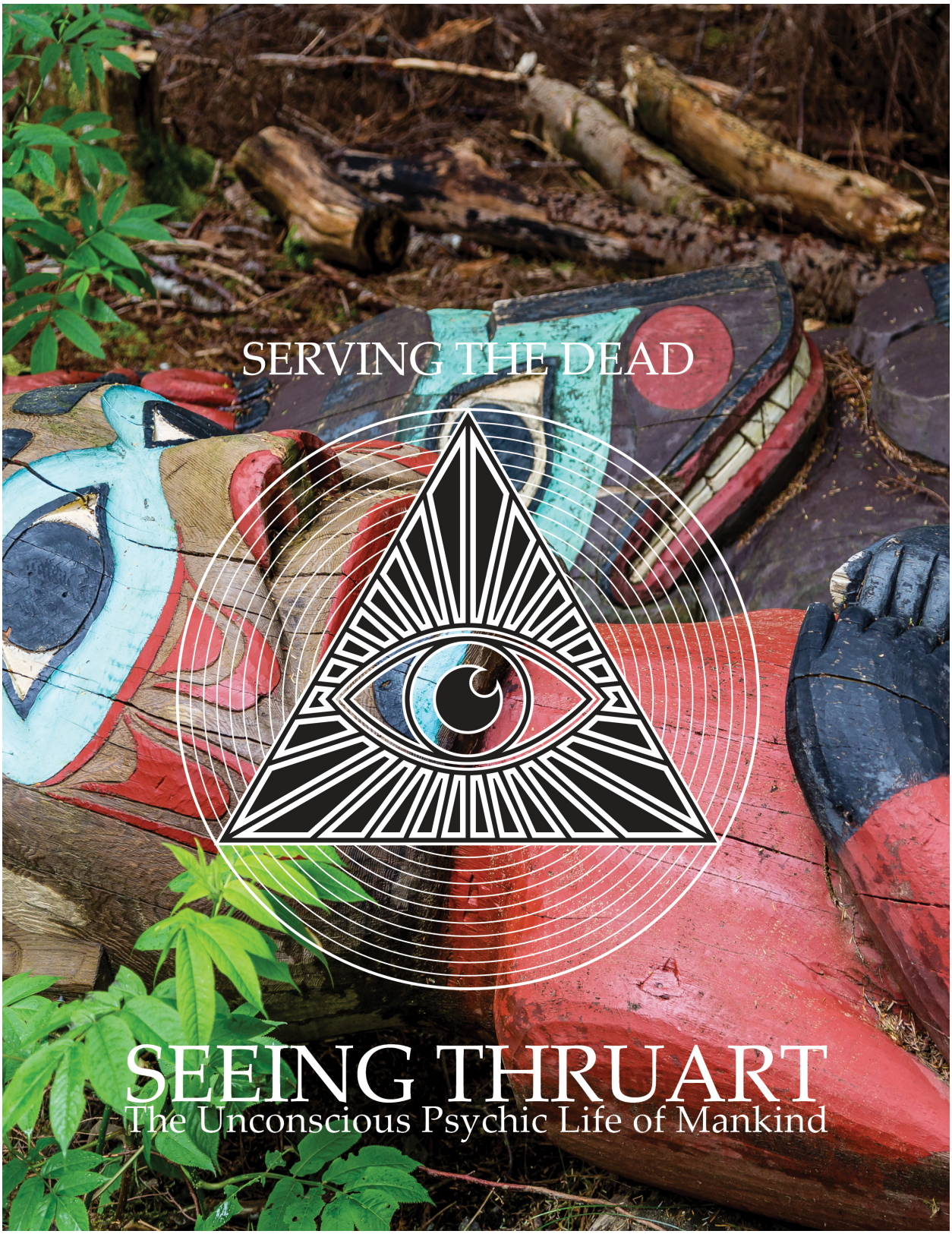
