

On the Search for Traces of your Very Own Life

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International Society for Depth Psychology

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Definition

A replacement child:

- **was born after the death of a sibling, or**
- **takes on the role of a sibling or other family member at some point later in life**

A red speech bubble graphic with a white border, containing the text "Specialist literature (selection)".

Specialist literature
(selection)

Cain & Cain (1964)

Poznanski (1972)

Etchegoyen (1987)

Sabbadini (1988)

Wardi (1992)

Kogan (1995)

Porot (1993/96)

Hirsch (1998/2002)

Green (2011, 2002)

Schellinski (2019)

Adams (2023)

The Archetypes of Death & Life



Berthold Furtmeyr, 15th century Missal, Bavarian State Library



Evie Maslin (10), Mo Maslin (12) and Otis Maslin (8), died on July 17, 2014



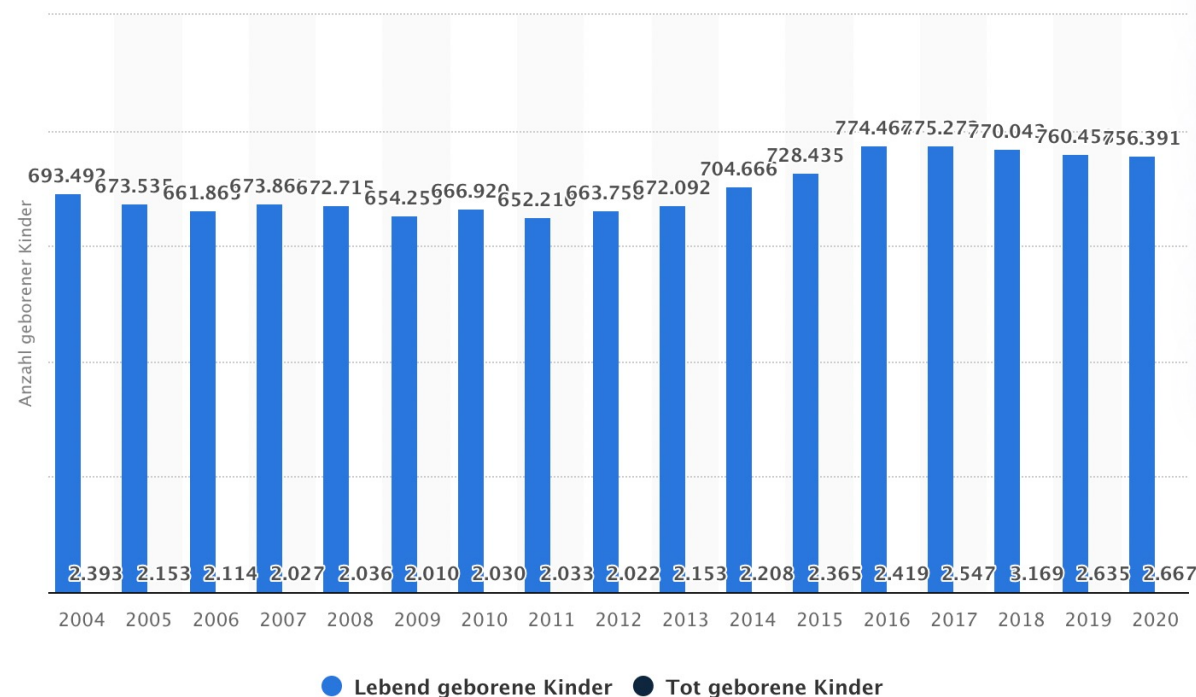
Violet May Maslin, born in May 2016

Stillbirths in Hospitals

500,000



Million(en)



[Details zur Statistik](#)

© Statista 2022

[Quellen anzeigen](#)



Annie Ernaux

Das andere
Mädchen

Bibliothek Suhrkamp

Famous Replacement Children

- **J.W. v. Goethe**
- **Vincent v. Gogh**
- **Salvador Dali**
- Pablo Picasso
- Henri Matisse
- Edvard Munch
- Gustav Klimt
- Egon Schiele
- James Joyce
- Hermann Hesse
- Rainer Maria Rilke
- Franz Kafka
- Søren Kierkegaard
- Henrik Johan Ibsen
- Eugene O'Neill

- Heinrich Schliemann
- Lady Diana
- Maria Callas
- Elvis Presley
- Bruce Springsteen
- Hanns-Josef Ortheil
- President E. Macron

Unter den Psy:

- **Carl Gustav Jung**
- **Sigmund Freud**
- Donald Winnicott
- André Green
- Françoise Dolto
- Sabina Spielrein
- Harry Guntrip

*Diagnosis:
replacement
child*





A replacement
child suffers from

- Identity & self-esteem disorder
- relationship difficulties
- mourning and
- guilt

A red speech bubble graphic with a white outline, pointing downwards. The word "Symptoms" is written in white text inside the bubble.

Symptoms

- anxiety disorder
- PTSD
- depression
- personality disorder
- psychosis

A red speech bubble graphic with a white outline, containing the word "Symbols" in white text. The bubble has a small tail pointing towards the bottom left.

Symbols

- Grief and loss
- Death & life
- Emptiness and loneliness
- Existential questions

Identity

Salvador Dali
Macbeth
(1946)



Identity

- "These children's identity problems are such that they almost cannot breathe as individuals with their own characteristics and identity." (Cain & Cain 1964, On Replacing a Child, p. 451)
- a pseudo-identity (Cain & Cain, Porot, Sabbadini)
- the "false self" (Winnicott)
- the «as-if» personality with "its emptiness at the center of the personality" (Solomon, 2007)
- "deposited object representation, a representation of the self voluntarily adopted or pressed into it... to keep alive the representation of the dead child" (Volkan & Ast, Siblings in the Unconscious, 1997)

Salvador Dali Portrait of my dead brother (1963)

