archetypes. (This must have already come up before on the forum).

Here is the opening of the Wikipedia:

Quote

Collective unconscious (*German: kollektives Unbewusstes*) refers to the [unconscious mind](#) and shared mental concepts. It is generally associated with [idealism](#) and was coined by [Carl Jung](#). According to Jung, the human collective unconscious is populated by [instincts](#), as well as by [archetypes](#): ancient primal symbols such as [The Great Mother](#), the [Wise Old Man](#), the [Shadow](#), the Tower, Water, and the [Tree of Life](#).^[1] Jung considered the collective unconscious to underpin and surround the unconscious mind, distinguishing it from the [personal unconscious](#) of [Freudian psychoanalysis](#). He believed that the concept of the collective unconscious helps to explain why similar themes occur in mythologies around the world. He argued that the collective unconscious had a profound influence on the lives of individuals, who lived out its symbols and clothed them in meaning through their experiences. The psychotherapeutic practice of [analytical psychology](#) revolves around examining the patient's relationship to the collective unconscious.

Source: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective_unconscious

Quote

Jungian archetypes are a concept from psychology that refers to a universal, inherited idea, pattern of thought, or image that is present in the [collective unconscious](#) of all human beings. The psychic counterpart of [instinct](#), archetypes are thought to be the basis of many of the common themes and symbols that appear in stories, myths, and dreams across different cultures and societies. Some examples of

archetypes include those of the [mother](#), the child, the [trickster](#), and [the flood](#), among others. The concept of the collective unconscious was first proposed by [Carl Jung](#), a Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst.

According to Jung, archetypes are innate patterns of thought and behavior that strive for realization within an individual's environment. This process of actualization influences the degree of [individuation](#), or the development of the individual's unique [identity](#). For instance, the presence of a maternal figure who closely matches the child's idealized concept of a mother can evoke innate expectations and activate the mother archetype in the child's mind. This archetype is incorporated into the child's personal unconscious as a "mother complex," which is a functional unit of the personal unconscious that is analogous to an archetype in the collective unconscious.

Source: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jungian_archetypes

If I understand it correctly the archetypes are the conscious expression of aspects of the collective unconscious.

I may add more to this thread eventually, and I hope that anyone else with thoughts and ideas on this will post as well.