

Endorsement for Dough Thomas' *The Deep Psychology of BDSM and Kink: Jungian and Archetypal Perspectives on the Soul's Transgressive Necessities*.

I was asked some years ago if I could capture the essence of Jung's psychology in a phrase. My mind went blank, and time seemed to drag out. But then it came: *everything belongs*. There is nothing in human experience or in human behavior that is not the proper purview for reflection through the Jungian lens. Douglas Thomas' book, *The Deep Psychology of BDSM and Kink: Jungian and Archetypal Perspectives on the Soul's Transgressive Necessities*, is an exquisite example of this belongingness of what most might generally feel should be left to the nether regions of human behavior. Yet, what Doug makes abundantly clear is that the human soul seeks expression, relationship, and incarnation in even the most hellish of forms, even those where human evil is at the very edge. In this book, the author looks at what some may consider forbidden topics. Doug has done a deep service not only to depth psychology by bringing these topics out of the closet and into full light of day, but also to those members of the BDSM and kink communities, enabling them to find soulful meaning in their activities, so rejected by the general collective.

I am reminded of Jung's advice: "Therefore anyone who wants to know the human psyche....would be better advised to...bid farewell to his study, and wander with human heart through the world. There, in the horrors of prisons, lunatic asylums and hospitals, in drab suburban pubs, in brothels, and gambling-hells, in the salons of the elegant, the Stock Exchanges, Socialist meetings, churches,

revivalist gatherings and ecstatic sects, through love and hate, through the experience of passion in every form in his own body, he would reap richer stores of knowledge than text-books a foot thick could give him, and he will know how to doctor the sick with real knowledge of the human soul." (C. G. Jung, CW 7:409.).

Practitioners of depth psychology, as well as partitioners of erotic choices far outside what is considered "normal," will benefit from a close reading of Doug's magnificent offering. It is indeed a gift.