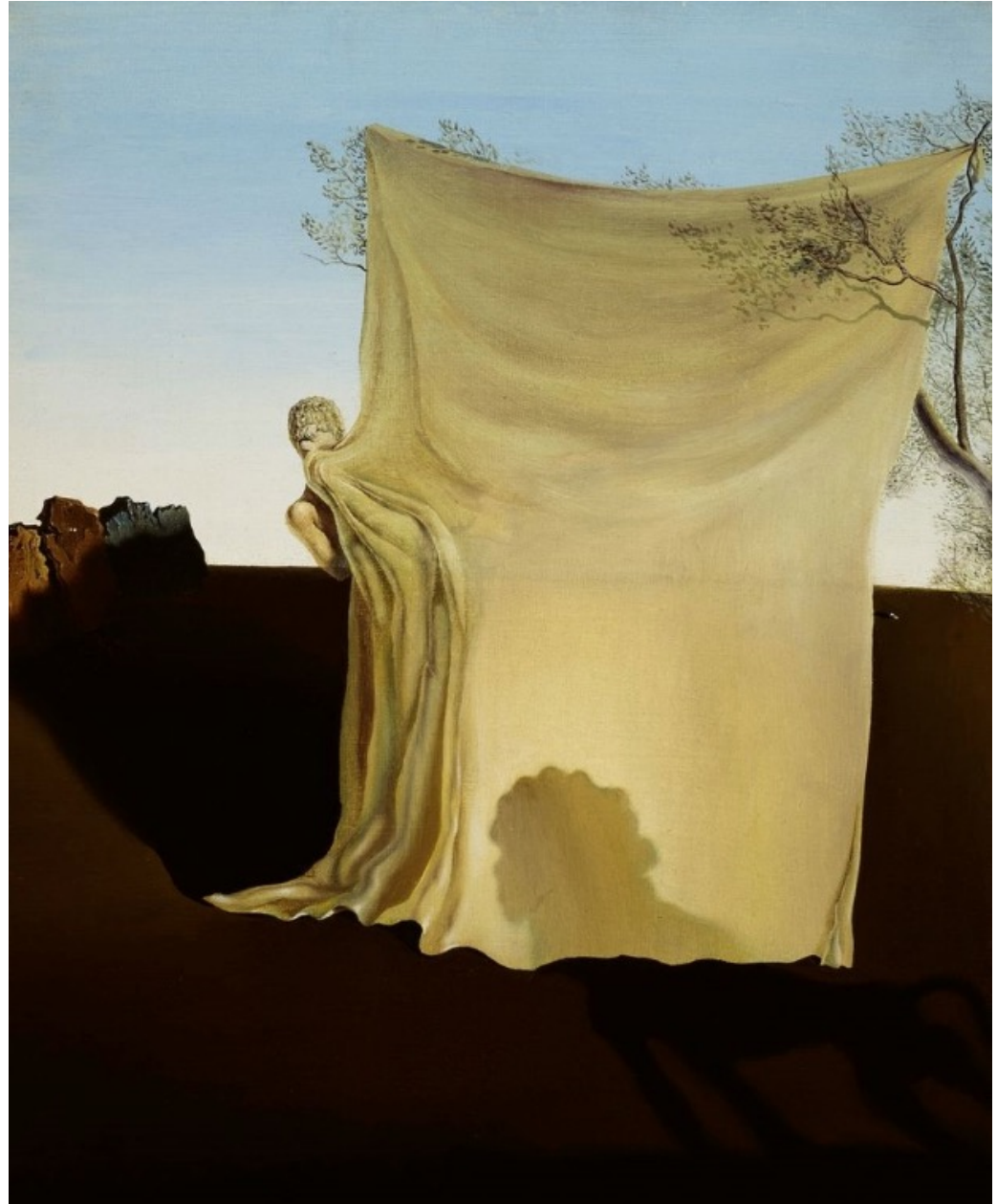
Salvador II Dali 11. 5. 1904 - 23. 1. 1989
Salvador I 12. 10. 1901 - 1. 8. 1903



J.F. Millet
The Angelus
Prayer
(1859)



Salvador Dali
Feeling of
Becoming
(1930)



Binding

Egon Schiele
*The Dead
Mother*
(1910)



André Green
*The "Dead"
Mother*

The child of a grieving mother can perceive her as absent, as "dead".

A dead mother pulls the ego into a dead, deserted world.

Such a child can only come to life at the price of identification with the dead mother.

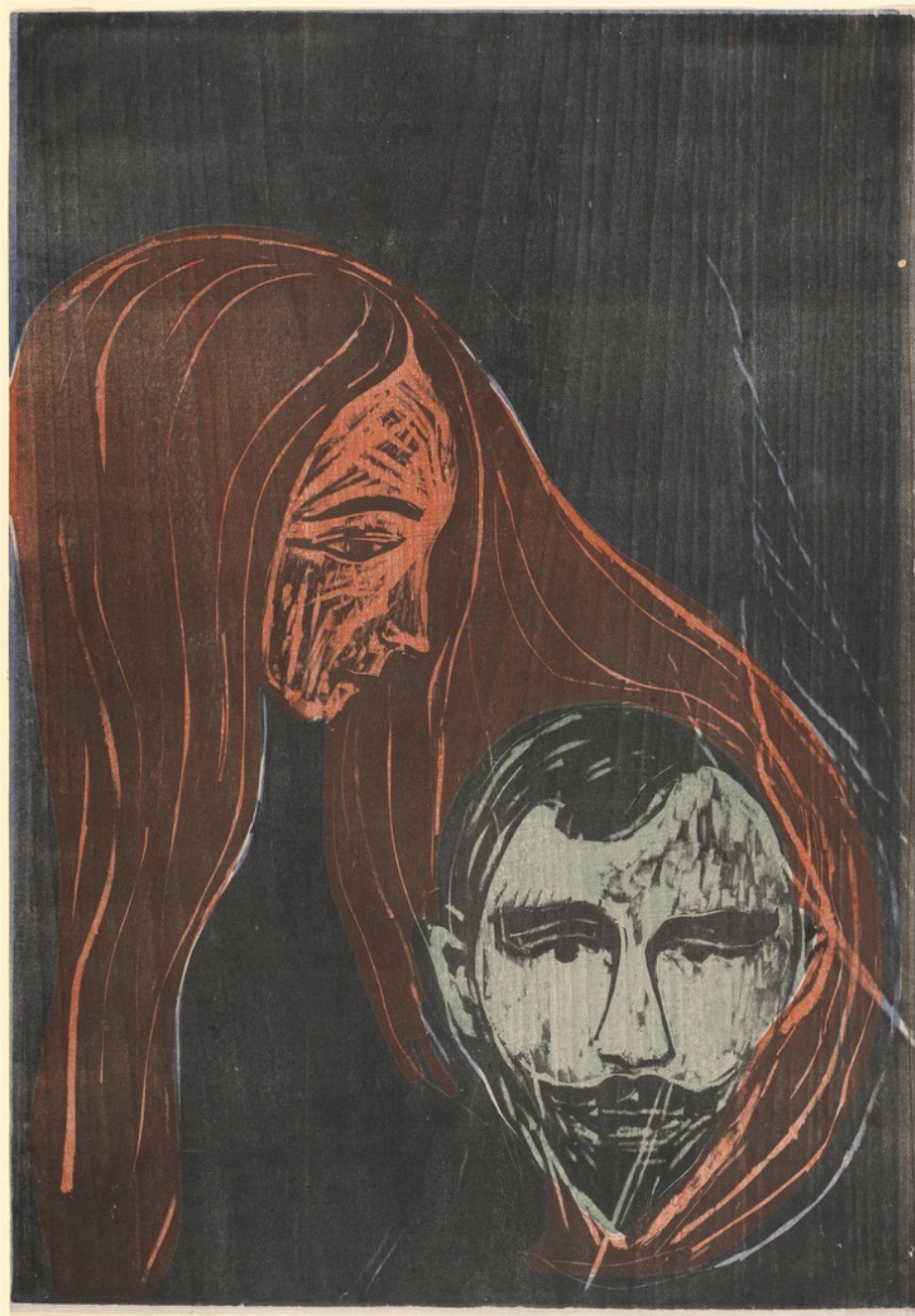
The dead mother just keeps dying... over and over again.

