



THE METAMORPHOSES OF NARCISSISM: BUT WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SIN?

PRESENTED BY: JOHANN GRAAFF



John William Waterhouse 1903
'Echo and Narcissus'

“Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, the influential mythological poem, tells stories about the transformational changes people go through. One of the stories tells the tale of Narcissus, which has intriguingly, over the past 50 years, entered popular imagination and everyday conversations. The publishing world is awash with books about the ‘epidemic’ and the ‘culture’ of narcissism. And the USA has voted in ‘The Donald’ as their president – a man rumoured to have a certifiable Narcissistic Personality Disorder. By definition Narcissism is a response to early wounding, a way of surviving and coping in an environment not attuned to the psychological needs of the child. The question that presents itself, is: what wounding are Narcissists responding to?

Despite the focus on Narcissism today, many would say that nothing has really changed since the Middle Ages. Narcissism has, they say, been around for millennia, masquerading as the sin of Pride. But today we talk about black pride or gay pride as commendable positive self-esteem. I will talk about a dream which examines the thin boundary in all of us between self-esteem, self-confidence and narcissism.

EVENT DETAILS:

Date:

Tue 21 August

Time:

7pm for 7.30pm

Venue:

UCT Lung Institute,
George Str, Mowbray,
Cape Town

Cost:

Members R80;
Non-members R100

PLEASE NOTE - SKYPE

Live streaming facilities via Skype are available for those not able to attend the talk in person.

Pre-booking essential



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More About: the story of Narcissus

When Narcissus died he changed into a flower, the narcissus. Echo, his disillusioned admirer and lover, retreated into a cave and turned to stone. When Persephone, much later, bent down to pick a narcissus, the earth opened up, Hades appeared riding a chariot pulled by four black horses. He swept Persephone up and took her down to the underworld, where she would stay for a part of every year, while the upper world experienced winter in her absence. There is an interesting link here between Hades ('the valley of the shadow of death') and Narcissus.

More About the Presenter

JOHANN GRAAFF

Johann Graaff is originally a sociologist by profession, he taught at the University of Cape Town for 20 years. He is now a Jungian analyst, trained at the CG Jung Institute in Zurich. He is of the opinion that Jung, when he wrote about social issues, was a really bad sociologist. So his project is to construct a more viable Jungian sociology. Thinking about narcissism from both a psychological, historical and a social point of view is part of that project.

DOOR FEE:

R80 for Members
R100 for non-members.
No bookings required.

For more information contact SAAJA on
(021) 689-6090 or email
saaja@mweb.co.za



LIVE-STREAMING OPTION: BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

If you are not able to join the event in-person, you can register for our live streaming facility via Skype and join us virtually. Same cost as in-person attendance applies.

SKYPE BOOKINGS: BEFORE FRIDAY 17th AUGUST 2018

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