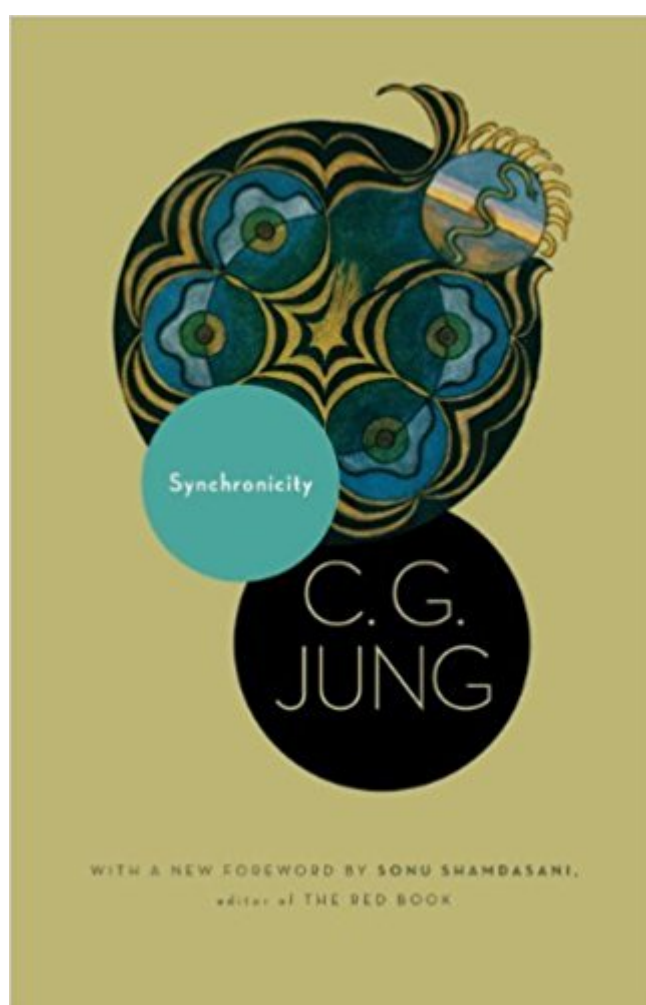


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# Synchronicity: An Acausal Connecting Principle. (From Vol. 8. Of The Collected Works Of C. G. Jung) (Jung Extracts)



## Synopsis

Jung was intrigued from early in his career with coincidences, especially those surprising juxtapositions that scientific rationality could not adequately explain. He discussed these ideas with Albert Einstein before World War I, but first used the term "synchronicity" in a 1930 lecture, in reference to the unusual psychological insights generated from consulting the I Ching. A long correspondence and friendship with the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Wolfgang Pauli stimulated a final, mature statement of Jung's thinking on synchronicity, originally published in 1952 and reproduced here. Together with a wealth of historical and contemporary material, this essay describes an astrological experiment Jung conducted to test his theory. Synchronicity reveals the full extent of Jung's research into a wide range of psychic phenomena. This paperback edition of Jung's classic work includes a new foreword by Sonu Shamdasani, Philemon Professor of Jung History at University College London.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English, German (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Sonu Shamdasani is editor of The Red Book and Philemon Professor of Jung History at University

College London.

Absolute classic! Jung is the guy who introduced the term, he was friends with Wolfgang Pauli, the physicist who came up with the Pauli exclusion principle, which is central to understanding the structure of atoms. Scientists were much more "mystical" back then. Seems like it was more fun back in the day, but these ideas are coming around again, even since the Aspect's verification of the Bell inequalities almost for decades ago ... Now with quantum entanglement on the tip of everyone's tongue, I feel like this book is worth a read. One note - it's a little dry, I would say deliberately. Jung is trying to be scientific and concise, about a very difficult subject. BUT if you are looking for a "Gee Wiz, isn't the world crazy and cool?!?" type of book, this is not for you. Oh, and I couldn't resist: A connecting principle, Linked to the invisible, Almost imperceptible, Something inexpressible. Science insusceptible, Logic so inflexible, Causally connectible, Yet nothing is invincible.

