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THE SANDPLAY  
A CONTRIBUTION FROM C.G. JUNG'S  
POINT OF VIEW ON CHILD THERAPY

Dora Kalff  
Zurich  
1969

Introduced by

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*This article is a translation of Das Sandspiel: Ein Beitrag aus der Sicht C.G. Jungs zur Kinderpsychotherapie which appeared in Handbuch der innerpsychotherapie, edited by G. Bierman, 1969.*

OPPOSITE: *The Hare Emerges* ©Liana Kornfield.

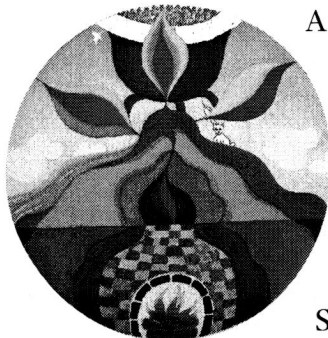
PAGE 50: *Kalff's Cauldron* ©Liana Kornfield.

**W**e discovered this article of Dora Kalff's in a German journal when we were researching publications for our 1994 book, *Sandplay: Past, Present and Future*. We asked Rie's dissertation chair at UCLA, Dr. Carole E. Bare, who was a native-German speaker and a retired professor by this time, if she would translate the article. She readily agreed and immediately set to work. When we read her translation, we were so pleased with the result that we knew others would be interested in reading this little known work as well. Our immediate thought at that time was that it needed to be published in the *Journal of Sandplay Therapy*, so we wrote the publisher of the article for permission and in a few months we received a letter from Ernst Reinhardt Verlag granting permission for publication. However it was Joyce Camuyrano Cunningham many years later who brought this project back into life when she read the article and encouraged us to write this introduction.

*It seems a fitting tribute to Dora Kalff that 17 years after her death these words will now be read, for the first time, by a new English-speaking audience. In a personal way, it is also in recognition of Rie's dear friend and mentor Carole Bare, who passed away in 2004.*

THE SANDPLAY:  
A CONTRIBUTION FROM C.G. JUNG'S  
POINT OF VIEW ON CHILD THERAPY

*Dora Kalff*



A salient factor in the healing of neurotic conditions in a child is, in my opinion, the relationship between the Self and the ego. This seems to me to be in agreement with what C.G. Jung describes as the centering of the personality according to the principle of total cohesion.

The results of my observations agree with the experience of the psychology of the Self. The Self, according to C.G. Jung, is the sum of one's conscious and unconscious experiences in directing the process of psychological development from birth on. In doing so, according to Erich Neumann, a specific archetype comes to the foreground at every juncture.

According to Neumann (1963), we encounter the following phases:

1. At birth and during the first year the totality of the neonate is provided by the mother's care. He calls this the mother-child unity.
2. After the first year, the Self of the child separates from the mother.
3. During the second year and from the onset of the third year, the Self begins to solidify in the child's unconscious and becomes manifest.

At this juncture the child plays, draws, or paints in a language of symbols which is thousands of years old; humans have consciously or unconsciously given expression to their integrated totality throughout all eras, in all cultures. For this expression the major symbols have been the circle and the square. I want to designate the manifestation of the Self as the most important event in the development of the personality. It has been shown in the therapist's work that the ego can only develop healthily on the basis of such a manifestation of the Self. This manifestation seems to be the necessary condition which serves as a base for the