



# Transformation of the Psyche: The Symbolic Alchemy of the Splendor Solis

*Joseph L. Henderson, Dyane N. Sherwood*

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Written by Joseph L. Henderson, one of the first generation of Jungian analysts, and Dyane N. Sherwood, a practising analyst, this book is a striking and unique contribution to the resurgence of interest in alchemy for its way of representing the phenomenology of creative experience.

*Transformation of the Psyche* is organized around 22 illuminated paintings from the early Renaissance alchemical manuscript the *Splendor Solis*, and is further illustrated by over 50 colour figures. The images of the *Splendor Solis* are possibly the most beautiful and evocative alchemical paintings to be found anywhere, and they are widely known to students of alchemy. Jung reproduced several *Splendor Solis* images in his works, yet prior to this book no one has explored the symbolism of the paintings as a series in relation to the process of depth psychological transformation. This book is the first scholarly study of the paintings in their entirety, and of the mythological and historical allusions contained within the images. *Transformation of the Psyche* does not simply explain or analyze the pictures, but invites the reader to participate in the creative and transforming process evoked by these images.

*Transformation of the Psyche* is a truly unique book that will be of immense value and interest to analysts and psychotherapists, as well as scholars of mediaeval and renaissance intellectual history and students of spiritual disciplines.

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