The C.G. Jung Society of Colorado Presents



Our Promethean Debt

by Jeffrey Kiehl

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This past year has felt apocalyptic in so many ways. First, with the appearance of COVID which has led to a staggering number of deaths and illnesses. The pandemic has initiated us into lockdowns, shutdowns and even put-downs from those denying COVID's reality. Chaotic divisiveness erupted, from the White House to our family's house. Racism, misogynism, xenophobia and generalized claustrophobia erupted everywhere. Hope is a word that has faded from our vocabulary. In addition to these cataclysms, climate chaos continues to make itself known with unbearable heatwaves, flaming forests, and life-choking smoke. A billion animals lost their lives in the Australian fires—a story, by the way, which was never frontpage news. How do we stay sane in such a world? How do we find wholeness in a world full of so much dissociation? According to Jung, we have accrued a tremendous Promethean debt due to our pursuit of meaningless materialism. The story of Prometheus provides a rich, complex figure that has captured the imagination of poets and artists for millennia. Using this ancient Greek myth, we will delve into trickery, theft, fire and hope to better understand our current debt to the archetypal forces at play today.

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