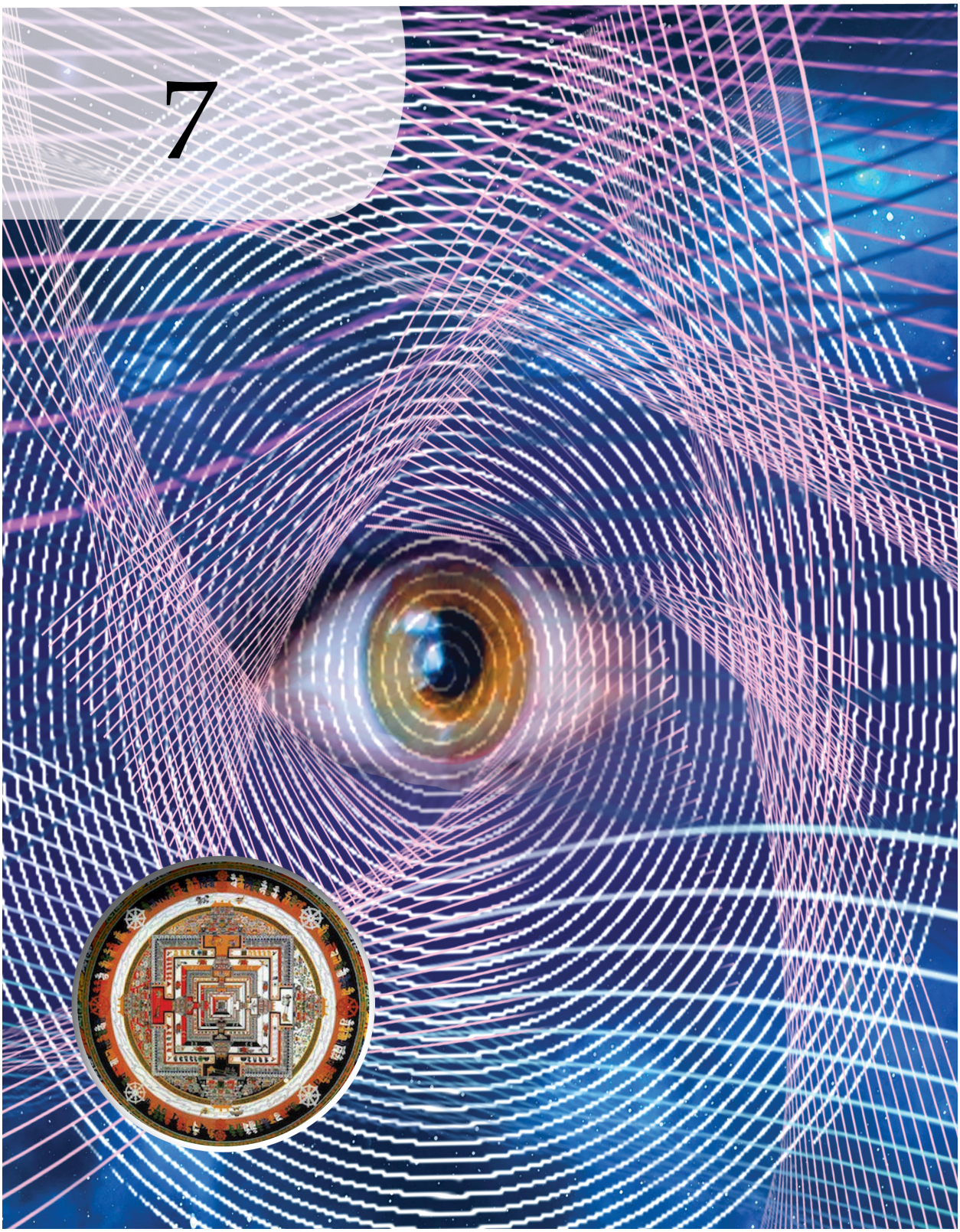

