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The Seven Sermons to the Dead

Carl Jung (1875 – 1961) Translated by H. G. Baynes

Read by: Douglas Harvey Language: English
 Length: 40 minutes Style: Solo
 Genre(s): Non-Fiction, Philosophy, Religion and Spirituality

Product Formats and Options				
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In late 1913, Carl Jung set out on an exploration of his psyche, a quest he called his “confrontation with the unconscious”. In doing so, he would enter an imaginative state of consciousness and experience visions, a process that continued with varying intensity for the next ten years. He recorded his visions in six black-covered journals that he referred to as the “Black Books”, which provided a chronological record of his visions and dialogues with his soul. Along the way he used this material to begin drafting the manuscript of his legendary Red Book, a red leather-bound illustrated volume that was the formal document of this journey and which he kept private during his lifetime. He maintained that the visions recorded in the Red Book represented the nucleus of all his later work. The “Seven Sermons to the Dead”, or *Septem Sermones ad Mortuos*, is the only portion of the Red Book manuscript

that Jung shared during his lifetime. He had the *Septem Sermones* privately printed as a small book in 1916 and occasionally gave copies to friends and students; it was never published and was only available as a gift from Jung himself. Jung’s heirs denied access to the Red Book after his death in 1961 until 2009, when it was finally published, and it was discovered that the *Septem Sermones* was the closing section of the book. This context, combined with the tone and content, led one Jungian scholar to consider them as the “summary revelation of the Redbook”. The *Septem Sermones ad Mortuos* was included as an appendix to Jung’s autobiographical memoir *Memories, Dreams, Reflections* when it was published in 1962.

Carl Gustav Jung (July 26, 1875 – June 6, 1961) was a Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who founded the discipline of analytical psychology. He was born in the Swiss canton of Thurgau and moved at age 4 with his family to Basel, where he attended the Humanistisches Gymnasium and the University of Basel, studying medicine and psychiatry. After graduating Jung worked as a research scientist at the Burghölzli Psychiatric Hospital and came to the attention of Sigmund Freud. The two men corresponded and collaborated for a time on a joint vision of human psychology. Freud saw in Jung the heir who could carry his new science of psychoanalysis and arranged his appointment as President of his International Psychoanalytical Association. Before long Jung’s research and vision forced him to break with his older colleague, a separation that was painful for Jung but resulted in the establishment of analytical psychology as a coherent discipline separate from psychoanalysis. Jung’s core concept was that of individuation, a lifelong process of differentiation of the self that arises from each individual’s conscious and unconscious being, a process he considered to be the main task of human life. Additional original ideas include synchronicity, the phenomena of archetypes, the collective unconscious, the psychological complex and the notions of extroversion and introversion. In addition to psychiatry and psychology, his work has influenced the fields of anthropology, archaeology, literature, philosophy, and religious studies. He was a prolific writer, and many of his works remained unpublished at the time of his death and some still await publication.