

Re-envisioning Power, Gender and Love



Toni Wolff was Carl Jung's collaborator, muse, and lover. In 1939, after 29 years as intimates and colleagues, Jung and Wolff quarreled over his growing passion for the medieval practice of Alchemy, a mysterious art that claimed to turn lead into gold. Jung saw this as symbolic of psychological transformation that could affirm and deepen his theory of Individuation. Toni Wolff found Alchemy mystical, unscientific and uninteresting. In what we might term a modern "power play", Jung proceeded to banish Toni Wolff from his creative and personal life, leaving her to struggle with this for the rest of her life. The story of Jung and Wolff's relationship serves as a vibrant lens to examine the nature of power, gender roles, and love in our modern times.

If Toni had been a man, how might her life have played out differently? How did her own definition of femininity both help and impair her personal self-image, and her relations with Jung? How does love function as the shadow of the will to power?

Contemporary events are bringing this into focus as never before. We all need a sense of efficacy, ego, and personal authority, as both a spiritual and practical force. How do we craft new dimensions of power, for ourselves and for our culture, dimensions that go beyond dominance or gender stereotypes, and emanate from the individuating soul?

Suggested reading: *Toni Wolff & C. G. Jung, A Collaboration* by Nan Savage Healy, and *Ego and Archetype* by Edward Edinger

Photo: Toni Wolff and Carl Jung in 1937, Bad Ragaz.

March 23
7:30 pm



Elizabeth Clark-Stern is a Jungian-oriented psychotherapist and a playwright. In 2007, her play *Out of the Shadows, a Story of Toni Wolff and Emma Jung* was performed at the International Jungian Congress in Cape Town, and has now been performed in Jung Society productions in Montreal, across the U.S, and most recently, in Italy. *On the Doorstep of the Castle, a play of Teresa of Avila and Alma de Leon*, was performed at the International Jungian Congress in Copenhagen in 2011. She has published five titles of plays, fiction, essays and poems, through Fisher King Press. Website elizabethclarkstern.com.

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