It's our nature to wonder if there is "something out there." Whereas Freud reduced religious feeling to a regression to the infantile, a non-discriminating universe where only pain or pleasure can be distinguished, (Civilization and its Discontents), Jung took a more open-minded, universal view, that apparently events may be meaningfully connected without any apparent cause and without any apparent connection. He projected that these meaningful coincidences did hold significance and thus were paranormal. Thus Jung became the father of that branch of psychology that experimental psychologists dismiss as "mysticism." This book represents the foundation of Jung's theory. I find at least several examples in Science, however that appear to lend some credence to synchronicity. Perhaps the best is the example of quantum entanglement, the idea that two objects whose energies have become entangled remain connected even when widely separated. Einstein rejected the idea from his "realistic" Universe. He dismissed quantum entanglement as "spooky action at a distance." Einstein has been proven wrong in at least three definitive experiments showing that when two entangled electrons as widely separated by distance, actions exerted on one electron will instantaneously affect the behavior of the second electron. Some equate this to the science fiction favorite, teleportation. Thus, with experimental scientific proof offering evidence for Jung's synchronicity, (\*drawn from previous religious and philosophical beliefs), we have greater incentive to explore the theory that all things are connected, perhaps to learn its mechanisms.

I thought the book would have been more earthshaking considering the author, the topic and the name of a Police album. A lot of the book is on empirical proof of an experiment regarding the

phenomenon. I would have been more interested of discussions of additional incidences and his theory of why they occur. It is a bit dated because of research and advances made in parapsychology since Jung wrote his book.

I read this while watching Twin Peaks and saw many fascinating parallels. Of course an open mind is needed to enjoy this, but I would go farther and say that real openness is the willingness to experiment with Jung's ideas in one's daily life. Notice those synchronicities and try to find an explanation. Ask yourself whether some correspondences just instantaneously drop into your mind fully formed, a priori. This is a very rewarding thing to investigate!

You are looking for a book that explains the inexplicable. You know, those little moments where your mind tells you that what just happened implies something more than what it seems to be, that there are forces at work beyond the boring mechanistic view with which we are led to believe our lives exist. You are looking for a book that describes your life as more meaningful than you fear it might be. Carl Jung's "Synchronicity" may be just that book:~)What Jung sets out to describe in "Synchronicity" is proof that there is a higher degree of meaningful coincidences in our Universe than probability allows for. His chief pieces of evidence are the Zenon Card experiments carried out by J.B. Rhine in the 1930s and 40s, and his own "Astrological Experiment." Following these two pieces of evidence, Jung touches on the history of intellectuals who have tried to explain the very same thing he sets out to explain, and here he draws heavily on the I Ching."Synchronicity" was a book that I was very interested in reading, but now that I've read it, I am wondering exactly what it is that I've just read (and whether I learned anything from it). Jung takes as proof the quantum idea that even at its most fundamental level, our Universe behaves in "non-linear" acausal ways. He draws on the scientific ideas of Einstein and Pauli in order to make psychic generalizations for the way the human mind and the imagination works. The ideas are fascinating to consider, but may be all but impossible to prove. Some of the examples Jung uses to illustrate acausal "meaningful coincidence" behavior are startling. My only word of caution with this book is that it might be a little too dense for some readers. All in all, though it's as good an introduction into synchronicity and meaningful coincidence as any book of its kind. Chances are, after reading "Synchronicity," you may want a more clear explanation of the ideas Jung is describing here, and there are a wealth of resources that have elaborated further on Jung's original concepts. Check out Joseph Jaworski's "Synchronicity: The Inner Path of Leadership" or Stacey Hall's "Attracting Perfect Customers: The Power of Strategic Synchronicity" for a contemporary approach to synchronicity's role in our lives.

And, of course, I hope this review is helpful to you! Stacey Cochran Author of CLAWS available for 80 cents

Carl Jung had the honest bravery to approach what few are afraid to admit, that our existence is tied to a metaphysical realm where our thoughts have precognition of future events and may very well shape the future along with the past.

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