(André Green, 1988)

John Bowlby

- "Unfortunately, there is ample evidence that the loss of a baby can cause serious problems for parents, especially mothers, and for surviving children" (Bowlby, 1980, p. 97).
- « There is a risk that the mourning for the lost child is not over and that the new child is not just a replacement, but is seen as the return of the deceased child. This can lead to a pathogenic relationship between parent and baby...» (Bowlby, 1980, pp. 120)

Edvard Munch
Man's Head in
Woman's Hair
(1896)



Edvard Munch
The Sick Child
(1885-1926)



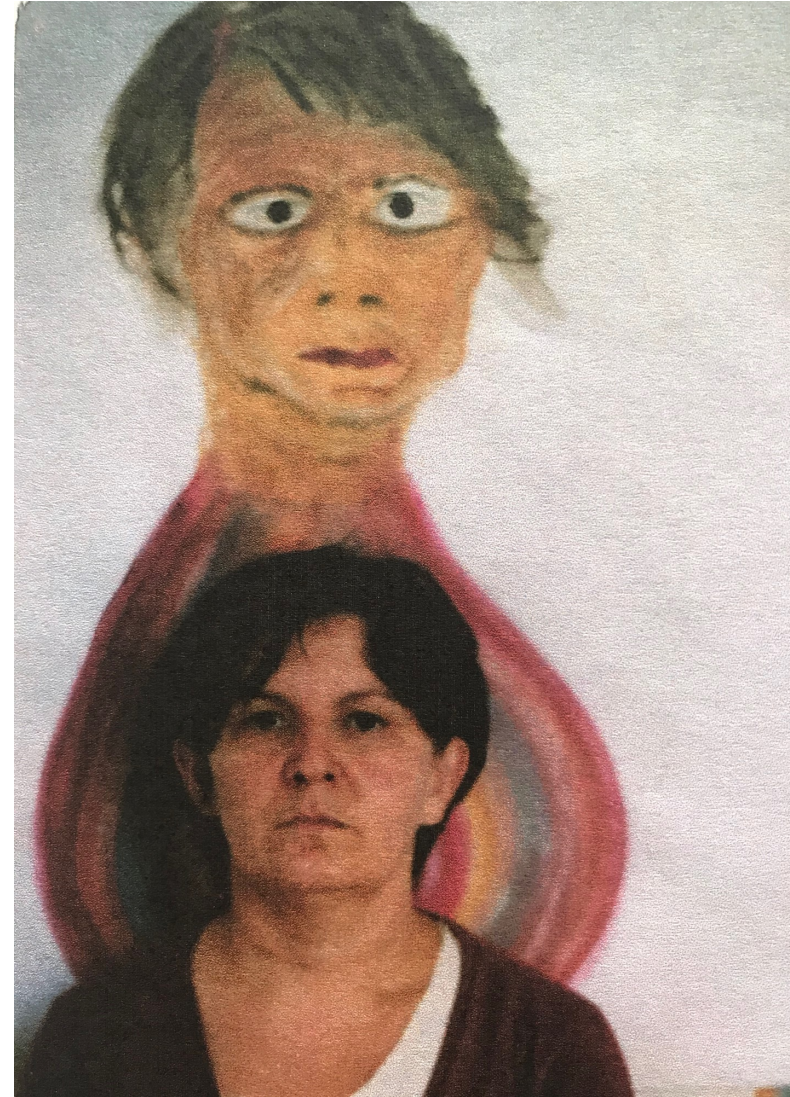
Edvard Munch
Encounter in Space
(1889-99)



