ABSTRACT

*Anima Machinae - Machinae Deus Ex*

by

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This dissertation reports a hermeneutic investigation of our technologically evolving humanity. Using a broadly defined Jungian analysis, significantly shaped by Jung’s own method of “network thinking,” a radical re-imagining of psyche and soma is presented, along with future implications for depth psychology, especially in view of emerging developments in respect to the possibility of creating artificial sentient life. The research addresses the contemporary relationship between technology, clinical psychology, and Jungian meta-psychology concerning the adequate contemporary evolvement of a depth psychological understanding of technology. In the research process, I inquire about the possibility of an adequate depth psychological understanding of Artificial Intelligence and Artificial Life, including such phenomena as anthropomorphic robotics; bionics; genetic, biological, and neurological engineering; and cyborgs and fyborgs.

The exegeses of these multidisciplinary issues includes a historical analysis of anthropomorphic robotics, prosthetics, limb components, and appendages, both literal and mythical. Among the mythical metaphors investigated are golems, angels, mermaids, serpents, draconite, tjurunga, chimeras, hermaphrodites, homunculi, and anthroparions. A variety of perspectives are identified and discussed, including philosophy of
technology; theological excursions on humanoid robotics; cybernetic augmentation; Mori’s “Uncanny Valley”; life extension and immortality; Freud’s theory of death drives, Giegerich’s analysis of “technologized flesh,” and the myth of Philemon and Bacius; Jung’s *Answer to Job*; alchemical imagery, especially images from Reusner’s *Pandora* and the *Rosarium* woodcuts; and Neitzsche’s Uberman, as well as future implications of these for analytical and psychoanalytic psychology. The possibility of viewing technology as an archetype is raised and considered. Special attention is given to the confluences leading to Kurzweil’s conception of “Singularity.”

This study proposes and explores the implications of 2 alchemically derived working models that address the evolution of a new humanity (human-machine) possibilities, and 4 that examine Jung’s notion of today’s human machine as a modern derivative of the dragon. The dissertation culminates with future visions that offer a broad set of ramifications for humanity and both depth and clinical psychology. The possibility of a technologically grounded depth psychological understanding of the God-image and psyche is raised, and the implications of this for depth-oriented theory and practice are explored.