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Sieroszewski, szamanizm i psychologia głębi

Sieroszewski, shamanism and depth psychology

SUMMARY

The author of the article tries to prove that the results of fieldwork by Waław Sieroszewski on Korean and Yakut shamanism were significant not only for ethnology or study of religion, but also for psychology. It seems that Sieroszewski was the first to put forward the idea that shamans were individuals who were fully sound in mind and who could indeed treat some kinds of diseases. Sieroszewski also treated the shamans' experience of incarnating spirits, astral travel or the shamans' initiation diseases as authentic, usually quite dramatic experiences. From his description, however, it would appear that he treated such experiences as experiences of a sound, and not a pathological psyche. Such theses were fully accepted only several dozen years later. The theoretical basis for Sieroszewski's observations was provided by the results of research by C.G. Jung, S.H. Snyder, and S. Grof. The material collected by Sieroszewski, just as any other kind of material deriving from ethnology or oriental studies, unequivocally challenges the validity of some theories formulated by S. Freud, thus proving the relativity of western psychology. In spite of the fact there has is a multitude of works relating to the person of Waław Sieroszewski, none of them has yet shown that his research also forms part of the history of psychology.

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