A Practical
Example:
Johanna Glaser



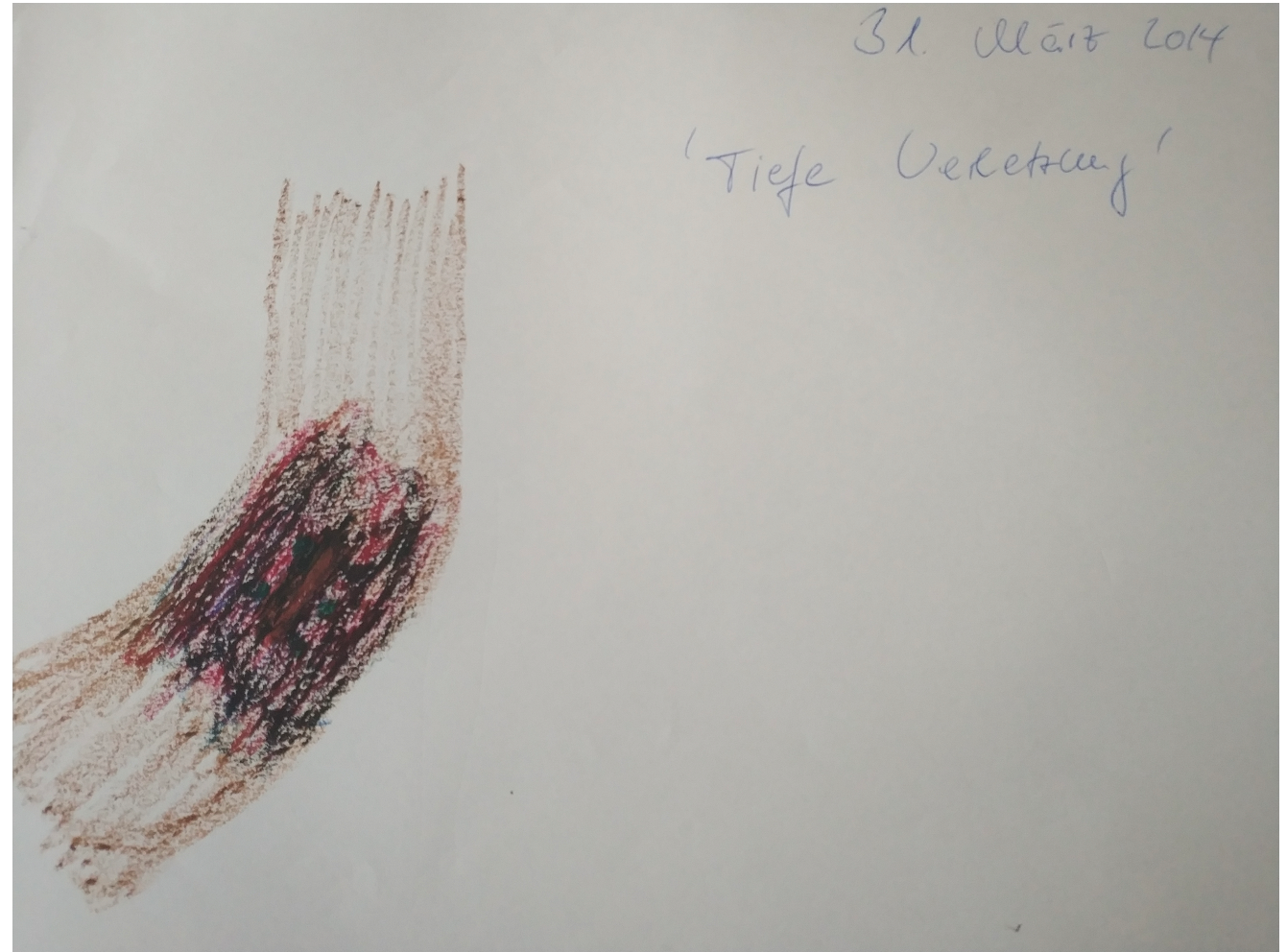
A self-
development
description



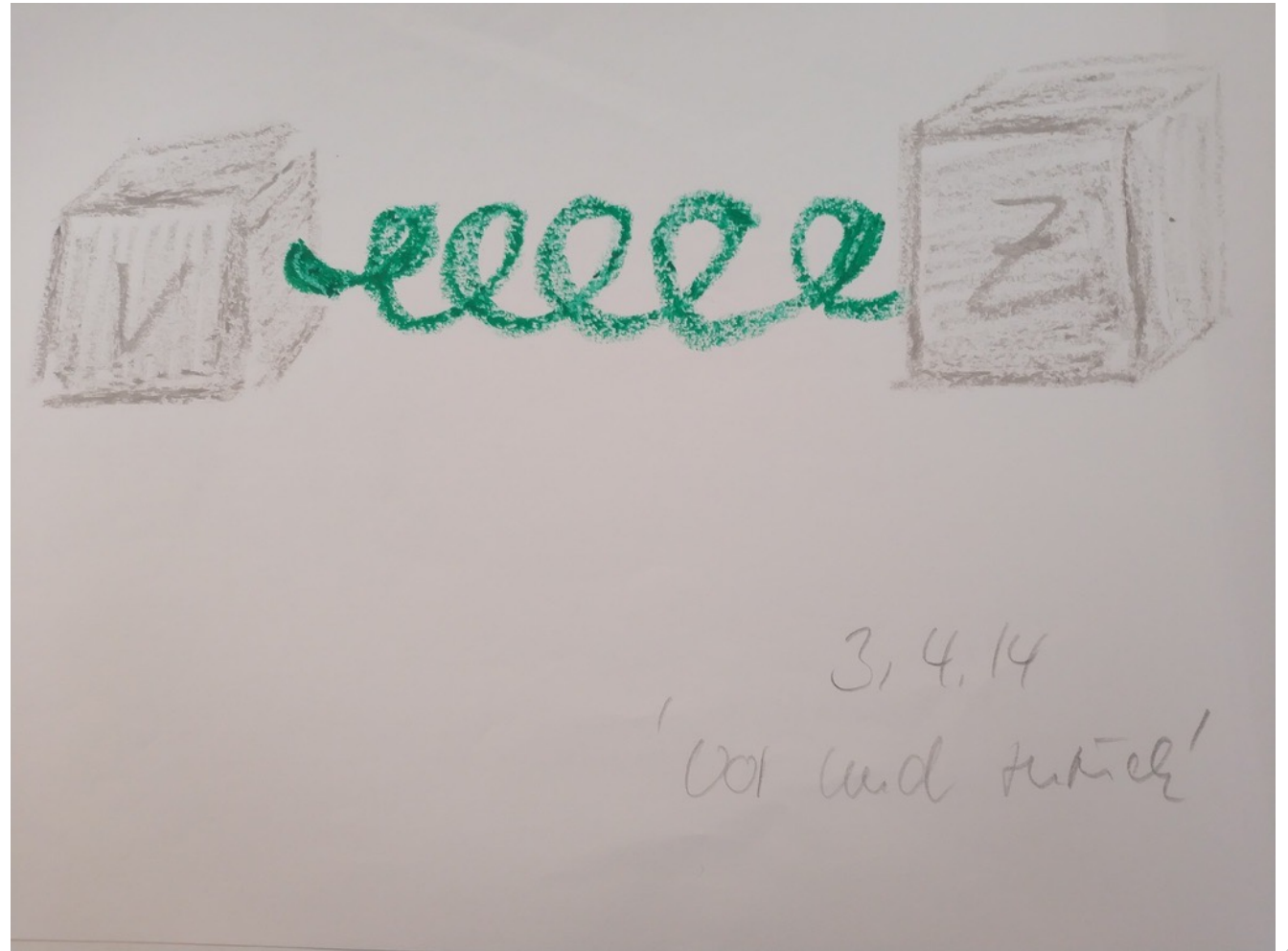
The Beginning



Deep Injury

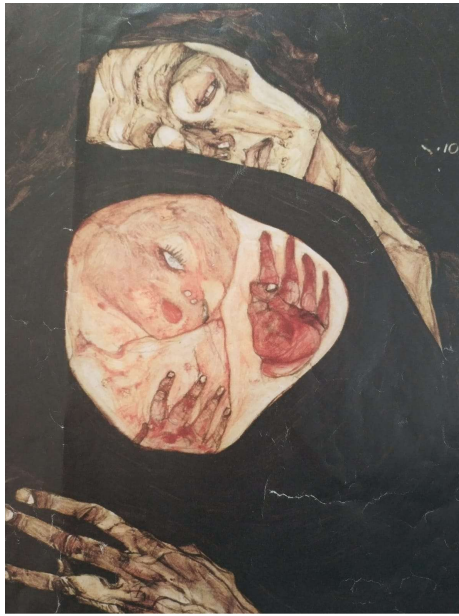


Next & Previous



Dangling and Yet Safe





Transformation

"I've always felt fragile,
but there was
something that kept me
in the middle..."

Johanna Glaser

Johanna Glaser

Federn haben eine starke Mitte



Aus dem Leben eines Ersatzkindes

Marta
press

Grief

Vincent van Gogh
The Potato Eaters
(1885)



Vincent II van Gogh 30. 3. 1853 - 29. 7. 1890
Vincent I 30. 3. 1852



Vincent van Gogh, Wheat field with crows, Auvers-sur-Oise, June 10, 1890

Vincent van Gogh
The Resurrection
of Lazarus
(1890)





InShot

Fault



Caroline Mackenzie (UK)

- **Survival Guilt**
- **Introjected Guilt**
- **Out of narcissistic rage**
- **For lack of self-actualization**

"Lost in my own thoughts, before I fell asleep, a flash of realization hit me with full force: I have always felt guilty because I owe my life to the death of my brother who perished in the war." (in: Haunting Legacies, 2010, p. 279)

Gabriele Schwab, Professor of Comparative Literature and Anthropology,
California, USA

"I grew up in a cemetery."

"My parents felt bad about surviving, they felt guilty..."

These people were traumatized, full of grief. ...

