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978-0-521-55560-9 - The Religious and Romantic Origins of Psychoanalysis: Individuation and Integration in Post-Freudian Theory

Suzanne R. Kirschner

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Suzanne Kirschner traces the origins of contemporary psychoanalysis back to the foundations of Judaeo-Christian culture, and challenges the prevailing view that modern theories of the self mark a radical break with religious and cultural tradition. She argues instead that they offer an account of human development which has its beginnings in Biblical theology and Neoplatonic mysticism. Drawing on a wide range of religious, literary, philosophical, and anthropological sources, Dr. Kirschner demonstrates that current American psychoanalytic theories are but the latest version of a narrative that has been progressively secularized over the course of nearly two millennia. She displays a deep understanding of psychoanalytic theories, while at the same time raising provocative questions about their status as knowledge and as science.

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For Helen Kirschner Berke
and
Leonard N. Evenchik

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... we still live in what is essentially, although in derivative rather than direct manifestations, a Biblical culture, and readily mistake our hereditary ways of organizing experience for the conditions of reality and the universal forms of thought.

M.H. Abrams,
Natural Supernaturalism

Weber was so intent upon establishing the unique predominance in the West of the penetration and remaking of the world to innerworldly asceticism that he failed to give enough weight to another fact that he no less than Troeltsch implicitly recognized. Weber does not ... in his work sufficiently stress the significance of *innerworldly mysticism* as contrasted with otherworldly mysticisms.

Benjamin Nelson,
"Max Weber, Ernst Troeltsch,
Georg Jellinek as Comparative
Historical Sociologists"

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