

Online Seminar:

Jung and The Secret of the Golden Flower

Almost a century after Jung's first encounter with Eastern texts, is the time ripe for a new exploration of the psychological meanings of these texts?

“When I began my life-work in the practice of psychiatry and psychotherapy, I was completely ignorant of Chinese philosophy, and it is only later that my professional experiences have shown me that in my technique I had been unconsciously led along that secret way which for centuries has been the preoccupation of the best minds of the East.” —C G. Jung

In this two-part seminar, we'll study the Buddhist/Taoist handbook of meditation and inner alchemy, *The Secret of the Golden Flower*, in the first two-hour seminar, and then, in the second two-hour seminar, Jung's commentary on the text. Our approach will be to study the text first on its own terms, independent of a Jungian framework, and then afterwards, think about how Jung understood it.

The format of the seminars will be a conversation between equals, focusing wholly on the texts we know we have in common, and eschewing any form of lecturing or professing. No prior knowledge of Chinese thought is necessary; we will approach the text naïvely, not taking for granted even that we know what kind of book it is. Gathering together as human beings humbled by the workings of the soul, we'll try together in discussion to make sense of this rich and difficult little book and gain a fresh perspective on Jung's thinking.

Each of the two seminar sessions will occur in an online meeting room.

October 29, November 5 2017; 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Eastern Time USA/Canada

Full Tuition: 70 Euros/\$78 USD (60 Euros/\$65 for Certified GCI Advisors)

Text: *The Secret of the Golden Flower* (tr. Wilhelm/Baynes, 1929)

Seminar Leader: Krishnan Venkatesh



Born in Malaysia in 1960 to a South Indian Brahmin father and a Hakka Chinese mother, Venkatesh was brought up in England and studied English literature at Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he obtained First Class honors. He subsequently did postdoctoral work for over four years on Shakespeare at the University of Muenster, Germany, as a wissenschaftlicher mitarbeiter for the great Shakespeare scholar Marvin Spevack. From 1986-89 he taught literature and philosophy at Shanxi University, People's Republic of China. Since 1989 he has taught at St. John's College, Santa Fe, in the Western Great Books program and the Eastern Classics Master's program (for which he was one of the founders). Venkatesh has taught in all areas of

the program, including Chinese and Sanskrit.

With Socrates in the Phaedrus, he is skeptical of the value of writing and therefore of publication and believes strongly in conversation as the most powerful mode of learning—the “writing in the heart.” Both his personal and academic background make him well suited to being a “bridge” between various traditions.

To visit Krishnan's blog, [click here](#).

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