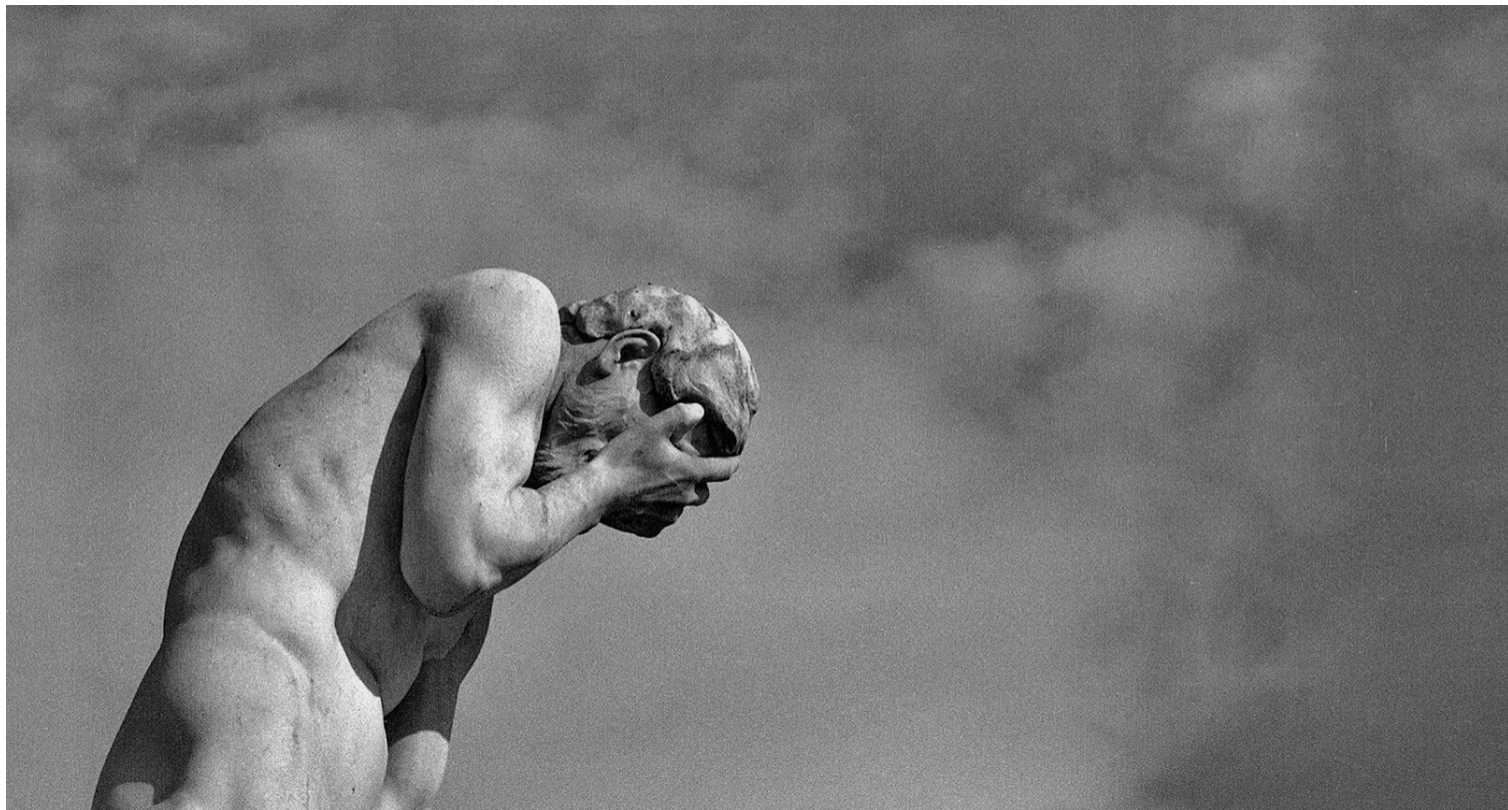
I was told in my family: You are the meaning of life. It was worth surviving, at least we have you."

"I grew up like a star of life on the one hand - and on the other hand my job was morbid."

Michel Friedmann, son of two Holocaust survivors
(in: Zeitmagazin, August 25, 2022)

In the Shadow I

Kain & Abel



Henry Vidal *Cain* (1896) Paris

Genesis

- ' And Adam knew his wife again, and she bare a son, and called his name Seth; for God planted another seed for me in place of Abel, because Cain killed him. » (Genesis 4.25)
- ' And he said: What have you done! Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. »

(Genesis 4.10)

