

# Earth at a Crossroad: The Psychology of Evil and Violence

Reading Group  
moderated by,  
Peggy Firestone, M.Ed., A.M.

**Purpose:** The world is in upheaval. We will investigate three books that consider why and how we got here. The first two books focus on the psychological source of evil and violence, while the third charts an alternative. We will meet monthly from **April 18, 2011 to December 17, 2012** and cover each book in depth. The seminar will meet 21 times and will take over a year to complete. If you live outside of Chicago, we will have 10 slots available for video conferencing and have post-meeting discussions using a secure blog. I hope, that as your understanding accrues, you let questions remain unanswered and available for ongoing perusal.

**April - December 2011**

## Book 1

*Answer to Job* by CG Jung

Through readings and discussion, we will explore the nature of evil from the Christian and dualistic perspective. CG Jung wrote *Answer to Job*, a remarkable book of 108 pages, written when he was 77 years old. He implored us to re-envision *evil* and to begin by first understanding its nature. While we have the power to destroy more than any other time in our history, will we resist the impulse to wield that power? Our inquiry will explore the intrinsic nature of our own psychology and its struggle with attaining and maintaining higher morals.

### Location

East Logan Square, Chicago

### Meetings in 2011

Spring: Apr. 18, May 23, and June 20

Summer: July 18, Aug. 22, and Sept. 19

Fall: Oct. 17, Nov. 28, and Dec. 19

### Conference Call

Spring: May 1, June 5, and June 26

Summer: July 31, Aug. 28, and Sept. 25

Fall: Oct. 30, Nov. 27, and Dec. 18

### Discussion Fee

For fees schedule please refer to the Registration page, which appears at the end of this document.

### Required reading

*Answer to Job*, CG Jung,

### Suggested readings

*Jung's Answer to Job: A Commentary*, Paul Bishop,

*A History of God*, Karen Armstrong

*Civilization & Its Discontents*, Sigmund Freud

*Simple Kabbalah*, Kim Zetter

*First Job* and *First Ethics* from *History Begins at Sumer*, Samuel Noah Kramer,

## January – September 2012

### **Book II**

### *Archetype of the Apocalypse* by Edward Edinger

**Purpose:** We will reflect on the collective unconscious using as our guide Edward Edinger's classic interpretation of the Revelations of St. John the Divine. Edinger and Jung agree that St. John's vision did not arise out of a psychosis, but was a divine revelation; the content of which contains critical information to guide us in contemporary times.

In *Archetype of the Apocalypse*, Edinger examines the psychological underpinnings in the Book of Revelation in the New Testament and arrives at a profound interpretation of the disorder of our current epoch. He writes:

“ Terrorism is a manifestation of the psyche. It is time we recognized the psyche as an autonomous factor in world affairs ... [Terrorists] are not criminals and are not madmen although they have some qualities of both. Let's call them zealots. Zealots are possessed by the transpersonal, archetypal dynamisms deriving from the collective unconscious.”<sup>1</sup>

The sequence of apocalyptic events depicted in the Book of Revelation appears to be at hand. We will chart how St. John's vision portrays events necessary to bring about transformation rather than cataclysm. The events playing out in real time may not be of our conscious choosing, but are an expression of our unconscious, which is changing.

#### **Location**

East Logan Square, Chicago

#### **Meetings in 2012**

Winter: Jan. 23, Feb. 20, and Mar. 19

Spring: Apr. 23, May 21, and June 18

Summer: July 23, Aug. 20, and Sept. 24

Conference Call

Winter: Jan. 29, Feb. 26, and Mar. 25

Spring: Apr. 29, May 27, and June 24

Summer: July 29, Aug. 26, and Sept. 30

#### **Discussion Fee**

For fees schedule please refer to the Registration page, which appears at the end of this document.

#### **Required reading**

*Archetype of the Apocalypse*, Edward Edinger,

*The Revelation of St. John the Divine* from The New Testament, King James Version

#### **Suggested readings**

*Journal of Archetype and Culture*, “The Psychology of Violence”, selected essays from 2009

*Millennialism and Violence*, Michael Barkun, Editor

*The Fairy Faith in Celtic Countries*, W.Y. Evans-Wentz,

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## October 2012 - December 2012

### *Book III*

### *Freedom from the Known by J. Krishnamurti*

**Purpose:** The collective unconscious will be focused on the Judeo/Christian/Islamic idea of the “End of Days”, the ending of the Mayan Calendar and the next US presidential election. We have the privilege to witness our planet grapple with the archetype of the apocalypse. This time requires us to be psychologically informed and calm. For that grounding in a time of great tumult, we will turn to Krishnamurti’s critique of people’s battle for existence and self-transformation. It is still the ethos of the group to not draw any final conclusions. Rather, as our understandings accrue, it is better to let the questions remain open and available for ongoing perusal.