SERVING THE DEAD
SEEING THRUART
The Unconscious Psychic Life of Mankind

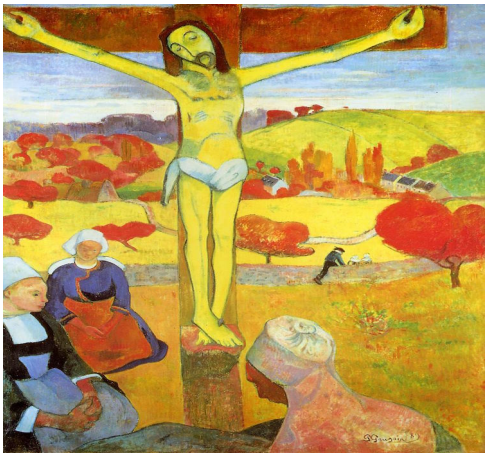
7



Your Own Way Pathway Your Own Way

This is not child's play, though you may be called (like Jung to play like a child) and it is not the copying the masters—even Jung as a master.

It is the work of the avant-garde: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hqzexxZqRc



Who Jung said lead humanity through the ages molding the psychic life of mankind. It is also sometimes hard, starting with a blank slate—not a table rasa but a blank paper. This first step of putting ink or paint (or pencil, depending on your process), is critical. Sometimes it is said that this first step is half the journey.

It is the manifestation of soul in matter that is the heart of art's power. Given the alchemical orientation of the soul (embodied in *TRB*), Jung's painted opus will be viewed as an alchemical treatise in this art process, like depth psychological scholars from Marie-Louise von Franz (1997) to Jefferey Raff (2000). Filled with painted alchemical imagery, *TRB* illuminations are symbolic paintings that teach through visual reflection upon art, like the alchemists' illuminations of old. Seen as a parallel tradition to the illuminated manuscript, the art of the alchemists was often primarily visual in which the text was a secondary elaboration.

Art and Nature.

In Memories, Dreams, Reflections (1961) Jung's soul insisted *TRB* was "art," while Jung (1961) called it "nature" (p. 185). In this statement Jung not only echoed the alchemical polarity of art and nature, summarized by Jung's echo of the alchemical maxim: "What nature leaves imperfect, the artist perfects" but the artist Pablo Picasso who also called art nature and research. Through art Jung said that you could reach nature from within, walking an animal path as the initiates of old.

This marked a return to nature lived in and embodied in the past in participation mystique and an earlier right hemispheric orientation. The dominance of the left hemisphere over the right is an essential underlying theme that Jung narrated and modern brain scientists and depth best-selling author Leonard Shlain detailed. This left hemispheric orientation reflects a privileging of the masculine mind with unintended consequences. Again, or example, VS Romashandryn found that the left hemisphere was associated with conformity and denial—and you may feel the sense

of being different as your shift your center. Of not fitting in (at least internally) of not being able to deny your soul as a living self-existing being in the same sense as before. This is not always easy. In fact, in my experience, the soul asks us to drink the bitter dregs of the cup as Jung in *TRB*. Like facing climate change, the soul can be terrifying.

"There is no coming to consciousness without pain. People will do anything, no matter how absurd, in order to avoid facing their own Soul."

It may be that a return to a more imaginal and creative, nonverbal (other than metaphor) orientation is essential for the anima as the archetype of life itself as well as human life, but that doesn't mean it will be conducive to living as normal. Like Jung's image of the ship passing over sea creatures in the dark, there are things moving in the deep—but you have the night sky and constellation of your new mythology to guide you.

Remember to drop down into your heart as the teacher, since this is a knowledge of the heart and look within, since this is not a teaching found in a book or through a teacher. It is, as the spirit of the depths said, a knowledge that is everywhere that scholarliness is not. Seek elsewhere.

This is a journey through the heart that connects above and below, seen in the 3 chakras in the centers of the body below and above the heart or Anahata chakra in Hindu Yogic, Shakta and Buddhist Tantric traditions. Jung practice yoga during the creation of TRB to regulate his energy and I suggest this as well. There have been a number of good books recently, including Jung on Yoga by Dario Nardi (2017) that includes activities.

