

Garbage and the Soul



Burning Landfill, Chennai, India

March
29

7:30 pm

Collectively, we seek to rise above our trash but that usually entails a costly dissociation from it. Since waste is such a necessary and unavoidable aspect of our lives, why do we do such a horrible job of managing it?

We can't seem to live with it, and we can't live without it!
Our modern ways of waste management have unconscious and archetypal roots that both help and hinder our relationship to garbage.

In this talk we will 'dumpster dive' in the psyche, exploring how unconscious attitudes, defense mechanisms and collective beliefs influence our dissociative tendencies toward outer waste. We will imagine the unconscious as a landfill that is bursting its confines and necessitating our urgent, conscious relationship to it. We will dig up and examine neglected aspects of the personality which Jung called *the shadow*; we will explore the archetypal significance of waste; and we will learn how to align with our psyche in metabolizing 'waste' through an appreciation of the rhythm and flow of psychic energy. Underlying all of this will be an appeal to the soul of garbage and an imaginative inquiry into what the soul of garbage *longs* for.



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