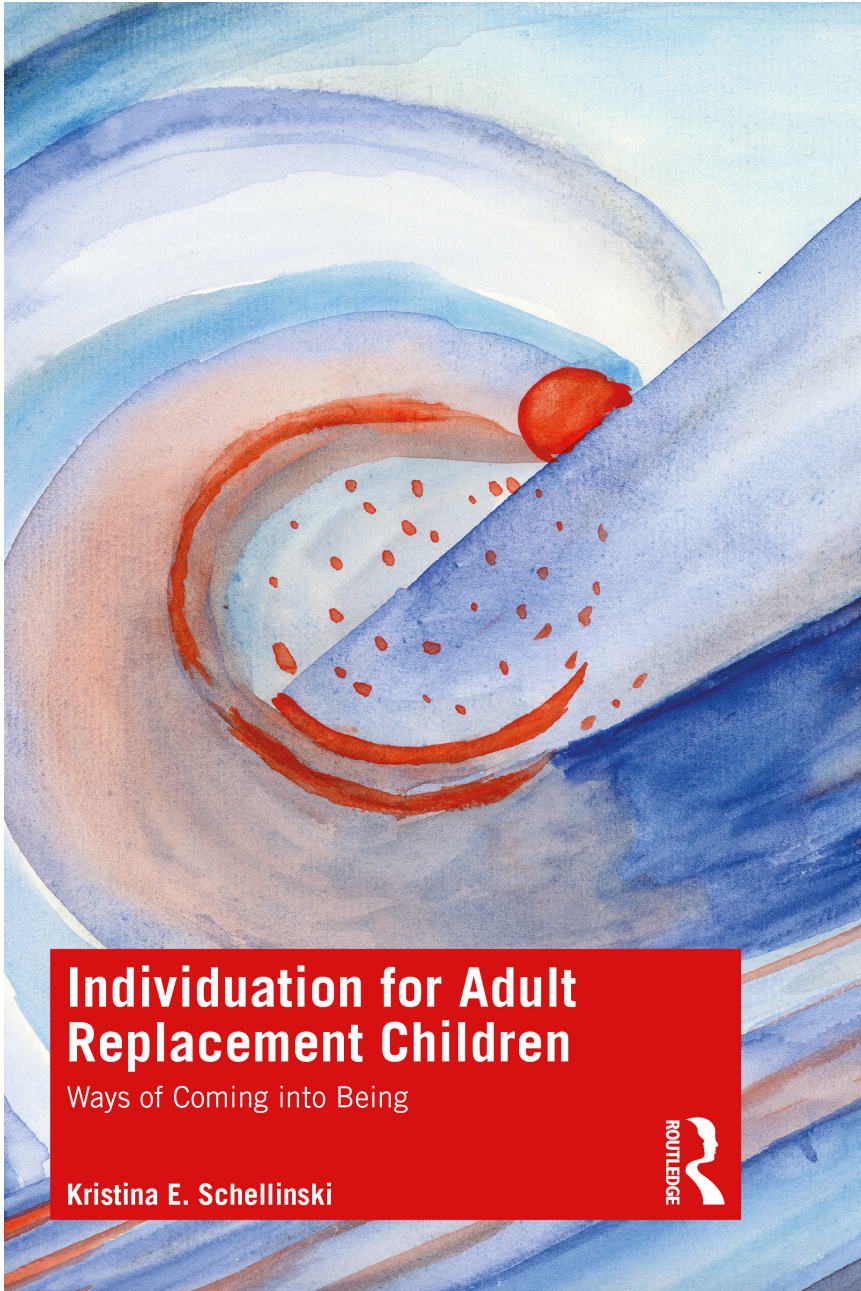


Close to the heart, far from the eye...

In the Shadow II

The personality
to be
discovered





« The hope of liberation from the suffering of the surrogate child lies in the discovery of the self with which the soul recreates its own life.»

Carl Gustav Jung
born July 26,
1875



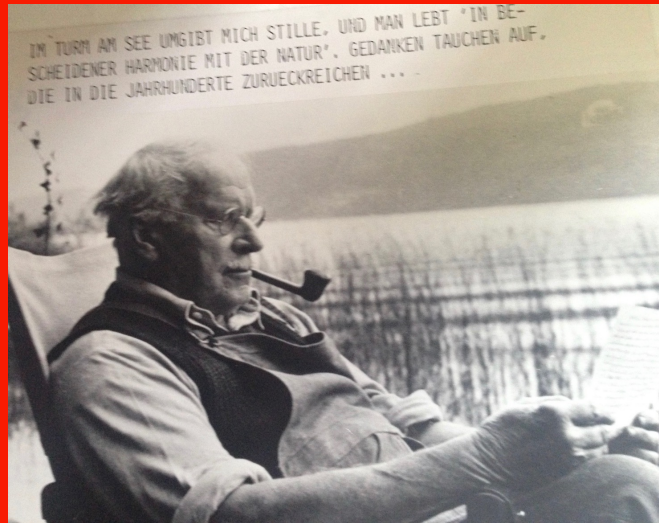
- after a girl,
stillborn in 1870
- after a girl,
stillborn in 1872
- and after Paul, born
in 1873, died after 5
days



- Jung wrote that it seemed to him "like a miracle" if it "should not be destroyed before its time" (ETG, p. 18).
- Jung speaks of "an unconscious suicidal urge ... a fatal resistance to life in this world" in his early life (ETG, p. 23)



- "I actually always had a guilty conscience and was aware of current and potential guilt." (ETG, S. 59)



- "In the background I always knew that I was two" (ETG, p. 50)
- "Personality No. 1, the schoolboy of 1890...and 'the other' who knew God as a secret, personal and at the same time suprapersonal secret...Here nothing separated man from God. Yes, it was as if the human spirit looks at creation at the same time as God." (ETG, p. 51)

C. G. Jung

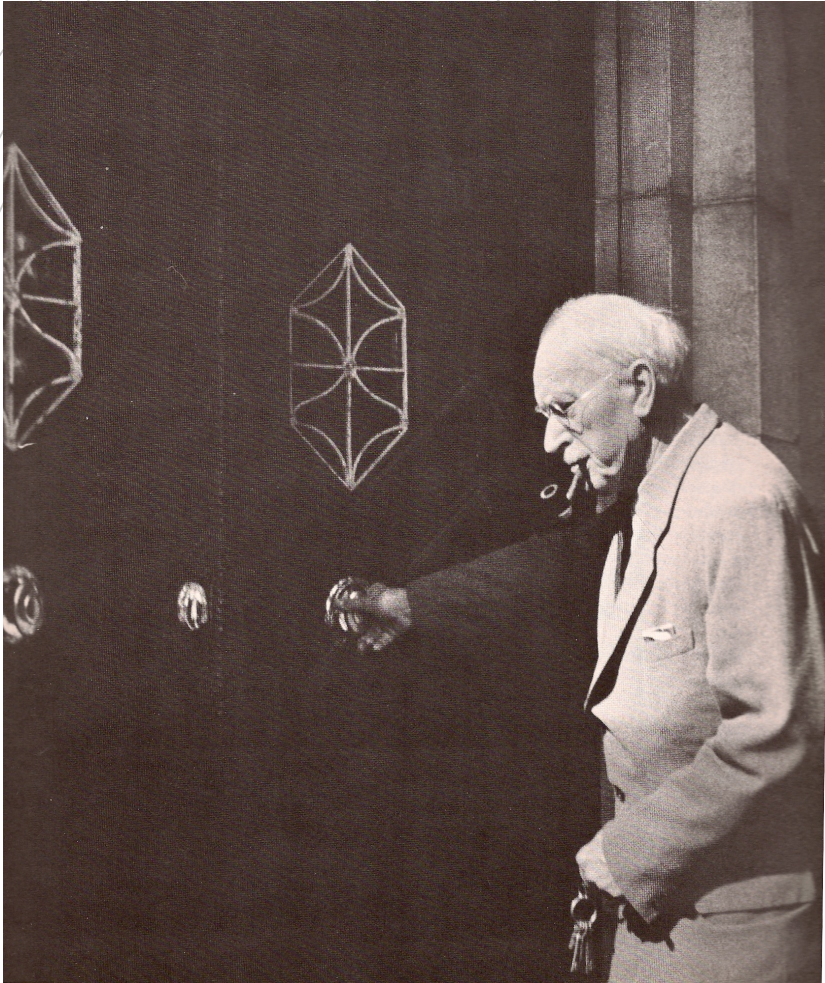
- “Therefore you should not strive for diversity as you think it, but **FOR YOUR BEING**. That is why there is basically only one striving ... for one’s own being.” (ETG, Sermo I, S. 391)



CG Jung Institute Zurich-Kusnacht

"The urge and compulsion for self-realization is a natural law and therefore of insurmountable power..." (GW 91, § 289)

« to become what you are is...essential »(GW 91, § 634)