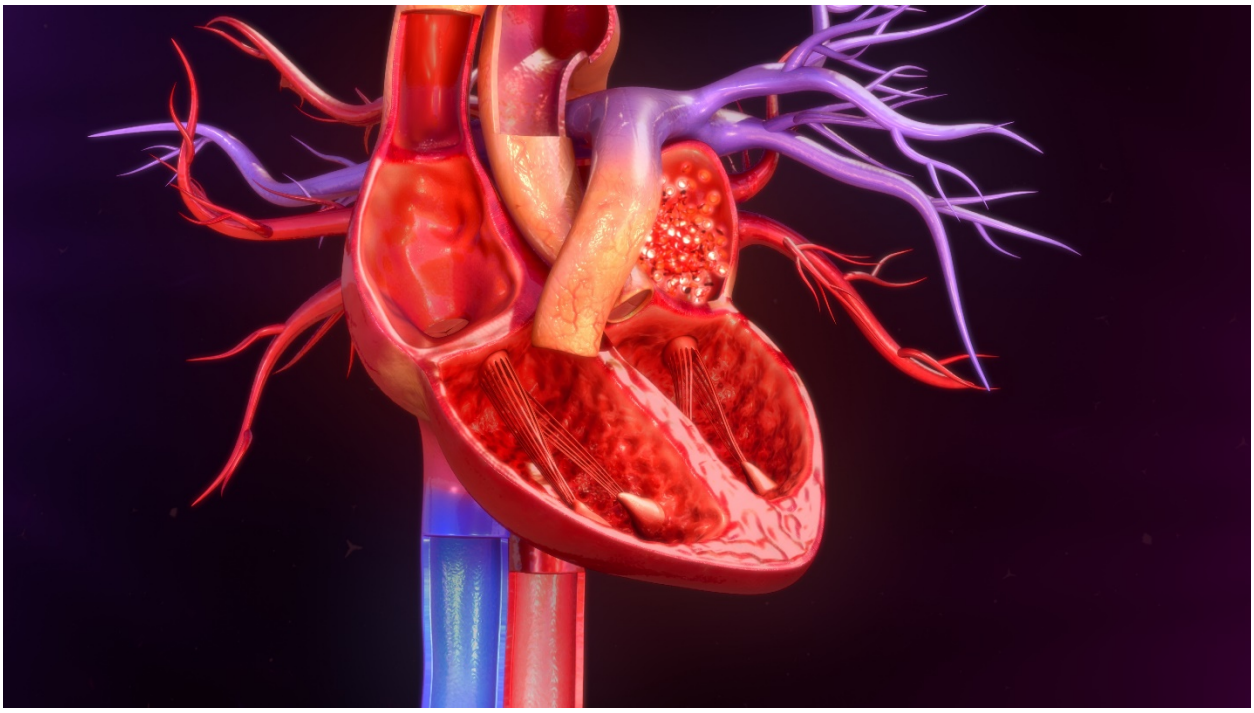
Also: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TT2wBeQDCxI

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERP6iYvUExQ

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMr3X_60h_Q

For more information on Jung and the chakras: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chakra http://yogatheoryculturepractice.blogspot.com/2013/04/jungs-interpretation-of-chakra-system.html https://mandalachakra.com/tag/jungian-consciousness-in-the-chakras/ http://jungiancenter.org/wp/jung-on-the-chakras/

Nothing beats an embodied practice, so do remember to not only research theory (the what and how to) but engage in practice by applying your understanding. To really get into and learn from your body and the chakras as knowing organs of perception you have to actually do it. It will help release tension and could be an essential part of your self-care through this journey.



The continued need of the soul to be seen as real can be viewed in the repression of the soul's art by the Church, as Jung referred to the Christian Church, for example in the Cornwall Seminar. This was a way of knowing through art that was maternally creative as Jung referred to it at times that was repressed in images of nature, animals, creative fantasy, and what Jung called "primitive man" or archaic humanity. Just as there was a Christian Reformation, the soul needs to be reformed in new images that reclaim these lost aspects. This new **"movement,"** as Jung (1923, p. 23) called it, is a form of soul-making in creating a new iconography of a new age.

From a global perspective

That connects spirit and matter in a reanimation of the *prima materia*.