

Western Nirvana In Jung, Hillman, Barfield, And Cassirer: A Comprehensive Exploration

The concept of nirvana is often associated with Eastern religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism. However, there is also a long tradition of Western thinkers who have explored the idea of a state of ultimate bliss or enlightenment. In this article, we will take a look at the ideas of four Western thinkers who have written about nirvana: C.G. Jung, James Hillman, Owen Barfield, and Ernst Cassirer.



Imagination Is Reality: Western Nirvana in Jung, Hillman, Barfield, and Cassirer by Roberts Avens

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 756 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 275 pages



C.G. Jung

C.G. Jung was a Swiss psychologist who developed the concept of the collective unconscious. Jung believed that the collective unconscious is a storehouse of universal human experience that is shared by all people. He also believed that the collective unconscious contains archetypes, which are universal symbols that represent our deepest fears, desires, and aspirations.

Jung believed that nirvana is a state of individuation, in which the individual becomes fully aware of his or her own unique potential. This process of individuation can be difficult and painful, but it is ultimately necessary for achieving a state of true happiness and fulfillment.



“ "The goal of individuation is not to become perfect, but to become oneself." - C.G. Jung ”

James Hillman

James Hillman was an American psychologist who developed the concept of archetypal psychology. Hillman believed that the psyche is not a thing, but a process. He also believed that the psyche is not individual, but collective.

Hillman believed that nirvana is a state of soul-making. This process of soul-making involves coming to terms with our own unique individuality and our place in the world. It also involves accepting our own mortality and the fact that we are all part of a larger whole.



“ "The soul is not a thing, but a process. It is the process of becoming oneself." - James Hillman ”

Owen Barfield

Owen Barfield was an English philosopher and literary critic who developed the concept of Romantic realism. Barfield believed that the world is not a

collection of separate objects, but a unified whole. He also believed that the human mind is not separate from the world, but is part of a larger cosmic consciousness.

Barfield believed that nirvana is a state of cosmic consciousness. This state of consciousness is characterized by a sense of unity with the world and a deep understanding of the meaning of life.



“ "The world is not a collection of separate objects, but a unified whole." - Owen Barfield ”

Ernst Cassirer

Ernst Cassirer was a German philosopher who developed the concept of symbolic form. Cassirer believed that humans are unique in their ability to create and use symbols. He also believed that symbols are not simply arbitrary signs, but are expressions of our deepest understanding of the world.

Cassirer believed that nirvana is a state of pure contemplation. This state of contemplation is characterized by a complete detachment from the world of appearances and a direct experience of the underlying reality of things.



“ "Symbols are not simply arbitrary signs, but are expressions of our deepest understanding of the world." - Ernst Cassirer ”

The concept of nirvana is a complex and multifaceted one. However, the four thinkers we have discussed in this article all agree that nirvana is a state of ultimate bliss or enlightenment. This state of enlightenment can be achieved through a variety of paths, but it ultimately involves a deep understanding of oneself and one's place in the world.

The concept of nirvana is a reminder that we are all capable of achieving great things. We all have the potential to live a life of happiness and fulfillment. We all have the potential to reach nirvana.

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3. Owen Barfield, *Saving the Appearances: A Study in Idolatry*, Harcourt, Brace & World, 1965.
4. Ernst Cassirer, *An Essay on Man: An to a Philosophy of Human Culture*, Yale University Press, 1944.



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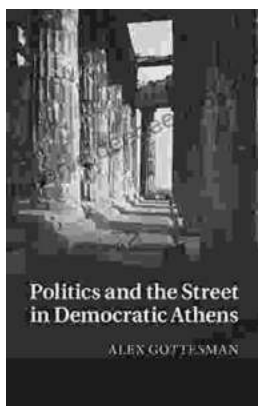
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