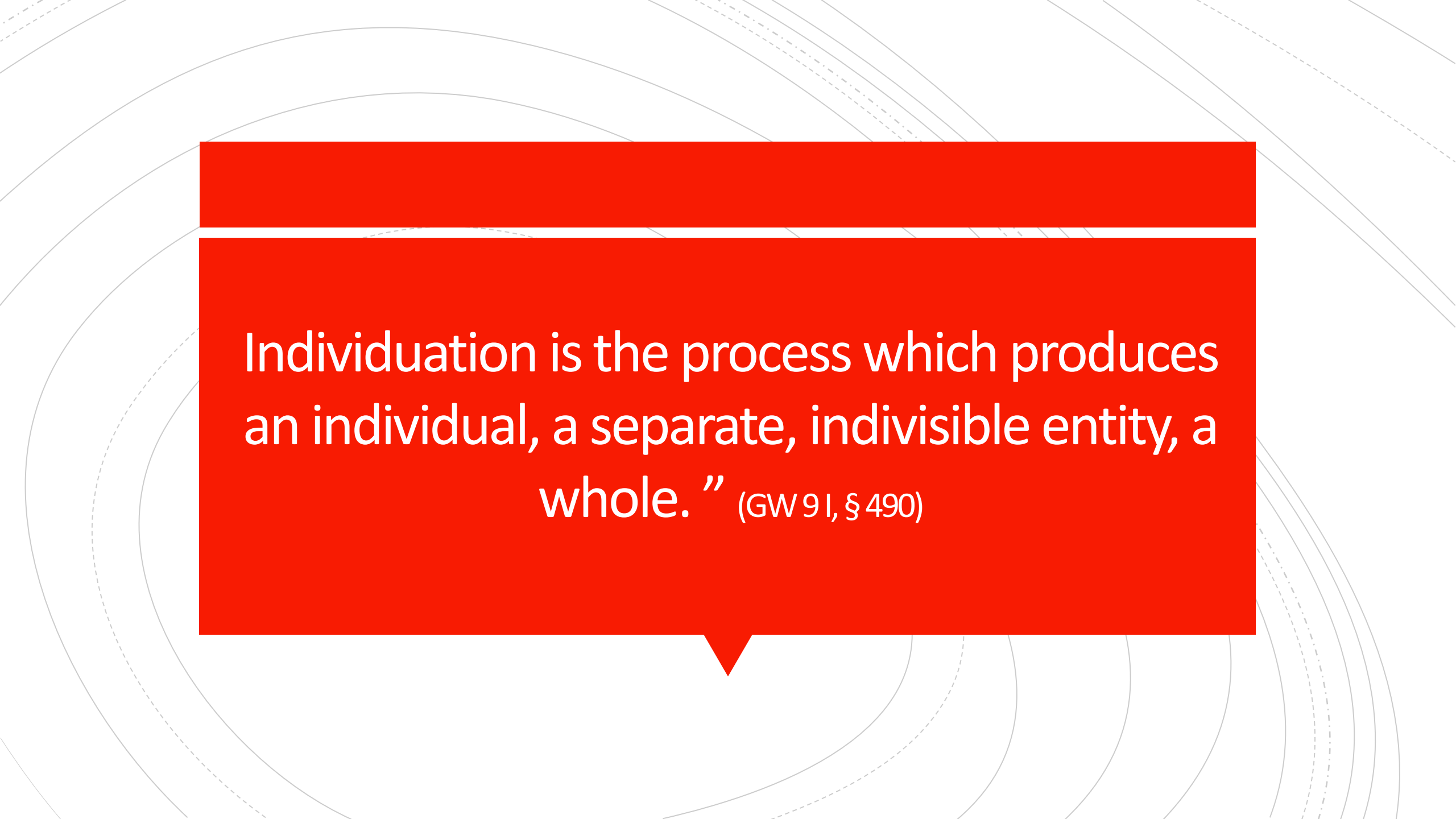


“What is more fundamental than realizing: This is me?

...another, objective I, which for that reason is better called the Self.” (GW 16, §400)

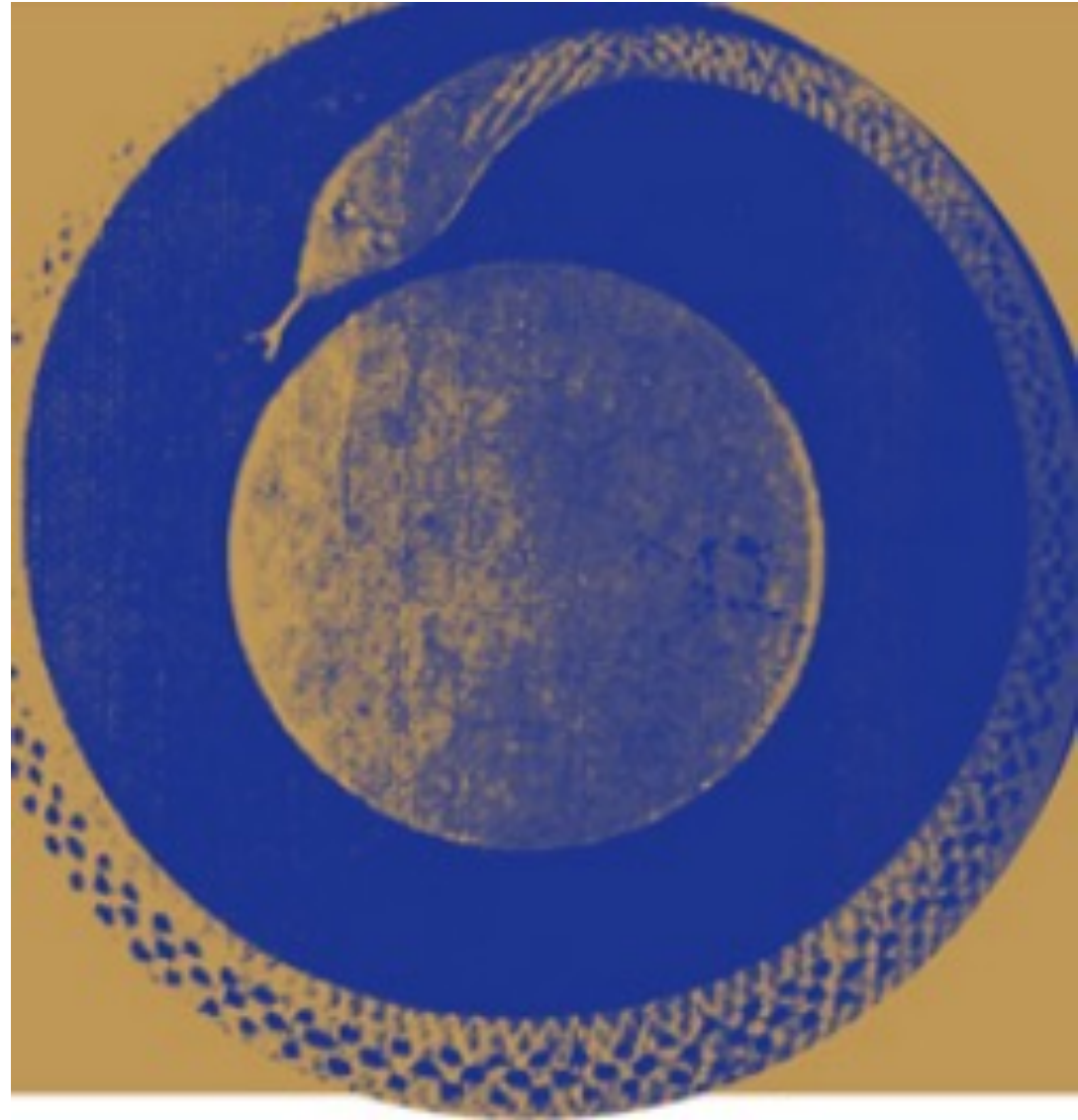
C. G. Jung
The Red Bookj
(2009)



The background features a series of concentric circles in light gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a ripple effect. A large, solid red speech bubble is centered on the page, pointing downwards. The text is white and centered within the bubble.

