

# Outline For

## **“The Secret of the Golden Flower” in Jung’s Life and Work**

presented by Jungian analyst J. Gary Sparks

### OVERVIEW:

“The Secret of the Golden Flower” is a Chinese, Taoist text from the 8th century which was brought to the West in 1928 by the German protestant missionary to China, Richard Wilhelm.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Who is Jung?

Jung’s big discovery is the inborn healing process

Compare with Freud

Jung’s discovery comes out of his personal crisis

Jung spends his life’s work describing this healing process

### II. TWO DREAM EXAMPLES

### III. THE PHASES OF JUNG’S LIFE

Phase 1. 1875-1913 birth through break with Freud

Phase 2. 1913-1928 break with Freud through receiving “The Secret of the Golden Flower”

dream--Austrian customs official and the medieval knight

1913--break with Freud, Jung turns intensely to his inner life

1916--begins painting mandalas

1926--dream of being locked into 17th century palace

begins to recognize a center is being created

1927--Liverpool dream

1928--receives “The Secret of the Golden Flower”

he has recognized the “center” in personal material, and West and East traditions

Phase 3. 1928-1944 further research into the nature of the center

Phase 4. 1944-1961 see below V.

### IV. THE SECRET OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

Stages in the creation of the center

Relation to alchemy

Relation to therapy

### V. RECONSIDERING THE TWO DREAMS

The relation between the fragmentation and Oriental themes

Phase 4. 1944-1961 publishes extensively on his findings and their implications

### VI. SUMMING UP AND THE RELIGIOUS IMPLICATIONS