In *Freedom from the Known*, J. Krishnamurti discusses how people can free themselves radically and immediately from the tyranny of the expected no matter what their age. By first changing themselves, people can change the whole structure of society and their relationships. The vital need for change and the recognition of its possibility constitute the rich essence of his writing. Major themes include: **Awareness, man’s search and the tortured mind, fragmentation of thought, the ending of fear, violence, anger, and hypocrisy.** He also writes about **love, art, beauty, relationships and the religious mind.** This densely packed, 134-page book provides guidance to readers who want to climb to a higher moral level. Krishnamurti advises without advocating a cultural, religious or political point of view.

#### **Location**

East Logan Square, Chicago

#### **Meetings in 2012**

Fall: Oct. 22, Nov. 19, and Dec. 17

Conference Call

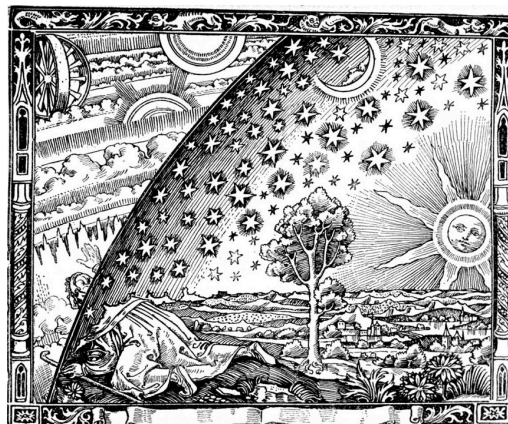
Fall: Oct. 28, Nov. 25 and Dec. 16

#### **Discussion Fee**

For fees schedule please refer to the Registration page, which appears at the end of this document.

#### **Required reading**

*Freedom from the Known*, J. Krishnamurti





## Registration and Discussion Fees

By phone  
773.384-5802

By credit card online  
<http://www.peggyfirestone.com/infoandfees/index.html>

**Scholarships are available**

**Mondays, 8 to 10pm**

### **Book 1**

*Answer to Job* by CG Jung

<b>Monday Meetings in 2011</b>	<b>Discussion Fee</b>
Spring: Apr. 18, May 23, and June 20	\$200
Summer: July 18, Aug. 22, and Sept. 19	\$200
Fall: Oct. 17, Nov. 28, and Dec. 19	\$200
Nine Month Series: .....	\$550

### **Book II**

*Archetype of the Apocalypse* by Edward Edinger

<b>Monday Meetings in 2012</b>	<b>Discussion Fee</b>
Winter: Jan. 23, Feb. 20, and Mar. 19	\$200
Spring: Apr. 23, May 21, and June 18	\$200
Summer: July 23, Aug. 20, and Sept. 24	\$200
Nine Month Series: .....	\$550

### **Book III**

*Freedom from the Known* by J. Krishnamurti

<b>Monday Meetings in 2012</b>	<b>Discussion Fee</b>
Fall: Oct. 22, Nov. 19, and Dec. 17	\$200

**Sunday Meetings are by Conference Call at 2pm CST**

**Book 1**

*Answer to Job by CG Jung*

<b>Sunday Meetings in 2011</b>	<b>Discussion Fee</b>
Spring: May 1, June 5, and June 26	\$200
Summer: July 31, Aug. 28, and Sept. 25	\$200
Fall: Oct. 30, Nov. 27, and Dec. 18	\$200
Nine Month Series: .....	\$550

**Book II**

*Archetype of the Apocalypse by Edward Edinger*

<b>Sunday Meetings in 2012</b>	<b>Discussion Fee</b>
Winter: Jan. 29, Feb. 26, and Mar. 25	\$200
Spring: Apr. 29, May 27, and June 24	\$200
Summer: July 29, Aug. 26, and Sept. 30	\$200
Nine Month Series: .....	\$550

**Book III**

*Freedom from the Known by J. Krishnamurti*

<b>Sunday Meetings in 2012</b>	<b>Discussion Fee</b>
Fall: Oct. 28, Nov. 25, and Dec. 16	\$200