Individuation is the process which produces
an individual, a separate, indivisible entity, a
whole. ” (GW 9 I, § 490)

Transformation



C. G. Jung GW 9/I, Figure 14

The Individuation Process

- helps adult surrogate children find a new path out of confusion or identification with an absent human to... self-realization.

Ginkgo biloba!

Dieses Baums Blatt, der von Allen
Meinem Garten anvertraut,
Giebt geheimen Sinn zu kosten
Wie's den Wissenden erbaut.

Ist es ein lebendig Wesen,
Das sich in sich selbst getrennt,
Und es zwey die sich erlesen,
Dafs man sie als Eines yernt.

Solche Frage zu erwidern
Fand ich wohl den rechten Sinn,
Fühlst du nicht an meinen Liedern
Dafs ich Eins und doppelt bin



2.15.1815

Ginkgo biloba

This tree's leaf, that of the east
entrusted to my garden

Gives a secret sense to taste, How it builds up
the knowing.

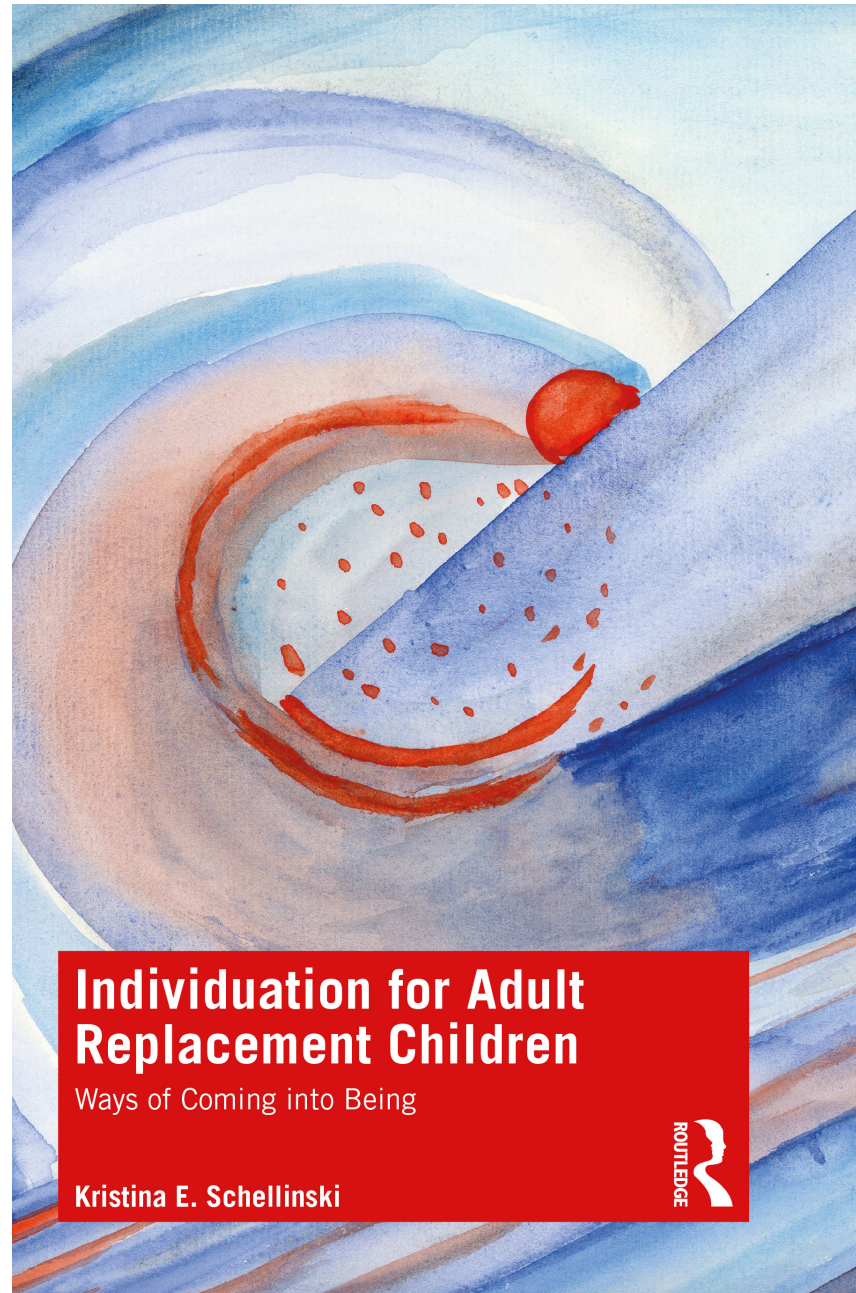
Is it a living being
That separates itself?

Are there two who choose
That they are known as one?

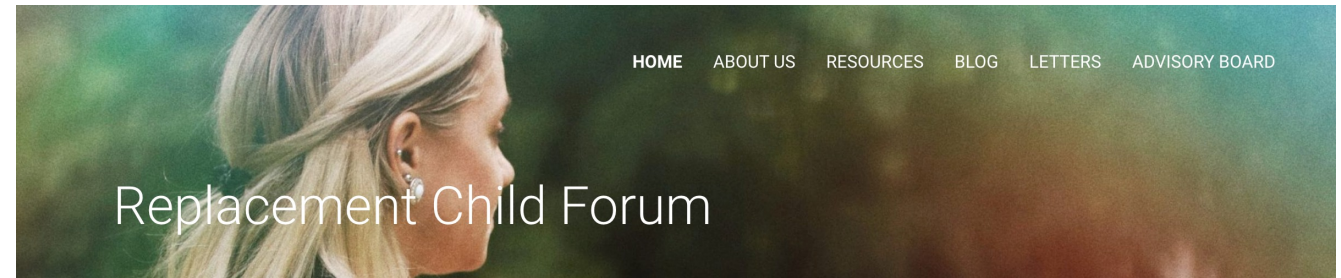
to answer such a question
Did I find the right meaning?

Don't you feel in my songs That I'm one and
double? (J.W. v. Goethe)

Ways of self-
realization for
grown-up
replacement
children



replacement
child
forum.com



Connecting adult replacement children and therapeutic practitioners with in-depth information and resources to better understand the implications and long-term influence of this psychological condition.

Definition of a
Replacement Child

Famous Replacement
Children

Are You a
Replacement Child?